



THE Banker
YOUR FINANCIAL GUIDE

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AfDB lauds work on Msalato Airport

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE ongoing construction at the Msalato International Airport project has earned praise from the African Development Bank, affirming that it is among regional projects being looked upon as impressive.

Jonathan Nzayikorera, executive director for BDIR-16, a set of turnkey projects, made this affirmation during a tour of the airport yesterday for a view of the work in progress.

He was pleased to hear that phase one of the work that was scheduled to end in April 2025 has been rescheduled for December, 2024. This phase involves building the 3.6 kilometer runway priced at 166bn/- and a passenger terminal costing 194.4bn/-, with capacity to serve upwards of two million passengers annually.

"I'm happy see the performance of the government in this partnership project under leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan," he said, declaring that it clearly shows the commitment to bring about development.

Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa spoke of the government's desire to see construction work completed within the planned period, noting that ongoing work is within schedule.

He praised efforts by President Sa-

I'm happy see the performance of the government in this partnership project under leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan

mia Suluhu Hassan in fostering cooperation with international organizations like the AfDB to enhance their willingness to support the country's development efforts.

Rogatus Matimila, the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) chief executive officer, said building the runway stood at 13 percent at the moment, with the contractor mobilizing resources for the construction of the passenger terminal. He expressed satisfaction with government efforts in looking for funds to complete the project, noting that this is one of the biggest projects the country is pursuing at present. Upon its completion it will open the capital and the surrounding region to the rest of the world, he affirmed.

The project involves the construction of high-capacity airport infrastructure to meet the expected growth in air transport from the city's new role as the country's administrative capital.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi moves to open a door in Zanzibar yesterday to launch a USAID-funded project dubbed 'Kijana Nahodha'. The thrust of the four-year (2022-2026) initiative is on increasing the empowerment, productivity and community engagement of youth, out-of-school youths aged between 15 and 25, unemployed youths, youths with disabilities, young women, and those living in urban, peri-urban, and rural districts. This is done through an integrated cross-sectoral programme following Positive Youth Development (PYD) principles. Fourth-right (foreground) is a representative of the US Embassy, Kate Somvongsiri. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Oman disburses 50bn/- to rebuild Beit al Ajaib

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

VISITS to Oman by Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar leader Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi have brought tremendous benefits as the Gulf State has agreed to provide 50bn/- for the rehabilitation of the historical Beit-al-Jaib at Forodhani on Unguja Island.

Simai Muhammed Said, the Zanzibar Tourism and Heritage minister, made this observation in the House of Representatives when explaining successes of the recent visit in that country

Oman has agreed to provide 50bn/- for major rehabilitation works for Beit-al-Ajaib, a key heritage site at the Stone Town in Zanzibar city. Rehabilitating the structure starts within three months, with preparations continuing to enlist the firm contracted for the job

by President Mwinyi. Visits to Oman by the two leaders have opened doors for investment and cultural cooperation opportunities, he said, citing Beit el Ajaib (House of wonders), which collapsed slightly over two years ago, as it is now scheduled for rehabilitation.

President Samia was in Oman last June, holding discussions with top Omani leaders including Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, alongside a business forum for Omani and Tanzania businessmen. She also witnessed the signing of an agreement for joint ventures in various sec-

TMA releases rainy season new forecast

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has advised authorities in weather sensitive sectors to take precautions to reduce effects of severe weather on the basis of its forecasts for expected rains from March to May.

Dr Ladislaus Chang'a, the acting director general, said in a statement yesterday that periods of enhanced rainfall are expected during the month of May over the northern coastal areas. There will be above normal rains in some regions in the coastal zone, he said.

The forecast released yesterday showed likelihood of below normal rains over Dar es Salaam, Coast Region (including Mafia), northern part of Morogoro Region, while Unguja Island has the possibility of above normal rains.

The longer seasonal rains are billed for early next month over most areas up to late May, despite that off-season rains may persist during the month of June over a few parts of the northern coast, he stated.

Below normal rain leads to insufficient soil moisture and water availability for agricultural activities, he declared, while areas expected to see above normal rains on the average may experience excessive soil moisture.

When this occurs it is likely to affect the growth of crops that do not need so much water, he said, pointing out that areas having two rainfall seasons annually are likely to experience extensive below normal rains. Water levels in rivers and reservoirs are not likely to show significant improvement from the period prior to March to May rains, he stated.

USAID launches \$10.6m youth empowerment bid

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

It also involves strengthening clear channels of communication between youth and local governments to elevate youth voices in civic life, political supervision and policy discussion

UNITED States aid agency and Zanzibar government officials yesterday gathered at the Maisara grounds in Zanzibar for the launch of a \$10.6m youth-focused project dubbed kijana Nahodha, (literally, 'young captain'). The four-year project funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is aimed at providing skills to local youth to enable

them to become effective agents of change in their communities. The Tanzania Marketing and Communications for AIDS, Reproductive Health, Child Survival and Infectious Diseases CT-MARC project, a six-year (2004-2010) organisation that was later retained as an independent agency, has been charged with implementing the project. Interventions by donor organisations related to

AIDS were often underlined by US agencies, while in the subsequent phase a World Bank agency, the Global Fund took over projects relating to AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. T-MARC has a presence in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba Islands), an official noted. Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi officiated at the launching, with officials of various

ministries, regional secretariats and executive agencies plus international development agencies, civil society organisations and youth representatives attended the launching event. Young Captain, a cross-cutting program that focuses on employment, education, agriculture, governance and health, aims to build the capacities of

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Oman disburses 50bn/- to rebuild Beit al Ajaib

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tors, the minister noted.

The president also conversed with the Grand Mufti of Oman, Sheikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al-Khalili, women leaders including heads of various organisations and paid a visit to the Dar Al Hanan Cancer Centre in Muscat.

She extended a hand of welcome for investors and traders to invest in Tanzania, setting out various opportunities arising from a business friendly investment environment and a skilled labour force.

Oman has agreed to provide 50bn/- for major rehabilitation works for Beit-al-Ajaib, a key heritage site at the Stone Town in Zanzibar city. Rehabilitating the structure starts within three months, with preparations continuing to enlist the firm contracted for the job, he said. Rehabilitation will abide by conditions governing the Stone Town in regard to the World Heritage Sites requirements, he stated, praising the role of the Oman Consul in Zanzibar, Said Sinawi as the main link in agreeing on the reconstruction of Beit-al-Ajaib.

The collapse of the building two years ago has denied the government a lot of revenue from tourists as they no longer visit the building, he affirmed.

People who were injured when the building collapsed were listed for payment of compensation through a Mainland based insurance firm, with the Zanzibar government closely following up the matter, he added.



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance, is shown documents at the Lake Victoria zone offices in Mwanza city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

USAID launches \$10.6m youth empowerment bid

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people aged between 15 and 25 years. Capacity building efforts include increasing access and quality of remedial skills, vocational training, improved

awareness of mental health services through in-person, peer-led and digital educational tools, a write up remarked. It also involves strengthening clear channels of

communication between youth and local governments to elevate youth voices in civic life, political supervision and policy discussion, it was stated.

V. Kate Somvongsiri,

the USAID mission director remarked that through the project, the agency seeks to empower the youth with a range of skills like appropriate knowledge to run a business.

It also highlights the support needed from their families, the community and government agencies, as well as gaining market-relevant education and skills, she stated.

The project is slated to empower more than 45,000 youth, where 10,000 are based in Zanzibar and 35,000 in the two targeted Mainland regions, she added.

TMA releases rainy season new forecast

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Normal agricultural activities are anticipated over most areas during the triple month rainy season, with uneven distribution of rains. This will affect soil moisture and water availability for agricultural activities, thus affecting crop production especially over the northeastern highlands and Lake Victoria zone, he said. However, excessive soil moisture may occur and affect the growth of some crops that do not need a lot of water, such as maize and leguminous crops, especially in the northern coastal zone, expected to

receive above normal rainfall on average, the forecast intoned. Farmers are advised to prepare their fields, plant, weed and use relevant farm inputs timely, and use the best methods and technologies to prevent water stagnation in the fields. Erosion and loss of soil fertility must also be avoided, while choosing the right seeds and crops for the prolonged rainy season. Strengthening agro-sector agriculture including rainwater harvesting, and controlling plant pests would also reduce potential impacts, the statement added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango bids farewell to the Head of Delegation of the European Union in Tanzania, Manfred Fanti (L), after talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The VP is expected to grace a two-day (today and tomorrow) EU-Tanzania Business Forum scheduled for Dar es Salaam. It is mainly meant to present Tanzania's opportunities and comparative advantage as a strategic destination for direct investments to businesses and investors from the European Union. Photo: Guardian Photographer

AfDB lauds work on Msalato Airport

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Work will be carried out over four years and will include a passenger terminal, a runway and installation of air navigation equipment. A fuel distribution system, water supply, electricity substations and a fire-fighting service are also envisaged, he stated.

The new facility is expected to handle at least 50,000 aircraft and a million passengers per year, mostly international flights, while indirectly servicing millions of passengers in East Africa, along with international trade networks for business travellers and tourists, he elaborated.

An expanded air transport network in Dodoma, together with the ongoing high-speed railway construction on the central corridor, are seen as necessary infrastructure investments to help unlock and disperse spatial development in the countryside.

It will strengthen the capital city's potential as a strategic growth pole in line with national development aspirations in fostering shared growth for all regions, he added.

Dubai billionaire exits Kenya in row over Gems schools

NAIROBI

GEMS Cambridge Education founder Sunny Varkey is liquidating his school investments in Kenya, leaving behind a trail of debt.

Kenyan tycoon Peter Burugu has taken over the management of Regis School in Runda.

Varkey's Gems Group may have sold the majority shareholding in their sole remaining asset in Kenya, the Regis School in Runda, to local businessman Ernest Mureithi for just \$1 (Sh124).

Court papers and sources at Regis School have indicated that Gems Cambridge transferred 70 per

cent of the institution's shares to Dr Mureithi through his Ernestem Holdings.

NCBA Bank is demanding repayment of a Sh1.6 billion loan. Dr Mureithi, who has been Gems Cambridge's regional director since 2016, denied the claim, insisting that he is just a CEO looking out for Gems Cambridge's interests in Kenya.

He further denied that Burugu's Runda Gardens Development Ltd has taken over the management of Regis School. Gems Cambridge, he added, has already found buyers to take full ownership and control of the school.

On the dispute with NCBA, Dr Mureithi said negotiations are ongoing to settle out of court.

Varkey, an Indian national based in Dubai, opened his school's first East African campus on Magadi Road in Karen, Nairobi, 11 years ago. Despite attracting hundreds of learners who have collectively paid billions of shillings over the past decade, Gems Cambridge has irked some firms it entered into contracts with as the deals have been broken, leaving debts of over Sh2 billion.

The latest entrant is Runda Gardens Development Ltd, a firm owned by Burugu and his family, which built Regis School's facilities

and is now at risk of losing close to Sh1 billion incurred in construction costs. A government valuer who calculated the amount of stamp duty due placed the value of the property at Sh795 million in 2019.

Burugu's real estate firm further obtained a Sh17.6 million loan to pay Regis School workers in October and November last year. That debt remains unpaid.

When Gems Cambridge started operations in Kenya, it signed a deal with real estate firm Goodison Sixty One School Ltd to set up the Karen school. Gems Cambridge wanted the Karen development to be a near replica of Wellington International

School in Dubai, but with slight modifications.

Under the agreement, Goodison was to lease the building to Gems Cambridge Education's local subsidiaries to recover construction costs. Goodison spent Sh3 billion for the project, which was expected to be recovered from Gems Cambridge.

Goodison Sixty One subcontracted experienced architectural firm Symbion Kenya Ltd to design the school and help put it up.

The Dubai group started to complain about the quality of the Karen facilities shortly after Gems

Cambridge International School opened for its first term. Goodison pushed the blame to Symbion Kenya, and a legal battle ensued. Arbitrator Paul Ng'otho in February 2016 ordered Goodison to pay the Sh131 million claimed by Symbion.

This meant that Goodison was expected to pay and recover the cost from Gems Cambridge. Attempts to challenge the arbitration award in court were dismissed by Justices Fred Ochieng and Francis Tuiyott. As Justice Tuiyott was closing the door on Goodison's appeal, Gems Cambridge was being introduced to Burugu.

AGENCIES

Ruge Mutahaba Foundation calls for an end on youth unemployment

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ruge Mutahaba Foundation (RMF) has brought together leaders from the public-private sector and civil society to explore innovative and sustainable solutions to youth unemployment in growing sectors such as the digital and the green economy.

Addressing the press yesterday in Dar es Salaam, RMF chief executive officer, Cynthia Bavo, said as it is almost four years since Ruge Mutahaba's untimely demise, youth unemployment is a pivotal topic that needs a thorough discussion on the way forward.

In addressing the unemployment problem, Bavo called for investments in long-term multi-stakeholder partnerships to create

more income-generating opportunities in the formal and informal sector, advocating for inclusive hiring practices among employers and making jobs and opportunities accessible and visible to the youth.

"The scale and complexity of youth unemployment in Tanzania cannot be solved by a single actor in the labour market ecosystem. There is a need for multi-stakeholder partnerships that will create formal sector jobs and support young informal workers and entrepreneurs to transition to formality," she said.

According to her, it is through collective action that we can accelerate youth economic inclusion at a large scale.

She explained the im-

portance of inclusive hiring in solving youth unemployment especially for women and marginalised youth who have much harder time breaking into the labour market due to discrimination.

Solving youth unemployment at a wider scale will also require a shift in how employers evaluate the young person's capability.

She said that there's a need to move away from exclusionary indicators like work experience and educational qualifications.

"These indicators keep a lot of capable young Tanzanians out of work. One of the things that we are doing as a foundation, is engaging with employers on alternative capability indicators in order to support more inclusive hir-

ing," said Bavo.

John Ulanga, RMF board member stressed about making jobs and opportunities accessible and visible to young people on internet data costs and how these hinder young people from accessing jobs and opportunities that are shared online.

"It is not enough to create jobs and opportunities; they also have to be visible and accessible to young people. Unfortunately, internet data costs are difficult to cover when you don't have a source of income," he said.

According to him, there is an opportunity for the foundation to partner with telecommunication companies and innovators in order to solve the unemployment problem.



Ruge Mutahaba Foundation chief executive officer, Cynthia Bavo, speaks to journalists before stakeholders meeting aimed at exploring, innovating sustainable solutions to youth unemployment in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Ruge Mutahaba Foundation's board of trustees member, John Ulanga. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Maasai herders appeal for government intervention in conflict with investor

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

OVER 3,000 Maasai herders living in Mazoka village, Kilosa district, Morogoro region have appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to resolve the conflict with an investor in the area who had demolished their settlements including cattle pens.

Speaking on behalf of fellow herders at a meeting convened in the village, Rev Ole Loya Kiretu of Karivali church said the area was originally a ranch and was given to them for grazing and settlements and

many have built permanent houses including the church.

"CCM delegation from Kilosa district came here and told us we can now settle here permanently and we started building houses as well as a school and a church, but we are surprised now to see our houses being demolished, we appeal to President Samia to intervene," he said.

Rev Kiretu said the conflict began two years ago after the investor who is known by one name of Kalamage arrived in the area claiming he wanted to invest and they agreed and erected boundaries, "but recently he invaded our areas

and started demolishing our settlements."

For his part, the chairman for the herders, Moringe Mameo said the act by the investor amounts to gross injustice as they were given the area to build permanent settlements.

"If the government has decided to give the area to the investor, then they have to find for us another area to live in, we do not like conflicts, we are ready to move so long as we are given another grazing area," he added.

Teddy Oroshoro, one Maasai herder said, so far they do not know what to do or where to go due to the investor's demolish-

ing 10 cattle pens and some of their houses on claims that the area legally belongs to him.

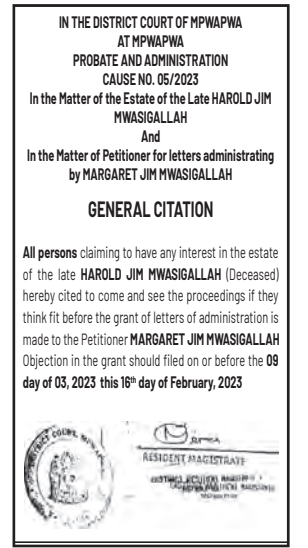
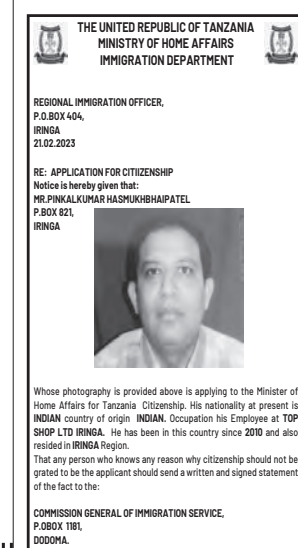
For his part, Goodluck Zakayo, said the area was given to them since on November 8, 2019 by the then Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi who directed the government in Kilosa district to apportion 3,000 acres from the investor's area to be given to the herders as their permanent settlements.

Speaking by phone in regard to the complaints, the investor known only by one name Kalamage said as for now he cannot discuss the issue because its

implementation is being done by district officials who are the right people to ask them about the matter.

Kilosa district executive director, Kisenia Mabuba said Mazoki area has been invaded by herders but it is legally owned by investor Kalamage hence the invading herders have to move out.

"The preceding district commissioner, Majid Mwangi also went to the area and held talks with herders to move out, but now we have new DC who has also said the area belongs to the investor hence the herders have to move out," he said.



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WWF for a living planet

VACANCY: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING OFFICER

I. BACKGROUND:
WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania is currently looking to recruit a person with proven experience Monitoring and evaluation with capacity in awareness raising (as a support role) in the context of nature conservation, protected areas and sustainable use of coastal natural resources in order to join the Blue Action Fund (BAF) project titled 'Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa Districts in Tanzania'.

II. Key functions:
To ensure quality and timely delivery of the monitoring, evaluation and collecting the indicators related to a marine resources management and conservation project working with coastal communities in the project areas (Mafia, Kilwa, Kibiti, and Rufiji). The project monitoring areas will focus on:

- Protected Area management (including METT scores, and MCS - monitoring, control and surveillance data);
- Small scale fisheries status (CPUE, eCAS);
- Livelihoods and socio-economics of coastal communities (KAP, HH economics VSLA and income-generation);

III. Major duties and responsibilities:

- Work closely with the field team and partners to collect, analyse, interpret and communicate M&E data in a timely manner as required by the project.
- Collecting project indicators and communicate the successes for project awareness-raising on the marine environment and sustainable use of coastal resources with focus of MPA, Rufiji mangrove delta, Beach Management Units (BMUs) and CFMAs, Community-led octopus closures and development of a Man and Biosphere Reserve being the priority programme and project components.
- Prepare a visibility plan, and review communication and awareness plans which are oriented around the current ongoing project with due consideration of social, cultural and religious characteristics of coastal communities; Including design, production & distribution of relevant materials and implementation of appropriate activities;
- Promote wide stakeholder awareness and understanding within the project areas on sustainable management of marine coastal resources, working closely with the WWF marine programme team and partners such as LGAs, VPO, FFS, Wetlands International, Tuna Alliance Tanzania, WATONET, Sea sense, Fisheries Division.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES
Minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Conservation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Environmental science, Communications, natural resources management or similar; (Note the primary role is having strength in M&E). Master's Degree on the above qualifications may be an added advantage; At least three years relevant professional experience in M&E position in natural resource management. Monitoring and Evaluation is the primary role and communication and / or environmental education, will be an advantage. Experiences in fisheries or marine resources management, sustainable coastal livelihoods will be an advantage; Experience in planning, supervising the design and development of indicators or projects. Understanding of, and sensitivity towards, the culture and livelihoods' context of rural coastal communities in Tanzania. A team-player who has an excellent eye for detail, problem solver, and excellent communicator.

Additional information: Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Thursday 9th March 2023 at 17h00. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org

Govt offers 5.9bn/- for refurbishing and construction of cattle auctions

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has provided 5.9bn/- in the 2022/23 fiscal year for the construction of new livestock auctions and refurbish of old ones in order to enhance livestock safety.

Abdallah Ulega, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries revealed this early this week during his official visit to Meserani livestock Auction in Arusha Region, saying the aim of the government is to make sure it builds and improves various livestock auctions countrywide.

Ulega said the Meserani Auction that is currently being refurbished by erecting a new fence will cost 167m/- and that construction work was progressing well.

"On behalf of livestock keepers, the Livestock and Fisheries ministry thanks president Samia for providing 167m/- for refurbishing the Meserani Auction from the 5.9bn/- the government has set aside for building new auctions and refurbishing old ones," he said.

Some livestock keepers at Meserani auction thanked the government's efforts for improving the environment of the auctions while appealing to the government to continue addressing various challenges they face when transporting the livestock as well as the availability of essential needs for their livestock at the auctions

including special areas for resting their livestock.

Meanwhile, still in Arusha Region, Ulega visited Naalarami Village in Monduli district to witness the construction of a dam for livestock that will cost 466m/- and called upon the contractor to immediately start work for the dam to harvest rain water when they start.

He also called upon the members of the pastoralist communities to do away with the habit of having large numbers of livestock that are of little benefit to them, with many of them sometimes dying due to lack of pasture and water during droughts, especially those caused by the effects of climate change.



On behalf of livestock keepers, the Livestock and Fisheries ministry thanks president Samia for providing 167m/- for refurbishing the Meserani Auction from the 5.9bn/- the government has set aside for building new auctions and refurbish-



Zanzibar's Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaaban (C) listens to Pesapal Tanzania country manager Bupe Mwakalundwa (2nd R) and Pesapal general manager, Emmy Rono (3rd R) on how to make cashless transactions using Pesapal payment solutions during the first 'Adapt and Thrive' conference held in Zanzibar. Left is Pesapal business development manager Abdul Hatibu and Zanzibar business manager Sufii Yusuf. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa's longest river is under threat

KHARTOUM

AFRICA'S longest river - The Nile - is under threat. It's essential for millions of people, including in Sudan.

But it could vanish due to factors including rising sea levels resulting in saltwater intrusion downstream.

Global warming and misuse of the water source by humans are also causing concern for its future.

Ahmed Abakr has spent decades growing vegetables and grains near the River Nile in Sudan's capital.

The continent's longest river is essential for millions of people.

"I've been living by the Nile for my entire life, my occupation is farming and it's my grandfathers' occupation too, the Nile is our source of living and we don't have anything else to do," the 85-year-old says.

Global warming and misuse by humans now jeopardise the future of the world's second-longest river. The flow of the Nile has fallen from 3,000 cubic metres per second to 2,830 in the past five decades. This drop impacts Nile basin residents like Ahmed Abakr.

"Agriculture now is not like before, water levels are changing every year which impacts my crops,

I take longer and I use plumbers in order to irrigate the crops which also need gasoline and it's an added cost to my crops."

Water expert Ahmed Almofti predicts even more serious problems are around the corner: "With the expected loss of water for environmental impacts, another issue is the increase of population against the current Nile quota that means an overuse of Nile water and an increase of misusage are expected which threatens the future of this River."

A lack of rainfall and increased droughts expected in Africa means

river flow could fall by 70 percent by 2100 according to United Nations forecasts. It's predicted there could be a 75% loss of available water per local resident.

In 2010, five upstream states signed a Cooperative Framework Agreement. The text outlines principles, rights and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin water resources.

Experts believe the river can only be saved if the countries it passes through commit to better joint management and sustainable development policies.



CCBRT's hospital communications manager Abdul Kajumulo (L) greets one of the CCBRT Moshi programme beneficiaries, Peter Shio, during the media field tour at the centre in Moshi Municipality, Kilimanjaro region yesterday during CCBRT Moshi 25th anniversary. Looking on are the CCBRT Moshi's physiotherapist, Sabas Kimaro (R) and community rehabilitation worker, Athuman Ally. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Police in Z'bar told to oversee laws and procedures at political rallies

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Commissioner of Police, Hamadi Bakari Hamad has called upon the Isles Regional Police Commanders to oversee the laws and reminded them that political rallies are permitted so long as they abide by procedures provided in the laws.

He said the police should not go to the rallies as party supporters, but as overseers of the laws and their responsibility is to ensure security is beefed before, during and after political rallies.

Commissioner Hamadi made the remarks on Tuesday at Sheikh Idrisa Abdulwakil Hall in Unguja as he addressed leaders of political parties regarding political party rallies that are set to start in the near future.

He said Tanzania is a democratic country and the main pillar is the rule of law that make people understand the boundaries of their relationship with state organs and political parties.

He said if there will be a joint understanding of the main democratic principle, it is easy to avoid tug-of-war and unnecessary conflicts.

He added that rallies begin with preparations hence he called leaders of political parties to try their level best to avoid unnecessary tussles among the parties themselves and with the police.

He said political parties have the right to convey to the public their different views and those not in

the government have the rights to criticize the government but without using inciting or abusive language.

"These things and many others that take place at rallies bring about fierce exchanges between political party leaders and party supporters sometimes even to the extent of inciting violence and chaos that can affect the country's peace and stability," he said.

He said the main responsibility of the police force is to oversee the implementation of the law, including laws that protect political and democratic rights as well as the maintenance of the country's peace.

He added that they will be closely following up what was being spoken at political rallies and will not hesitate to take legal steps against any person who will use the rallies' platforms to incite violence.

He said political parties are supposed to submit their intention to hold a political rally 48 hours before the time it is to take place in order to arrange for police protection.

Meanwhile, Head of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Police Saleh Mohamed Saleh said the protection and safety of the citizens and their property are among five main responsibilities of the police.

Earlier, leaders of political parties who attended the meeting said Zanzibar can proceed well and in peace if security organs, in particular the police force refuse to involve themselves in politics.

Majaliwa happy with projects' pace in construction sector

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing implementation of projects in the construction sector in various places across the country including Ruangwa district in

Lindi region.

The premier said this yesterday after inspecting progress of the construction of Ruangwa Girls Secondary School which is going together with the construction of classrooms at Kitandi Girls Second-

ary School.

"We the people of Ruangwa are thankful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving funds to implement various development projects including the one we are witnessing," he said.

Majaliwa said the head of

state had agreed to release funds for construction of the various development projects meant for social service delivery calling upon residents to take care of the said projects.

He urged pupils to work hard in class saying the president has put emphasis on

girls' education to be facilitated by a free education policy.

"You need to work hard academically, you should understand that you are students, refrain from behaviors that hinder your education progress," he said.

The PM also called upon

people to avoid taking the law into their hands by invading places that belong to schools and other public institutions.

In another development, the PM inspected the construction of upstairs classrooms which are being constructed at Likangara Primary

School where he hailed the authorities in the district for coming up with the project.

The project involves construction of classrooms, 24 pit latrines and administration blocks and is expected to facilitate improvement of education in the district



Advertisement BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-02-03	TAILING STORAGE FACILITY (TSF) CELL 4 LIFT 5 CLADDING AND BUTTRESSING.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in earthworks, must have proven experience with tailing storage facilities cladding and buttressing, Civil CRB Certificate, minimum class 4. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years Competence in tailing storage facilities lift and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Time frame to complete the project. (including site mobilization stage)
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest 18:00hrs on the **02nd March 2023**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered.

Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **BGML**.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED



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No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-02-02	Borehole drilling, Piezometer installation and Laboratory test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant must be a Consulting Engineering Firm certified by the Engineering Board of Registration (ERB). Experienced in installation of the standpipe piezometer and conducting geotechnical investigations e.g. SPT, borehole drilling and Laboratory Tests in the last 5 years. The applying firm must have its own drilling equipment, SPT equipment. The applying Consulting Engineer firm must have a team with multidiscipline members (experienced geotechnical engineer, drilling supervisor, QA&QC officer)

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

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- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
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No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-02-01	CPTu, SPTu Testing and VWP installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant must be a Consulting Engineering Firm certified by the Engineering Board of Registration (ERB). Experienced in installation of the vibrating piezometer and conducting geotechnical investigations e.g. CPTu, SPTu, and Laboratory Tests in the last 5 years. The applying firm must have its own calibrated C/SPTu equipment The applying Consulting Engineer firm must have a team with multidiscipline members (experienced geotechnical engineer, S/Cptu supervisor, QA&QC officer)

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No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-23-02-04	Scada System Upgrade (Modernization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor specialised in SCADA system upgrade, must have proven experience with Programme Logical Control Configuration, Electrical/ICT&Telecom CRB Certificate, minimum class 5. Experience working with similar works in last 3 years Competence in SCADA system upgrade and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry Team with multi discipline members (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA&QC officer / Multi skilled) should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts.

The above Services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead If your company qualify as per the **pre-qualification criteria** together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

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For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Adopt use of modern technology in financial transactions, tourism and hospitality stakeholders told

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

PESAPAL is a leading firm in financial transactions and payment has called upon stakeholders in tourism and hospitality in the country to grab and utilise modern technology to free themselves from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and revive the tourism industry.

Pesapal senior officials made the appeal here on Tuesday at the first joint meeting of stakeholders in tourism and hospitality.

The meeting was also attended by Zanzibar cabinet ministers who commended the firm for inspiring the digital system in tourism and stressed for the importance of the safety in the payment systems.

The Zanzibar Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Omar Said Shaaban said PesaPal's technological innovation and investment go in tandem with the government's digital agenda.

He said they support what was being done by the firm in the hospitality sector because, he added, the efforts support the government's strategies and concept in building up a modern economy that depends on the tourism sector.

Meanwhile, Zanzibar deputy minister for finance and planning, Ali Suleiman Ameir pleaded with investors of modern technology to make sure their services help in boosting government revenues instead of being the cause of their loss.

Ameir added that both Union governments have permitted the use of digital systems aimed at simplifying various economic activities including financial transactions and payment.

He also appealed to Pesapal to look into the possibilities of expanding the digital payment system in both Zanzibar and Mainland.

PesaPal experts used the occasion to show and encourage tourism stakeholders the importance of technology in their plans to boost their businesses and their strategies to move away from the effects of Covid-19.

Tanzania's PesaPal manager, Bupe Mwakalunda said the firm has a strategic relationship with international organisations.

PesaPal's first "Adopt & Thrive" forum brought together various participants from various sectors including those in the hotels, restaurants and entertainment businesses and tourists' guides.



Tanzania Posts Corporation workers in Shinyanga region and members of the Police force plant trees at Mumbu river water source to protect its source as well as taking care of the environment yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Coffee, cashew nuts earn farmers 644bn/- in five seasons

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

COFFEE and cashew nuts farmers in Ruvuma region have earned more than 644bn/- after selling the crops in the last five consecutive seasons.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Col. Laban Thomas said for his region, in the last five farming seasons from 2017/2018 to 2020/2021 a total of 77,664,927.75

kgs of coffee was collected.

He explained that the crop was sold at an average of 4,638/- per kg and earned coffee farmers more than 353bn/-.

He added that out of the money, in 2016/17 farming season a total of 15,393,500 kgs of coffee earned farmers more than 66bn/- and that in 2017/18 season, 20,162,900 kgs earned farmers 74bn/-.

In regard to cashew nuts, Ruvuma RC said in the 2022/23 season

the packaging factory by Songea-Namtumbo Cooperative Union (SONAMCU in Namtumbo District and the refurbishment of five warehouses out of seven by Mbinga Farmers' Cooperative Union (Mbifacu) in Mbinga.

He added that in the 2022/23 season, Ruvuma Region continues to implement block farming, with the aim of increasing production and enhancing farmers' incomes.

He said the government through cooperative societies is implementing and continues to implement various economic projects including the project for

the packaging factory by Songea-Namtumbo Cooperative Union (SONAMCU in Namtumbo District and the refurbishment of five warehouses out of seven by Mbinga Farmers' Cooperative Union (Mbifacu) in Mbinga.

He added that in the 2022/23 season, Ruvuma Region continues to implement block farming, with the aim of increasing production and enhancing farmers' incomes.



Komolo village chairman in Simanjiro district, Manyara region, Saningo Somii addresses a rally at the family planning event. Matters discussed included education. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Jumbo poaching a serious challenge facing Udzungwa National Park, says conservator

By Felister Peter

ELEPHANT poaching remains one of the challenges facing conservation efforts at the Udzungwa Mountains National Park—the largest biodiversity of a chain of a dozen large forest-swathed mountains that rise majestically from the flat coastal scrub of eastern Tanzania.

Parks' Assistant Conservation Commissioner, Abel Peter unveiled this when briefing a team of scribes from Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) who recently visited the Kilombero elephant corridor as part of the USAID Tuhifadhi Maliasili Activity (USAID-TMA).

Peter mentioned elephant poaching as one of the challenges, noting there are some incidents that were recorded in the past two

months in Mlimba and Sanje area.

He said authorities recovered 12 pieces of elephant tusks at Sanje and three tusks at Mlimba.

Peter said they have strengthened patrols with support from stakeholders and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) who are now using sniffer dogs to detect abandoned tusks.

"All these incidents occurred outside the park, we work closely with the community because they are the ones feeding us with information as some poachers reside in the surrounding villages," he stated.

He also said the various conservation efforts as well as promotion of the available tourist attractions have seen the park attracting a good number of visitors annually.

He said a total of 8,000 people visited the park last year with 80

percent of them being locals.

Peter is optimistic that the Udzungwa Mountains National Park will further grow to generate a good income compared to the current earnings of between 250m/- and 300m/-. This, according to him, makes the park dependent on the central government since its annual expenditures amounts to 1.2bn/-.

"We are part of the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project which is implemented to improve the southern tourism circuit. We have so far received vehicles and we are hoping to get more other equipment and infrastructure development," added the commissioner.

According to the conservator, the Galapagos of Africa is also a home to the largest number of

living organisms, some of which are exclusively found in the area as well as accommodating the big five animals—lion, rhino, leopard, elephant and buffalo.

"This park is also a home to sunbirds that could only be found here such as the rare Iringa red colobus and the Sanje crested mangabey," he said, noting that the corridor connects the Udzungwa Mountains National Park with the Nyerere National Park through the Magombera Nature Reserve. It passes through three villages—Kanyeja, Sole and Mang'ula A.

He further stated that the park has the largest reserved areas compared to all the national parks whereas it has nine nature forest reserves, adding that it is a water catchment area with over 30 rivers flowing from the

mountains.

"We feed the Kidatu and Kihansi rivers. All the waters flowing at the Kilombero valley originate from these mountains," he added, noting Udzungwa Mountains National Park accommodates 2,500 tree species, some of them could not be found anywhere in the world.

Joseph Mwalugelo, Project Manager, Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme (STEP) who are working to restore the Kilombero elephant corridor said there have been recent incidents of the wild animal killings whereas two elephants were recently killed by poachers at Magombera.

He said restoration of the corridor will also help to reduce elephant killings because they will be passing through a specific designated way.

Z'bar CCM's official calls upon security organs to address smuggling

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEFENCE and security organs in Zanzibar have been advised to investigate and take steps against companies claimed to involve themselves in smuggling, including the MGW 2014 Enterprises denying the government of its revenues.

The call has been made by the CCM secretary for Mobilisation and Information, Khamis Mbeto Khamis when addressing reporters in his office here after emergence of smuggling claims in regard to rice and liquor in the Isles.

"CCM does not wish to see any person evading paying taxes and legal organs are supposed to investigate and take steps against those involving themselves in the vice," he said.

He said according to the 2020 Zanzibar Liquor Act only three firms were licensed to import liquor including Scoch, One Stop Centre and ZMMI hence all other firms are supposed to buy the stuff from these three firms.

He said in regard to claims of rice smuggling illegally exported he praised the Zanzibar government for the step it has taken to ban rice exports from Zanzibar.

He said the issue of overseeing the law is not debatable in strengthening the foundations of good governance and that is why the government has been fighting corruption, embezzlement of state finances and property.

He also praised the Zanzibar President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for steps he is taking against embezzlement of public funds and assets since coming to power in 2020, and added that the foundations for good governance were strengthened.

He said that CCM in Zanzibar will continue disclosing negligent officials and those who refuse to be accountable to enable the government take appropriate steps against them as the party has the main responsibility to supervise the government.

DAWASA challenged to invest in environmental sanitation services

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has been tasked to invest in modern systems in the provision of environmental sanitation services to meet the needs of the current world.

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) lecturer Dr Richard Kimwaga made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a one-day training organised by DAWASA with the aim of increasing awareness and management of sanitation

services which was attended by senior leaders and employees of the authority.

He said it is now the right time for the authority to look at technologies from other countries that have already started implementing it to improve this rapidly growing sector.

"There is every reason to look at the appropriate technology in the improvement of sewage services in Dar es Salaam, especially in areas with high population," he said, hailing the efforts made by DAWASA to ensure that it implements various environmental sanitation projects to

match with the growth rate of the Dar es Salaam and Coast Region.

Speaking at the opening of the training, the Director of Environmental Sanitation Services of DAWASA, Engineer Lydia Ndbalema, said that the training aim is to increase awareness and skills for employees to understand the environmental sanitation sector in more detail.

"We have prepared this training with the aim of reminding ourselves and add knowledge and understanding about the sanitation services in more detail to enable the Authority to achieve its

goals and increase income through sewage systems," she said.

DAWASA Engineer Hezron Magambo instructed the staff of DAWASA to continue providing education to users of environmental sanitation services in order to increase awareness of the benefits resulting from the implementation of various environmental sanitation projects.

DAWASA implements various environmental sanitation projects with the aim of improving the environment as well as reducing the risk of epidemic diseases such as cholera.



Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups permanent secretary, Dr Zainabu Chaula, talks with Tanzania Local Government Reforms Association chairman, Albert Msovela, at the training on opportunities and obstacles to development and decentralisation system in Dodoma on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

Jill Biden to highlight drought and empowering women in trip to Africa

By Alex Gangitano

FIRST lady Jill Biden will travel to Africa this week, making stops in Namibia and Kenya for a visit focused on women's and youth empowerment and the impacts of droughts in the region.

Biden is set to leave for Africa on Wednesday and return on Sunday. The trip will be her sixth overall visit to Africa, including her first visit to Namibia and third visit to Kenya.

In Kenya, Biden will "look at the impacts of drought on families and communities hardest hit," senior administration officials said. In Namibia, she will focus on "role of young

people in continuing to shape their democracy and advance health co-operation," the officials added.

In both countries, the first lady will participate in engagements about women's and youth empowerment and engagements about gender-based violence in both countries, as well as sexual and reproductive health programs and HIV support.

President Biden announced at the end of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in December that he will travel to sub-Saharan Africa in 2023. He said at the time that there will be other visits to Africa from officials, including his wife.

The officials on Tuesday noted that former Vice President Al Gore traveled to South Africa in 1996 and had a brief stop in Namibia. Additionally, former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama all visited Africa during their tenures. Former President Trump did not, but he stopped international travel for the last 11 months of his presidency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden has so far visited Europe and Asia, which included a quick stop in Egypt, since becoming president, but an extended trip to Africa later this year would be his first presidential visit to the continent

Come to forum with concrete investment, business ideas, TCCIA appeals to members

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) yesterday called upon its members to bring concrete investment, and business ideas to the two-day Tanzania-European Union Business Forum which opens in Dar es Salaam today.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Chamber's acting President Swallah Said Swallah said Tanzania has time-tested business relations with the European Union and the sixth-phase government has further promoted those relations with emphasis on investment and business.

"TCCIA boasts of a huge membership in our country and in walks of life. We must bring to this forum concrete investment and business ideas in commerce, industry and agriculture that we have discussed in our TCCIA regional and district chambers and the TNBC district and regional business councils. Practically, all regions have Investment Guidelines. Let us put before this forum appropriate investment opportunities so that the two days see fruitful business to business discussions," said Swallah.

He said the important forum would help to stimulate business growth and attract more investors from EU members to come and

invest in Tanzania. The meeting or forum would give them firsthand information.

He said members have the knowledge and know-how TCCIA members need to promote industrialisation and economic development in Tanzania. "We must state categorically what we want to share with our European counterparts on win-win basis," the statement says, adding that good ideas to that effect have already been discussed in district and regional chambers.

Swallah also remind members that the EU has remained Tanzania's faithful development partner in many areas. It gives, as example, one million Euros the EU gave in 2020 under the Erasmus programme to be shared between Tanzania and Uganda for renewable energy and green economy.

"That programme ended last year and aimed to give responses to the growing request of energy in our two countries and the new market job opportunities in the renewable energy sector," he explained.

According to Swallah, creation of jobs is of paramount importance in Tanzania, underscoring the importance of selling to European delegates viable projects in agriculture, industry, infrastructure, transportation and tourism.

To bring the point home

Call: Report on sexual harassment incidents to fight gender violence in local media houses

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Tanzania Editors forum (TEF) Chairperson Deodatus Balile, has urged journalists to find courage in reporting the sexual harassment incidents as one of the measures to curb gender violence in media houses.

He gave the call on Tuesday to media editors at the roundtable discussion on gender in media organized by Internews in Dar es Salaam.

According to him, findings show that most women in media houses face sexual violence however, media houses lag behind on reporting the incidents.

"Let us find courage to report the sexual harassment. It is shocking that of all reported incidents on women sexual harassment in news, only 57 percent were worked upon," he said.

"The other measure to fight gender violence is the possession of sexual harassment policy that will demand human resource managers to display the document at conspicuous position and remind employees on the policy in every staff meeting," he added.

Chelu Matusya, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation Taifa (TBC) senior journalist said there is a need for policies and law amendment upon the media to bring equality in newsrooms.

Matusya said the fact that men take sensitive coverage like state functions reporting while women end up with minor events is something that demotes their capabilities.

Rashid Kejo, Mwananchi consulting editor, stressed on ensuring the practicability of gender equality as a roadmap to achieving gender equality.

He said the practicability can go further towards employing and nurturing more female journalists.

"How do we coach them by the time they exist in the media? It's the question that needs answers in a roadmap to achieve gender equality."


He also tasked media creation of female sources directory rationally to add readers and viewers.

"We should not confine ourselves to the same sources."

Tausi Mbowe, Times FM news editor asked Internews to carry the task to educate media houses on sexual harassment so that journalists can find the courage to report on the sexual harassment.

WAN-IFRA 2022 findings on gender violence shows that one out of two women in news have faced in sexual harassment.





POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

DRIVER/FIELD ASSISTANT

IITA-TZ2023-CIP-004-NRS-MWANZA

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Potato Center International (CIP) is seeking a Driver/Field Assistant.

Background: CIP is a not-for-profit international agricultural research organization with a global mandate to conduct research on genetic resources of potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and other Andean roots and tubers, crop genetic enhancement and improvement, integrated crop management and sustainable management of natural resources.

Job Summary: To drive project staff and maintain office vehicles in proper condition. This work is undertaken as part of the Sweetpotato Component of the Program for Seed System Innovations for Vegetatively Propagated Crops in Africa (PROSSIVA) implemented by the International Potato Center (CIP) and TARI. The Program for Seed System Innovation of Vegetatively propagated crops (VPCs) in Africa (PROSSIVA) will develop and validate packages of innovations to strengthen functional VPC seed systems and will work with partners to catalyze their scaling in five target countries of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The Sweetpotato Component aims to improve the crop's seed system through technological, marketing, and institutional innovations that deliver affordable quality seed of market-preferred varieties to actors in Tanzania in a timely manner. The Sweetpotato Component will be implemented at the Lake Zone of Tanzania. The Driver will be based in Mwanza. This position will report to PROSSIVA's Principal Investigator for the Sweetpotato Component.

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Core Responsibilities:

- Carrying out driving duties in a safe and courteous manner as per CIP Travel Policy and the Tanzania Traffic Act.
- Ensure use of project vehicles follows CIP motor vehicle policy, drive vehicles safely and defensively to avoid any incidents or accidents and ensure compliance with CIP driving policy in case of involvement in an accident.
- Report accidents or incidents to the supervisor in a timely manner.
- Operates, maintains, and cleans assigned vehicles with care and reports any damage immediately to the supervisor.
- Drive project vehicles for transportation of project staff to implement field activities in project target locations.
- Before proceeding on field trips ensure all travel requirements are met and liaise with staff traveling with for instructions.
- Continuously monitor the condition of assigned vehicles while driving and promptly report defects.
- Ensuring that the vehicle log sheets are filled on daily basis when the vehicle is in use. Ensure all vehicle costs incurred while in the field are reported and original receipts presented.
- Ensure that routine service and maintenance of vehicles is undertaken in a timely manner and with a reputable service provider(s)
- Assists research staff in field activities.
- Other duties that may be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification, Experience and Key Skills

- Minimum of form four education.
- Minimum 5 years of professional driving experience of light and heavy vehicles.
- Must have a clean and valid Tanzania driver's license.
- Hands-on experience in simple maintenance of vehicles.
- Knowledge of defensive driving is an added advantage.
- Good knowledge of spoken and written Kiswahili. Basic knowledge of spoken and written English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to relate well with diverse culture.
- Reliable and ability to work effectively and respectfully.

General information:
The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Dar es Salaam. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge - Coca-Cola Road, Mikocheni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. **Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.**

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2023

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Tourist arrivals strategy already visible in detail

WHILE the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) directors and management have 60 days to come up with a strategy of effective promotion of the country's tourism attractions, the answer to that question already seemed to be in place. It was the bit about promoting cultural tourism as an essential component in such a strategy that roughly provides the answer, while plenty of details on other critical areas are likely to be raised. There were albeit some curious inputs as to what is needed.

The Natural Resources and Tourism docket holder, a bit new to the post, was on a familiarisation tour where he raised a range of strategic issues with the board and management. All intent was focused on realising the current objective of attaining five million tourists annually, which the minister described as a short term strategy, and the incoming chief executive was even more ambitious in his remarks. It is evidence that the drive to realise set goals is there, but the methods are still unclear, especially as the CEO hinted at raising the bar to ten million tourists this decade.

At the same time there was plenty of realism on the part of the minister, when he asked the board and its management team to work around the issue of why most tourists appear to visit once, and do not come back. Perhaps from the point of view of an outsider, that would be the best angle to start; it implies we have potentially a large number of people who, if they regularly visited the country instead of just once. The tendency has been relatively steady, and no one knows how to reverse it.

The minister similarly dwelt on some length on the need to promote cultural tourism, seemingly

the most visible element in a wider tourist arrivals uplift strategy. From a policy maker's viewpoint it is enough to mention the need and it is adopted or otherwise the board and management figure out how to put it into action. And noticeably, a policy maker is in a position to compare views from a wider range of sentiment, opinion or informed analysis than outsiders, as those in a position to know the issues will find ways of sharing their experiences, or ideas.

Thus those of us on the outside wouldn't be in a position to say if tourists will flock in greater numbers if the cultural tourism component is greater. For once there is a trap in the matter, as to what sort of cultural tourism is likely to pull tourists in hordes rather than in groups, that is, whether it is to enjoy their own cultures or ours. Chances are that the usual impression we have on the matter is not consonant with reality, that it is their culture they may follow here, to relive it in sunshine, rather than repeatedly come to Tanzania to get glimpses of our culture.

TTB was also told to place opinion boxes at airports to know the reason most tourists departing from the country go elsewhere next time. While this method may perhaps yield some pointers or gestures of discomfort and even some impulsive reactions that could disorient the management, it is likely that frank dialogue with foreign travel agents may help. If we don't get clear answers with a locally based dialogue, economic diplomacy can be used to get views from tourist source markets as to what it would take for this or that tourist to come back - by age cohort, profession, type of visitation (like beaches or wildlife viewing), etc.

NDC seeking out TFS for rubber farms is environmentally sound

THINGS could change at least in one sphere of industry is plans by the National Development Corporation (NDC) go as planned. It has initiated talks with the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) management to plant rubber in forest areas they hold, which is just another way of pursuing the latter's conservation vocation, as rubber trees are tapped for their fluid, rather than cut down save in the far future. That makes the suggestion basically sound, leaving out 'rubber-nomics,' briefly.

In recent remarks on the issue, an operations director with the corporate entity did not exactly refer to the issue of whether a rubber plantation or forest may qualify for carbon credits. One worry is that a rubber plantation or indeed several of them can generate plenty of the plastics that the world is actively circumventing, with varying degrees of success. Single use plastics are being removed from circulation globally, but plastic bottles can scarcely be reduced, as glass bottles carry risks.

When it comes to the main NDC targets, that of wrapping for instance in the distribution of drugs by the Medical Stores Department (MSD), such a need is plausible as a strategic pursuit. The corporation says MSD imports large quantities of rubber from Malaysia, which could thus be replaced by local production, if the preliminary layout makes it that it would be cheaper to obtain the raw material locally. The trouble is when executives think firstly of local production, and then at a later stage start inserting the need for its protection from imports, a negative input.

When it comes to production of soda ash at Engaruka in Monduli District, plenty of progress was visible in the remarks by the NDC executive, but it was unclear if they are pursuing it solo if they have lined up an investor. Feasibility studies were ready and the next stage is to pay compensation to people who will have to vacate land for the project, but if they wish for an investor, unless they will be sharing in the capital rather than own half of it by virtue of owning the land. If the capital is singularly that of the prospective investor, he will need his own feasibility study, by a more targeted costing survey, not one that is unaware of his costing margins.

Much the same thing can be said with regard to mining coal at Mchuchuma and iron ore at Liganga, where the NDC is hinging on finding willing investors to produce raw iron. It is hard to project how NDC works together with prospective investors as partnership adds costs, and NBC owning the land means financing has to be direct and sufficient. Most investors usually rely on bank facilities when the projects are bankable; it means they get a 33 year lease hold to use it as collateral.

As these remarks were made while preparing for a major business forum, where the European Union delegation has made it clear its target is to work with the local private sector while the public sector facilitates investments, there are errands to be run. It is unlikely that public-private partnerships focus on industrial ventures, but it is possible they may work as well. This aspect was altogether missing from the remarks.

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Mental health must be addressed in medical facilities and in communities

By Ifeanyi Nsofor

Patients who visit public clinics in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, are asked mental health questions to detect signs of stress and depression early. The process starts with a basic checklist, with patients referred to a nurse, doctor, or specialist. Asking these questions at primary care not only can identify issues early on, but it also helps decrease the stigma often associated with mental health while maintaining anonymity.

This initiative is praiseworthy and should be replicated in all health facilities - both public and private. To ensure continuum of care, mental health services should also be provided in communities.

Globally, there are millions of unmet needs for mental health care. Globally, more than 970 million people are living with a mental disorder, with anxiety and depressive disorders the most common. According to the U.S. Centres for Disease Control, more than 50% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental disorder at some point in their lifetime.

Globally, more than 970 million people are living with a mental disorder, with anxiety and depressive disorders the most common. According to the U.S. Centres for Disease Control, more than 50% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental disorder at some point in their lifetime.

Without a doubt mental health is important. However, just like physical health, it fluctuates. In an episode of my public health advocacy project, 'Public Health for Everyone', Victor Ugo - global mental health advocate and founder of Nigeria's leading mental health not-for-profit, Mentally Aware Initiative said, "mental health is a continuum - sometimes we experience good mental health and other times, bad mental health".

Therefore, it is imperative to identify symptoms when they are present and provide timely care. Asking routine questions at primary care visits is an effective way to achieve this.

Sadly, poor perception and stigma associated with mental health vary. For instance, the 2018 mental health in Nigeria survey, which I co-led, revealed shocking results. More than 5,300 respondents were interviewed in all 774 local councils across the country.



Seventy percent of Nigerians believe mental health disease is, "When someone starts running around naked"; and 54% said "possession by evil spirits as a cause of mental health disease".

Furthermore, 18% said they will take someone with mental health disease to a prayer house for deliverance; traditional medicine healer (8 pc); locking up the person (4pc) and beating the disease out of the person (2pc). These shocking results underpin how difficult it can be to change behaviors to improve mental health.

As mental health is a continuum, so should mental health care. It is important to provide care not just at medical facilities but at community levels too. Community members may not be aware that primary care facilities provide mental health care but people they know in the community reach out to them.

Other reasons that community efforts are important include the reality that in many regions, health facilities may be far away from where people live or there may be unattainable costs associated with accessing care at health facilities. These are two examples of successful community-based mental health care services.

First is the Fellowship Bench, which began in Zimbabwe and was founded by Psychiatrist and Aspen Institute Senior New Voices Fellow Dixon Chibanda. Dixon lost a 26 year old patient to suicide because her family could not afford the \$15 bus fare from her village to his clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe, for a follow-up visit.

It was a turning point for him,

and this sad experience birthed The Friendship Bench. The Fellowship Bench deploys grandmothers, an ever-present human resource in communities, to provide mental health care. Grandmothers are trained on evidence-based talk therapy delivered on a park bench. In 2006, the first group of grandmothers went to work.

Chibanda believes that depression is treatable and suicide preventable. However, in low- and middle-income countries, there are not enough psychiatrists. Consequently, 90% of those needing mental health care do not get it, he said in his TED Talk. Therefore, innovative solutions such as The Friendship Bench are necessary to bridge the mental health care gap by providing care right in communities where people live. Another effort is Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative (MANI). It provides virtual mental health care to a large community by disseminating mental health information to its more than 180,000 followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn.

MANI reaches more than 3 million people (mostly young people) monthly through these social media platforms. MANI's services are needed in a country of more than 200 million people with less than 250 psychiatrists. This translates to one psychiatrist servicing one million Nigerians. MANI provided mental health care during Nigeria's 2020 EndSARS campaign against police brutality. Young people protested police brutality but were still brutalized and killed during the protest. Many people needed mental health care and MANI was there to provide

it by offering calls.

One of the major challenges to providing mental health is the cost. More funding is required to support and scale more community-based mental health interventions. In 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced nearly \$35 million in funding opportunities to strengthen and expand community mental health services and suicide prevention programs for America's children and young adults.

In Europe, there is a €3,355,000 grant for large-scale implementation of community-based mental health care for people with severe and enduring mental ill health. In Nigeria, the TY Danjuma Foundation recently awarded a grant to Jela's Development Initiatives to train 200 teachers about basic mental healthcare and create awareness for effective curriculum delivery.

Jela's Development Initiatives also hosts 'unburden' - a group therapy session supervised by a mental health expert, which enables participants to speak about issues affecting their mental health within a safe and confidential space. These kinds of funds are important and need to continue regularly.

Providing mental health services at primary care and community levels can help millions of people. Supporting these efforts is the equitable thing to do.

Dr. Ifeanyi M. Nsofor, MBBS, MCommH (Liverpool) is Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute, Senior Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity at George Washington University, 2006 Ford Foundation International Fellow

Gender policy: A tool for inclusive democracy within political parties

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIA is striving to honour her obligations under international, regional and country levels to ensure access to equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the enjoyment of political rights.

Under these instruments, the country has committed to embracing gender equality principle by eliminating all forms of discrimination and providing and protecting equal rights of men, women, youth and people with special needs.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have for decades been working with the government towards the realization of equal representation of men and women (50:50) in all decision-making levels. The key stakeholders towards this goal are political parties.

The general assembly of the Alliance for Africa Farmers Party (AAFP) has adopted the gender policy prepared by CSOs with the aim of making leadership opportunities within the party accessible to all groups namely men, women, youth and people with special needs.

Shani Kitumbua, national chairperson of the party's women's wing, says that the policy was adopted on February 12 this year at a general meeting, adding that they are now planning to go and sensitize the importance of the policy to the people through public rallies.

Kitumbua spoke in an interview with this newspaper at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam and expressed hope that adoption of the policy will give it mileage amongst voters, most of whom are women.

"We have adopted this policy after receiving training provided by the Tanzania Gender Networking (TGNP) in collaboration with Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) about its importance," she said.

She added that they received sensitization on the policy last year and after thoroughly going through it, they unanimously decided to ap-



Shani Kitumbua (centre), chairperson of AAFP women's wing, displays the gender policy endorsed by the party recently at its headquarters in Dar es Salaam. To her right is the wing's secretary Nayopa and deputy secretary Magdalena Kapala. Photo/Sabato Kasika

prove it as official policy within the party to be used to guide how to settle on candidates during internal as well as national elections.

"I believe that through this policy, the number of women at decision-making levels in our party and other areas will increase, especially after sensitizing out party members and supporters on its importance," she said.

Kitumbua outlined some of the contents of the policy as promoting gender equality and inclusion within the party whereby all groups namely men, women, youth and people with special needs are included.

"This policy also aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence within the party as it establishes special measures to ensure participation of these groups

in administration and performance, systems and processes within the party," she said.

"We will officially introduce it to the people on March 17 this year at a public rally in Dodoma which will be our first meeting since the recent lifting of restrictions on political meetings."

Monica John, TGNP Information Officer who is also the coordinator of the project to increase participation of women in leadership and decision-making levels, said that they started to introduce the policy to political parties in 2021.

"TGNP implemented this project with the aim of increasing participation of women in political leadership and decision-making at all levels in collaboration with WILDAF from November 2021 to September 2022,"

she said.

She explained that in the project, TGNP focused on capacity building for political parties to include gender issues in their policies, programmes and guidelines in order to create a friendly environment that facilitates the broad and productive participation of women in politics including entering the decision-making levels in the parties.

"Tanzania has 19 parties with permanent registration and until August 2021, there were only three female chairpersons which is equal to 15.7 per cent," she said.

"The parties are CCM, SAU and ACT-Wazalendo which had a woman in acting capacity and in terms of secretaries-general; there were only two women equal to 10.5 per cent in NCCR-Mageuzi and UDP."

Apart from individual parties, TGNP also coordinated sessions with leadership of the Council of Political Parties as a continuation of the discussions to encourage political parties to include gender issues in their policies, plans and guidelines.

"Adopting gender policy drafts for political parties as an important step to create a friendly and enabling environment for women to participate in political processes and to compete equally in various leadership positions and decision-making levels," said John.

In implementing the project, eight out of the 19 registered parties were selected based on first letters namely AAFP, ACT Wazalendo, ADATADEA, CCM, CUF, CHAUMMA, ADC and CCK.

By Thomas Lyimo

HUMANS are of different personalities and behaviours which affect their learning positively or negatively. This is what necessitates the need for a teacher to understand learners so as to be able to impart knowledge into their minds easily.

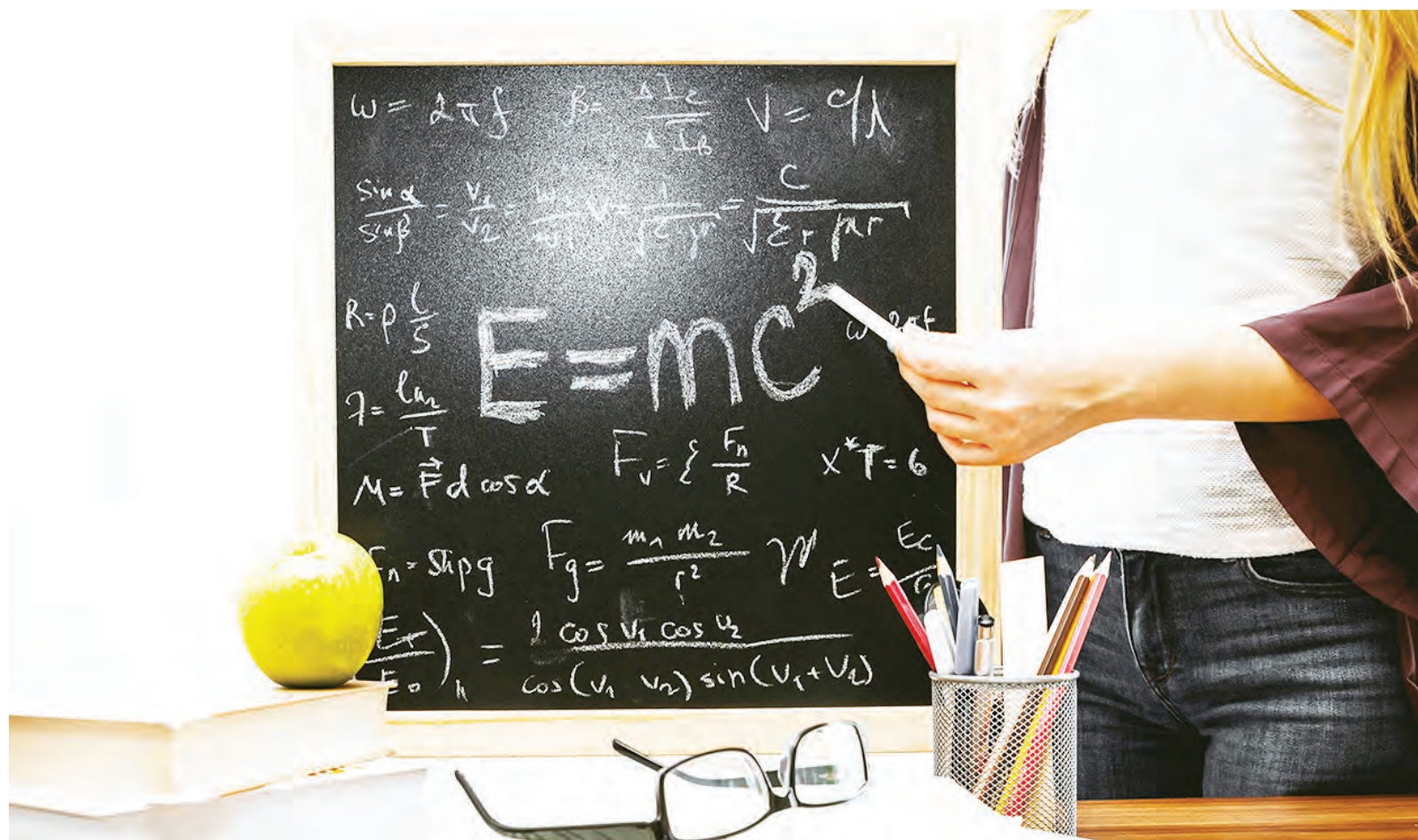
Children are at the beginning stage of life whereby whatever they are taught is what will define their character in the future. They commit mistakes regularly because they don't know what is good or bad. It is the teacher who has to direct them on how they should behave.

But for this to happen successfully, a teacher needs to take time to learn a lot from children so that they can prepare an environment that enables them learn. However, this task is not easy as some pupils stay seven years at primary school and yet they cannot read and write which are very basic skills to be possessed by a person from school.

A teacher has to know the comforts and discomforts of a pupil so as to plan means to ensure that a pupil can cope with the learning process. There are pupils who are shy and afraid of mass and also there are those who have learning challenges and yet the society expects good results.

There are individual pupils who can only learn effectively after understanding themselves. This means an individual has to know how he or she learns. This process is gradual and requires tolerance and for it to succeed, the teacher needs to be tolerant of the personality or behaviour of a child for a certain period of time before fully understanding the pupil's nature of learning.

If a teacher fails to discover how a pupil learns, they may fail to impart knowledge into that



To easily help learners, teachers need to follow these four stages

pupil and hence a failure in the learning process. Even when the teacher has discovered challenges facing a child, a parent may still insist on quick progress and that is what may force the teacher into stress.

It is knowledge that shapes a person's life. Therefore there must be endless struggle by the teacher to assess the learning nature of pupils so as to enable them acquire important skills

for their lives.

Teachers should not lose hope in the struggle of enabling pupils make some progress. They must give pupils opportunities to try several times and give out their opinions or express their feelings. For a teacher to facilitate the learning process, they must be ready and energetic. Instead of complains, there must be motivation and hope for success.

All what a teacher has to do

so as to help a pupil attain the learning objectives can be put into four stages. Stage one is loving your pupil. Some thinkers are convinced that a person can claim to have love for someone when the joy or sadness of the other person affects that particular person. For the case of teaching and learning the same applies. A teacher needs to feel empathetic when they see a pupil registering terrible perfor-

mances.

For, as humans, we normally help those people who we love. If a teacher loves the pupil, they will utilize most of their time helping struggling learners acquire basic skills for personal and national development.

Stage two is correcting the pupil. After the teacher has known the comforts and discomforts of the pupil as well as the thinking that characterizes the learner,

they become in a position to correct the pupil. The pupil needs to be corrected in terms of behaviour and thinking so as to improve in the learning process. The pupil may be affected by a wrong thinking and if no one corrects them, they grow with that thinking which may limit their success in education.

Stage three is approving the child. The teaching and learning process is sociological in the sense that those who surround us sometimes set expectations for our educational achievements. They sometimes believe that we cannot go beyond certain imaginary limits that they have set for us. It is the role of the teacher to convince the rest of the class that certain individuals have potential to succeed in education and therefore they should be accepted as capable ones. This practice is essential as it consolidates the social fabric and hence promotes educational progress.

Stage four is encouraging and strengthening the pupil. After the pupil has demonstrated capability in the learning process, they need to be encouraged by the teacher. This ensures progress and enables the pupil overcome reciprocating forces which are always there. It is believed that maintaining is harder than attaining. A teacher should not get tired of advising or directing pupils towards fulfilling their dreams in life.

Among things which can make a teacher feel proud of this profession is enabling a pupil who the rest of the society lost hopes in fulfill their dreams in life. For, teaching itself is helping learners understand themselves and unleash their potentials.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com

Pakistan's new free healthcare insurance benefits women, poor

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

A FREE health insurance initiative started in Pakistan has benefited poor patients, especially women who have outnumbered men in using the cashless health services under the Sehat Card Plus programme.

"The initiative is in line with the ICPD25 Programme of Action, under which 4.5 million people have received free services, with 62 percent of them women. In the last three years, we have been able to cut down maternal mortality rate from 186 deaths per 100,000 live births to 172," Dr Muhammad Riaz Tanoli, CEO of the Sehat Card Plus (SCP), told IPS.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Nairobi in 2019 set a programme of action aimed at empowering women and girls. The SCP aims to ensure Pakistan meets the 2030 deadline for sustainable development goals for universal health and women.

So far, USD 80 million have been spent on treating patients at 1,100 hospitals across the country.

Shaheen Begum, a resident of Peshawar, is thankful to former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who launched the programme and said that her sister had died of delivery-related complication years ago because they didn't have money to get quality treatment. She was lucky to undergo a caesarean section at one of the city's top private hospitals on SCP, and she and her newborn baby are in good health.

"Since my first-month of pregnancy, I have been getting diagnostic services free of cost. Two days before delivery, I was admitted because of complications, and doctors performed a caesarean operation," Begum, 26, a house-



Universal Health Care priorities in Pakistan have been boosted by free health-care insurance for the poor. Credit: Ashfaq Yusufzai/IPS

wife, said.

Pakistanis living abroad with chronic ailments return to the country for treatment. Muhammad Kashif, 55, recently arrived from Malaysia to undergo liver transplant surgery.

Kashif said that the cost of a liver transplant in Malaysia was USD 7,000. Not only was it beyond his reach, but he would have had to call relatives to Malaysia to donate a liver. That would have been impossible, he said in an interview with IPS.

"One of my friends called me and asked to come back and get the sur-

gery free of cost. I came to my native Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in November last year, and next month, my transplant was done at one of the country's premier hospitals," he said.

Like Kashif, Mushtari Gul, a Pakistani nurse working in Saudi Arabia, became extremely sick as her kidneys stopped functioning.

"Initially, I received dialysis for two months, but doctors advised renal transplant that wasn't possible there due to its cost and donor," she said.

Gul, 51, is one of the 235 people

who received free renal transplants under the SCP. She said it wasn't possible without an insurance scheme because its cost was USD 6,500, not affordable even by affluent people.

Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) is appreciative of the scheme. "It is an unprecedented programme where the people are able to get services in expensive hospitals. Most patients who couldn't afford heart surgeries are among the beneficiaries," PMA's Secretary, Dr Qaisar Sajjad, told IPS.

PMA has been asking the govern-

ment to ensure World Health Organization's aim for Universal Health Coverage is delivered, and this was a step in that direction, Dr Qaisar said.

Public health specialist Dr Fayyaz Shah told IPS that the system has been very good. Unlike the health insurance schemes in developed countries where people deposit annual premiums, here, the government pays the insurance company without charging people.

Before the Programme's launch, the infant mortality rate was 41 per 1,000 live births, which has now come down to 35. Shah elaborated that other health indicators also show improvement as poor people receive timely treatment.

Patients are getting free services for renal and liver transplants and major ailments and procedures, including cancers, surgeries, cardiac diseases, hernia, cataracts, gynaecology, eye, ear, nose and throat and other diseases.

The major beneficiaries are women and children, followed by cancer, heart, dialysis and people with urinary and diabetic problems, he said.

Local gynaecologist Dr Naseem Akhtar terms the programme a blessing for women. Ever since the start of the programme, there has been a drastic decline in mortality among women for pregnancy-related complications.

"Our staff also work harder because they get extra financial incentives from the funds generated from SCP. The patients in hospitals also get free medicines and diagnostic services," she said.

At the end of every month, we send patients' details and expenses to the government, and the payment is made within a week. The state-run insurance company is implementing the programme on behalf of the government, which has proved beneficial both for patients and healthcare providers, she said.

A senior nurse, Sonia Ali, at a local hospital, said her monthly salary is \$200, but she earns \$300 additional from the patients undergoing treatment on SCP.

Fear as countries grapple with huge numbers of ageing populations

By Joseph Chamie

FEAR of population ageing is all over the news media and in government offices of country capitals worldwide. Planet Earth is becoming "planet ageing".

Population ageing is being described as a demographic time bomb, a humanitarian crisis, a growing burden, a national security threat, ticking towards disaster, a significant risk to global prosperity, a silver tsunami, an unprecedented set of challenges, a problem for young and old.

Government officials, business leaders, economists, healthcare providers, social organizations, political commentators and others are increasingly ringing alarm bells over the menacing demographic ageing of populations.

Adding to those alarm bells is the 2022 Japanese film, *Plan 75*, presented in May at the annual Cannes Film Festival. That dystopian film describes a government program that encourages senior citizens to be euthanized to remedy the burdens of an aged Japanese society.

More recently, a Yale University assistant professor of economics reportedly suggested that to address Japan's demographic ageing, elderly Japanese people should commit "mass suicide". After raising objections in Japan and elsewhere, he subsequently explained that his suggestion was taken out of context. He explained that his remark was intended to address a growing effort to revamp Japan's age-based hierarchies and make room for younger generations in leadership positions in business and politics.

Mainstream media regularly reports that government expenditures on retirement and healthcare benefits for the elderly are outpacing tax revenues. Also, many governments are reportedly struggling to find the money to support retirees. Furthermore, current trends, unless they are reversed, indicate that the growing numbers of elderly people on the planet pose a challenge for governments to provide the needed care for them.

People have taken to the streets to protest government proposals to address population ageing by making changes to benefits and official



The ageing of populations poses mounting challenges for governments that will require changes in national policy priorities, country institutions and social arrangements. Credit: Maricel Sequeira/IPS

retirement ages. In France people have taken to the streets to protest the government's intention to raise the current age of 62 years to receive government benefits.

Similarly in China, retirees and their supporters are protesting government proposed cuts in benefits for the elderly. And fearing public backlash at the voting booth, elected government officials in the United States are bending over backwards in their assurances, retreating from possible program cuts, and promising that they "won't touch" Social Security or Medicare.

The ageing of populations should not really come as a surprise to government officials and their many economic and political advisors and aides.

For decades demographers and many others have been writing articles, publishing books, giving presentations, and advising government officials and others about the demographic ageing of populations resulting from the continued decline in fertility rates and increased life expect-

tancy. Nevertheless, despite those considerable efforts and clear communication about population ageing, governments have not been paying enough attention.

Apparently, governments mistakenly came to believe that the demographic realities of population ageing could simply be ignored because those realities were largely academic matters as well as concerns for the distant future. In fact, however, those realities were neither largely academic nor concerns for the distant future.

Over the past half century, the median age of the world's population has increased to 30 years in 2020 from 20 years in 1970, an increase of 10 years. Many countries have attained median ages in 2020 well above 35 years, such as France at 41 years, South Korea at 43 years, Italy at 46 years and Japan at 48 years.

In addition, many countries have seen their elderly population reach unprecedented levels. In the United States, for example,

more than 1 in 6, or 17 percent, were 65 or older in 2020. That percentage is relatively low in comparison to many other developed countries. In Italy and Japan, the proportion 65 years and older is 24 and 29 percent, respectively (Figure 1).

The ageing of populations certainly poses mounting challenges for governments as well for the elderly that will require changes in national policy priorities, country institutions and social arrangements.

Among those challenges are needs for financial aid, caregiving and assistance, medical treatment, healthcare and drugs. Such needs are not only increasingly overwhelming many households, but they are also straining government resources and the capacities of institutions to provide care for the elderly.

In addition to the financial costs, governments are wrestling with major policy issues. Population ageing is competing with national priorities that require financial resources, including defense, economy, employment, education, health care, environment and climate.

Population ageing is also raising vexing questions about the proper role of government and the responsibilities of individuals for their personal wellbeing in old age. Those questions continue to roil government legislatures and heighten concerns about retirement and old age healthcare among their citizens.

Much of the public believes that the government should be primarily responsible to cover the financial costs and provide the needed care and support to the elderly, as has generally been the case over the past decades in many countries.

Others, however, contend that it is not the role of the government to be primarily responsible to provide care and support to the elderly. They argue that the elderly themselves and their families should be primarily responsible for covering the costs and providing the needed care, support and assistance for older persons.

The fear of population ageing is further complicated by population decline. Over the coming years, many countries across the globe are facing declines in the size of their populations due to below replacement fertility rates (Figure 2).

Demographic ageing coupled with population decline and increased human longevity are forcing governments to address mounting financial issues, especially retirement and healthcare benefits. Many government programs for old age benefits are facing insolvency in the near future.

Possible options to address those financial issues include reducing retirement benefits, limiting eligibility, raising the retirement age and increasing taxes. As would be expected, reducing benefits, limiting eligibility and raising retirement ages are unpopular among most of the public. While many are in favor of increased taxes to fund retirement pensions and healthcare for the elderly, businesses and investors are generally opposed to raising taxes.

The consequences of the demographic realities of population ageing are largely unavoidable and need to be addressed. Governments may continue choosing to avoid addressing those consequences. Perhaps they are hoping that if the demographic realities are ignored, they somehow will magically disappear.

Governments need to stop ringing the alarm bells about population ageing. Instead, they need to adapt to the demographic realities of population ageing. In particular, governments need to address the weighty consequences of population ageing by making the admittedly difficult but necessary policy and program decisions regarding official retirement age, pensions benefits, assistance, and healthcare.

Joseph Chamie is a consulting demographer, a former director of the United Nations Population Division and author of numerous publications on population issues, including his recent book, "Population Levels, Trends, and Differentials".

African leaders meet in Zimbabwe for first regional workshop on national water roadmaps

HARARE

"WE clearly need to rethink how we use the water we have in a sustainable and equitable way -- with innovations in agriculture being at the forefront", the Director-General of the Food of Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, told African leaders and experts during the high-level opening of the first FAO regional workshop on National Water Roadmaps in Zimbabwe.

Qu explained that the national water roadmaps -- strategies that will help to strengthen water resources management -- are an important tool to address the growing challenges around water, helping to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The first FAO regional workshop, held in-person in Harare and virtually, aims to inform African countries about the overall role of water in sustainable development and to provide a platform for governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia to discuss and develop country-specific water plans.

The importance of taking care of water resources

The FAO director-general reminded participants that water is one of the world's most precious resources and it is central to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Because water is food, and food is water, food is life... Over 95 per cent of the food we eat is produced on land, from soil and water", he underscored. "Yet we are facing severe water challenges: droughts and water scarcity, floods and pollution", he warned.

Indeed, the climate crisis is increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, which has an impact on food production.

In Africa, 289 million people -- 21 per cent of the population -- still suffer from hunger or food insecurity, and more than 300 million in the continent live in areas affected by low and irregular rainfall, resulting in droughts and water scarcity.

"These extremes -- of too much or too little water -- impact farmers, crop production, livestock, food security, economies and livelihoods", Qu emphasised.

The solutions

The director-general, underlining that agriculture is responsible for 70 per cent of global freshwater withdrawals, told the workshop that it is crucial to increase water productivity with innovations in the sector being at the forefront.

"More crop per drop", he explained, adding that it is also necessary to cut greenhouse emissions from agriculture through the sustainable management of soils, to prevent further disruption to the water and climate cycle.

He also invited African countries to look at "the big picture" of integrated water resources management to deal with increasing competition and trade-offs between sectors, and increasingly work in partnerships.

"Integrated water-related strategies and policies, with concrete actions and strong political will, are crucial to managing water across sectors in a holistic and efficient way", the FAO director-general underscored.

Africa united to develop a shared vision at the UN water conference

At the high-level opening of the FAO regional workshop, Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister for Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development of Zimbabwe, in representation of the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, said that the meeting will provide Africa with a platform for the development of a shared vision and voice at the UN 2023 water conference.

"It is my hope that this collective position shall demonstrate a great deal of collegiality, a great deal of unity in our diversity and most importantly, will consider the needs and aspirations of the citizenry of Africa", he underscored.

On 22-24 March 2023, the UN will convene the UN 2023 water conference at the UN headquarters in New York to review the progress made in the UN water action decade. This will provide an opportunity to keep the momentum and raise awareness of water's role in economies, societies and the environment and to mobilize global-local actions on the water for sustainable development.

To foster collective action at the national level for the development of such roadmaps, FAO is organising regional workshops on the National Water Roadmaps.

The high-level opening also had the participation of Edward Kallon, UN resident coordinator in Zimbabwe and Gilbert F. Hougbo, chair of UN-water and director-general of the International Labour Organisation.

During the next two days, the event will see a series of high-level roundtables, presentations and panel discussions to define actionable regional recommendations related to financing, data, innovation, and governance, among other issues linked to water management.

By Guardian Correspondent

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has embarked on a campaign aimed at addressing the escalating problem of underage alcohol consumption.

The brewer has also taken the fight right to schools where the brewer uses theatre performance to educate students between the age of 13 and 17 years about the side effects of alcohol consumption urging them to refrain from the practice.

Through a programme dubbed: 'Smashed', SBL has now reached to dozens of secondary schools in Dar es Salaam and Tanga regions educating over 15,000 students who may be at risk of exposure to early alcohol consumption.

The programme is aimed at building self-esteem and resilience and provides young people with strategies to overcome temptations to hit the bottle at an early age.

"Young people have a right to an alcohol education that doesn't shield from reality or scare with shock tactics. Smashed is a powerful and realistic story of young people and alcohol. Learners stop and ask, 'What if that was me?' queried John Wanyancha, SBL corporate relations director when speaking at Nguvumali secondary school in Tanga in which 'Smashed' concert was staged last week.

According to Wanyancha, 'Smashed' is a global educational theatre programme dedicated to reducing underage alcohol consumption across the world. Originally created for UK schools by Collingwood Learning, it now supports a growing global network of creative partners to deliver the programme around the world. The programme is active in 25 countries across six continents and has reached over 700,000 young people since its inception. 'Smashed' has a strong international reputation based upon measurable improvements in student knowledge and awareness of the dangers of underage drinking.



A cross-section of students of the Nguvumali secondary school perform at one of the SBL's campaigns to end the under-age alcohol consumption.

Brewer wages war against under-age alcohol drinking

responsible or moderate consumption, the director said citing 'Don't Drink and Drive and DrinkiQ' as other programmes the company is using to reach motorists, boda boda riders and the general public.

'Smashed' was introduced in Tanzania last year by creating awareness to students in seven schools in Dar es Salaam reaching over 9,400 students. The schools in Dar es Salaam include Fahari, Gogoni, Urafiki, Kwembe, Makulumula, Mabibo and Malamba Mawili secondary schools. Tanga region was up next where beginning this year, SBL has rolled out the programme in five schools impacting over 7,500 students at Mnyanjani, Nguvumali, Kihere, Toledo and Maceschu secondary schools.

"This programme is part of a broader campaign by our company to promote

other stakeholders in the education sector who have experienced the programme find 'Smashed' a timely intervention in addressing the growing concern of under-age drinking in the country. "Alcohol consumption and use of drugs is a major problem among some secondary school students in Tanga. It's been noted to be the main cause of truancy behaviour, absenteeism, indiscipline and poor performance by the concerned students, commented Maurus Ndunguru, the Tanga City Council academic officer.

Ndunguru, who attended 'Smashed' theatre performance in all the five schools in the region, also appealed to SBL to extend its reach to other schools within the city praising the program as

"a really life experience and an eye-opener to students in making informed choices of what they want in life knowing that early alcohol consumption could as well destroy their life dreams and aspirations."

Tanga City Council social welfare and development officer Naetwe Kilianga expressed her satisfaction over the performance of the programme. Speaking during the 'Smashed' performance at Taledo secondary school Naetwe appealed to the students to apply the knowledge obtained "to say no to alcohol and instead focus on education."

Naetwe also advised them that there are many more positive ways to unwind and move on in life than opting to use of alcohol.

Emirates boosts operations to Cairo



DUBAI

EMIRATES has announced that it will boost its operations to and from Cairo to 28 weekly flights, effective 29 October, 2023. The additional flights provide more options for customers to connect to Dubai and beyond with enhanced schedules and the opportunity to enjoy more of the Emirates A380's signature experience.

The operational boost will see Emirates operating four daily flights, thrice daily on the A380 and a daily service on the Boeing 777. Cairo has the highest deployment of Emirates A380 services in the region, outside of Dubai. The additional services and upgrade of seat capacity on the Dubai-Cairo route will help meet high demand to and from Cairo and support the country's tourism revival with the addition of

more than 2,200 weekly seats in each direction. Emirates will now operate daily, departing at 1200hrs from Dubai to arrive at Cairo International Airport at 1415hrs. The return flight will depart from Cairo at 1615hrs, to arrive at 2145hrs in Dubai. Emirates' third A380 flight frequency to Cairo will depart Dubai at 20:40hrs landing at 22:55hrs and will then depart Cairo, the following day at 00:40 hrs, to arrive in Dubai at 06:10hrs.

The Emirates A380 experience remains highly sought after by travellers for its spacious and comfortable cabins, and signature products that offer travellers the best experiences in the sky like the Onboard Lounge, First Class suites and Shower Spa. The airline

currently deploys its flagship A380 to 41 destinations worldwide.

The modern Boeing 777-300ER aircraft in a three-class configuration on flights to Cairo offer Emirates' award-winning service and industry-leading products, with private suites in First Class, lie flat seats in Business Class and spacious seats in Economy Class.

Customers can enjoy the world-class service and products Emirates has to offer on board, including Emirates' inflight entertainment system with over 5,000 channels of on-demand movies, music, TV shows, box sets and documentaries, in over 40 languages, including an extensive selection of content in Arabic like classic and new Egyptian movies

and TV shows, as well as the best of Egyptian music. Guests in all classes can also enjoy delicious multi-course meals prepared by award-winning chefs on the flight. Emirates started operations to Cairo in April 1986 with three flights a week and since then, has carried 9.6 million passengers to and from Cairo. Operations have steadily grown with increases in both frequency and capacity between Cairo and Dubai to match customer demand.

Today, Emirates operates 25 weekly flights between Cairo and Dubai. Over the last three decades, the airline has made an important contribution to the local economy and tourism by flying in visitors from across its global network spanning six continents.

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Is Eskom being sabotaged? History suggests that is a strong possibility

By Ismail Lagardien

There is by now an almost complete acceptance that South Africa is in the grip of an electricity supply crisis, and that alarm bells are going off in the highest offices of the land – as well they should.

There is, also, sufficient consensus on the main cause of the electricity crisis – the failure of the state to heed early warnings, and the gradual breakdown of infrastructure. These explanations satisfy, but is there a missing element? Are there other forces at work? Maybe.

One of the likely causes of the crisis may be sabotage, an issue which comes up from time to time (see here, here and here), but it is rarely investigated fully. Maybe it is, or has been, but there certainly is no evidence or public statement about it from the state. We are left then to speculate, as we may.

To begin with we probably have to ask who would benefit the most from the collapse of the electricity supply.

Is it disgruntled white people who would like to see the ANC-led government fail? It is not inconceivable.

Is it disgruntled workers within Eskom? We cannot rule this out.

What about political opponents; could they be behind the breakdown(s) in power supply? Maybe.

The ANC-led government's main political adversary, and the one that has the most to gain, is the movement that rejects democratic republican government and constitutionality. Such a movement, and its lust for power with all its pecuniary opportunities – concealed behind a fig leaf of "revolution" – would have the most to gain from overthrowing the government, by all and any means necessary.

A perverse two-level game

Radical populists and revolutionary parties play a perverse two-level game, quite different to



The strategy was so successful that Mussolini was handed power in 1922, after which the fascists destroyed democracy and crushed any and all opposition.

that of conventional foreign policy-making where policy is made while looking inward and projected outward. In a perverse process, political movements, especially the leader, keep a straight face while "ground forces" engage in subterfuge.

Such a movement, in other words, has a dual-policy approach to political economy and political processes in the country. Above ground, in public, it would participate in formal political processes, while working underhand to destabilise the state.

In some instances, making enough noise in public spaces helps draw attention away from subterfuge and underhand dealings. It should not be a surprise then when political leaders of authoritarian movements cry wolf, or make up stories of persecution to deflect from their own doings.

Nevertheless, with respect to making nice while engaging in dirty tricks, consider two examples from 20th-century history of autocratic and totalitarian regimes.

In the first instance, while Benito Mussolini, dressed formally in top hat and coat-tails, was greeted by Italian King Victor Emmanuel III on 28 October 1922, his Blackshirt brigands marched through Rome, intimidating the public.

The Blackshirts were sometimes presented as unarmed and harmless and the incarnation of valiant Italians. In this duality, there was Mussolini behaving politely and participating in "above-board" processes while his thugs were dealing in underhand tactics by intimidating and scaring the public. The Blackshirts were reaping their just rewards, previously denied to them.

The Soviet Union and Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) used the same dual approach; of making nice while causing trouble. While the Soviet Union had formal diplomatic ties with the governments of Western democracies, the CPSU would conduct relations with ideological soulmates within these democracies, and

encourage revolution.

This subterfuge was complex and insidious. It included propaganda and the manipulation of politicians and activists in democratic countries through formal and informal channels, recruiting people whose emotions they manipulated.

After Joseph Stalin died, Nikita Khrushchev went to great lengths to establish political and economic relations with Western states, while pursuing military strategic relations with states and liberation movements in the developing world as part of expanding their influence among poor countries.

In 1920s Italy, the fascists would insist on total control over society. Private citizens had to give up their individual needs for the totality, as defined by the state. If then we see political parties in South Africa that would insist that no private citizen would own their property, that banks, mines and industries be controlled by the state, we have echoes of Musso-

lini's totalitarian. He would explain this as "all within the state, none outside the state, none against the state".

In a most comprehensive bundle of tactics, the authoritarians, led quite often by charismatic strongmen who thrive on a personalist leadership, degrade democracy politically, while the rank and file destroy institutions and infrastructure.

While he was talking nicely (in 1921) Mussolini's brigands were attacking newspapers and social gatherings that they considered to be enemies. The previous year, on 21 July 1920, their fascist squads destroyed the Rome Office of the left-wing newspaper, *Avanti!* and when they attacked its Turin headquarters two months later, *Avanti!* reported that the attackers were mostly Royal Guards, led by a sergeant, together with others in civilian clothes. Police and army officers not only turned a blind eye to fascist attacks, but actively coordinated with them.

It is not inconceivable, then, that there may be political movements, or fragments, who would "recruit" staff at power plants to sabotage generation and supply, while making nice in legislatures around the country.

Returning to the dualism of fascist participation in society (above board and in the shadows), we can turn to none other than Leon Trotsky who was one of the earliest thinkers to understand just how unique fascism was. Trotsky explained that Italian fascists used a dual strategy of standing in democratic elections, and put on a "respectable face" as a solution to the country's myriad problems, while building a street-fighting cadre to terrorise its opponents and wage a low-intensity war against "enemies".

The strategy was so successful that Mussolini was handed power in 1922, after which the fascists destroyed democracy and crushed any and all opposition.

In South Africa we sit then with power-generating infrastructure that is failing in places, and collapsing in other places. The ruling ANC is the obvious target of criticism, and bears much of the responsibility for the situation the country is in.

If we look at lessons learnt – from studying the tactics and strategies of anti-democratic or illiberal political movements to sabotage democracy and the provision of public goods and services, and undermine the state – we cannot ignore the possibility that saboteurs and conspirators may have played a role and will continue to do so, until they have power. **DM**

After the Bell: The astounding new discipline of the big gold companies

By Tim Cohen

DISCIPLINE. That's the stuff you learn in the army. There is apparently a true story about a visiting major who went for a meal in the officer's club, and asked the chef, "What's good here, soldier?" The chef snapped to attention and said, "Discipline, Sir!"

Discipline is also associated with some businesses. But there is one industry not particularly known for its discipline: the gold industry.

The reason is simple. Commodity producers are typically price-takers because the price of their product, their only product, is publicly set on an ongoing basis by the market. There is no such thing as "good gold" and "bad gold", there is just gold. The ability to differentiate is non-existent. So the ability of gold companies to grow their companies is determined really by a single variable: how much gold they can pull out of the ground.

But then over time, gold companies got to realise that if they all pulled as much gold as they could out of the ground, the price of gold would decline, nullifying the advantage. Amazing! The trick was to somehow convince everyone else to stop producing so much gold, while at the same time, producing more yourself.

Pessimism

But there is a contradiction here too. What gold producers are selling is essentially pessimism. Gold's one great advantage is its history as a store of value outside of the global monetary system. I remember having a long lunch with a gold producer a long time ago who was convinced



(Photo: Waldo Swiegers / Bloomberg via Getty Images)

The EFF immediately issued a media release slamming plans to take co-responsibility for blackouts and co-create a solution – Ramaphosa's go-to position in a crisis.

that this new-fangled dotcom stuff, otherwise known as the internet, was bound to end in disaster. In a way, he was right! The dotcom bubble did in fact burst. But then it went on to change the world. And that is gold producers for you; disasters, potential and actual, are everywhere.

But if you are arguing in favour of pessimism, there is an underlying contradiction if you go nuts pulling more gold out of the ground, which sounds like the kind of thing an optimist would do. I suppose you could be optimistic about the likelihood of increasing pessimism.

In any event, gold mining does involve something of the prisoner's dilemma. This is the famous

thought experiment where two prisoners are caught committing a crime and subsequently cannot communicate. Either could get off entirely by one ratting on the other, in which case the rat goes free and the loyal one gets the highest sentence. If they both rat on each other, they both get a medium sentence. Or they could both remain silent and get the lightest sentence.

What the prisoner's dilemma shows us is that loyalty to your partner is irrational, and the reason is simple: people tend to gravitate toward certainty. The consequences of betrayal could be serious, but they are certain, whereas trusting your partner is uncertain even if the consequences could be the

lightest on offer.

You get the drift: it would pay gold companies to cooperate and not produce more gold than the world wants. But historically, they never did that. In 1980, the world's gold miners produced around 1,250 metric tons of gold. After that point, the line points sharply up and right, and by the year 2000, the world was producing about 2,500 metric tons a year. The price of gold, during that period – and this will shock you – went down.

So far, so good. The market works; more production means a lower price. But there were some anomalies here. The price went down, but not by huge amounts, or at least not in proportion to the increase in production. The price in 1980 was about \$400/ounce (with big variations, year by year); that decreased to about \$280/oz by the early 2000s.

But from 2000 onwards, things started to go in a very unusual direction: gold production increased, but so did its price. The production increases were not huge, but the gold price increases were pretty substantial. By 2010, gold was flying and hit a peak of just under \$2,000/oz. Over the next five years, it came down again by a quarter.

But then a really incredible thing happened: gold producers became irrational, in prisoner's-dilemma terms, and started cooperating. Or perhaps they weren't actually cooperating so much as they became very conscious of the consequences of overproduction. Whatever. They found discipline. The result is that gold production since 2015 has more or less flattened at 3,100 metric tons a year. In fact, production last year, and in 2015 was exactly that. The result has been a more or less stable gold price – to the extent that it's

ever really "stable" – of around \$1,800/oz.

Now that is a pretty high number. Historically, it's massively high, and it's particularly high for SA combined with the stronger dollar. The rand gold price is really eye-poppingly high and is now very close to an all-time record. And that's keeping what remains of SA's creaking industry alive for the time being.

All the big gold miners are now sitting with trivial amounts of debt on their books, and the gold miners outside of SA are sitting on moderately high price/earnings ratios. And that's not because the market is pricing them high, it's because their margins are pretty good. Over the past five years, share prices have been pretty stable, but it's worth noting the majors have been floating down gently over the past few years.

The really crazy thing is how little the big calamities of our times, Covid-19 and the global inflation outbreak, have affected gold companies, and gold production for that matter. High inflation is supposed to be a boon for the industry, but it hasn't worked out that way. Dollar strength, the other traditional dynamic which tends to push down the price of gold, is similarly not operating according to the script. And gold has also seen off that other claimant to the "store of value" crown, crypto.

Why are these big changes taking place? I confess I'm not sure. If you have a theory, please let me know. My off-pat thesis is that gold is really becoming quite difficult to find and mine because if it weren't, miners would be mining more. But what these changes do show is that the plate tectonics of the gold industry are changing fundamentally in ways we don't quite understand.

DM/BM



Thursday 23 February 2023

Zenfinex Africa launching to now increase foreign exchange trading

By Guardian Reporter

ASPIRING, upcoming and experienced traders in the city can now experience the future of forex trading with the launch of Zenfinex, a new cutting-edge brokerage offering a range of innovative features.

Founded on the principle of shared success, Zenfinex promises to simplify the trading process, revolutionize the way traders buy and sell currencies, cryptocurrencies, metals, and provide users with a sense of inner calm.

With its advanced trading platform, low fees, fast, secure, and convenient deposit and withdrawal options, and superior customer services.

Speaking at an official launch of the firm's forex trading office in the city recently, Zenfinex Africa Chief Executive Officer Mathew Wright said: "With its innovative technology, commitment to transparency and dedication to financial education, Zenfinex is poised to become a significant player in the region's financial markets."

The platform offers an opportunity to trade outside of your full-time job as you try to turn it into a full-time vocation, whereas 20 years ago, you would have had to be glued to a trading desk as a full-time trader.

"With offices in Dar es Salaam Zenfinex Africa offers services tailored to the Tanzania market, including convenient, fast and secure deposit and withdrawal methods via Mpesa, TigoPesa, Airtel Money and EzyPesa without the use of any third-party agents," he said.

Digital transformation has reduced friction for forex traders, making trades more efficient and cost-effective.

He added, "Through its educational resources, commitment to transparency and providing a new and innovative option for individual and corporate traders to invest and trade in global financial markets, the brokerage can contribute to economic growth, financial literacy, and job creation in the region."

The company provides a range of trading instruments including forex, commodities and cryptocurrency, giving traders the flexibility to diversify their portfolios and take advantage of new investment opportunities."

Financial markets are platforms where financial instruments are traded, these markets can be categorized into different types stock markets, bond markets, foreign exchange markets, and much more.

These markets provide a way for investors and traders to buy and sell these assets in order to make a profit.

Traders in financial markets are individuals or institutions who buy and sell financial assets with the aim of making a profit.

Zenfinex Africa's founder had a dream of becoming a successful trader at a time when trading and the Financial Markets as we know them today was limited to only a few privileged, privately educated elites and large corporate financial institutions.

After proper education and over many years of ups and down, he realized that the only way to succeed within the sector is by first, getting impartial education from the right source to determine firstly whether it is what anyone aspires to partake in.



Eng Kabenda Balete, the firm's Business Development Manager addresses guests (not in picture) during the launching of the firm's offices in Dar es Salaam recently.

CRDB Bank uses football icons in promoting financial literacy



Simba Sports Club chief executive officer Imani Kajula

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) listed and largest in terms of assets-CRDB Bank Plc has nominated four football icons as SimBanking ambassadors, to support an ongoing financial literacy campaign.

The signing of the contract between CRDB Bank and Clotus Chama and Mohammed Hussein from Simba, as well as Aziz Ki and Farid Mussa from Yanga held yesterday at the bank's headquarters, in the presence of bank's management and leaders

from both teams.

CRDB Bank managing director and CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela said the bank has been supporting the community through sports, not only as an entertainment, but also, as business and economic activity.

During the last three years, he said, CRDB Bank has been organising CRDB Bank Marathon, national basketball tournament (CRDB Bank Taifa Cup) and sailing competition named CRDB Bank Ngalawa race.

"Apart from our efforts in investing in other sports, CRDB Bank has also invested in football and through

Namungo Football Club. But last year we collaborated with two giant teams through Simba Day and Yanga's wananchi week, as they were preparing for new premier league season," he said.

CRDB Bank has reached the stage of signing agreement with four players as part of efforts of promoting financial literacy to soccer players and the community at large, and in recognition of their good standards, which have helped their teams to perform well.

Yanga's chief executive officer Andre Mtine thanked CRDB Bank for

nominating their players as brand ambassadors, saying will raise the morale to other players to perform well, as his team is currently participating in an international tournament.

"Yanga feels proud of being CRDB Bank family in helping to provide financial literacy to the community for socio-economic development," he said.

"We thank CRDB bank for recognizing our players and honouring them to become their ambassador. Being ambassadors of large organization such as CRDB Bank increase confidence and will motivates other companies to collaborate with our players, which will not only benefit individual player, but also the whole team and football at large."

Speaking during the event, Simba Sports Club chief executive officer Imani Kajula also thanked CRDB Bank Plc for recognizing their players, particularly their contributions within the team and discipline which have contributed to the success of the team.

He thanked CRDB Bank for being part of Simba Sports achievements and promised to increase collaboration with the bank in future through ongoing SimBanking campaign.

"Apart from increasing individual player's income this agreement is expected to improve their financial literacy which will help in their lives in current time when football is becoming more competitive and by the time they are retiring from football," he said.

Clotus Chama, one of the nominated ambassadors said the agreement is expected to be a motivation to continue performing well in upgrading his talent, but also to honour what is supposed to be done in accordance with the agreement requirement.

Through SimBanking campaign, customers will have the chance of winning various prizes ranging from vehicles, cash and mobile phones.

RIYADH

TALKS between Saudi Arabia and Egypt over the purchase of Cairo-based United Bank have stalled over a disagreement about how to value the multi-million-dollar transaction, in a stumbling block as the government works to raise sorely-needed funding.

Discussions over the state-owned lender have faltered over how to account for the plunging value of the Egyptian pound, people familiar with the situation said. They asked not to be identified as the matter is private.

Saudi Arabia's sovereign Public Investment Fund started negotiations with Egyptian authorities about buying the bank last year, part of the kingdom's \$10 billion pledge to help shore up the finances of the Middle East's most populous nation. The deal could be worth as much as \$600 million, Bloomberg reported at the time.

The PIF wanted to value United Bank in Egypt's pound with the dollar amount determined at the time of the transaction, while the central bank preferred a dollar-based valuation from the start, the people said. Egypt has devalued the pound three times in about a year, making it the world's third-worst performing currency over the past 12 months.

United Bank, which was established in 2006, has 65 branches nationwide and more than 200 ATMs, according to its website.

The PIF declined to comment. Officials at Egypt's central bank weren't immediately available to comment.

The economic ripple effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have hit the Egyptian economy particularly hard, triggering major food and fuel-price increases and cutting off sources of vital tourism revenues. Egypt is facing



Saudi talks on buying Egypt's United Bank stall over pound

its worst foreign-currency crunch in years, and this month revived a plan to sell stakes in a number of state-run companies to raise cash.

One of the world's largest wheat importers, Egypt has looked to secure financial support from Gulf Arab allies like Saudi Arabia and reached a \$3 billion agreement with the International Monetary Fund. The IMF has described investments from energy-rich countries as "a critical part of the program's financing strategy."

Saudi Arabia deposited \$5 billion in Egypt's central bank last year and the PIF started a company to invest in swathes of the country's economy, with sectors ranging from infrastructure and real estate to pharmaceuticals. But so far, only \$1.3 billion of investments pledged by the kingdom have come to fruition, when the PIF unit acquired state-owned stakes in four Egyptian publicly listed companies.

Saudi Arabia, which has been a criti-

cal ally and financial backer of President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, has said it wants to continue to invest in Egypt. But its finance minister said in Davos last month that it's changing the way it offers financial help to countries, expecting reforms in exchange for cash.

Earlier this month, Sisi warned against attempts to stoke regional strife, in what appeared to be a reference to social media reports that Riyadh was frustrated with the process of his country's economic revival.

Women told to formalise their businesses to access bank loans

By Beatrice Philemon

INFORMAL women entrepreneurs engaged in different sectors of the economy have been advised to formalise their business in order to have assured access to financing from banks and financial institutions.

Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA)'s director of research, policy and advocacy, Dan Tandasi said this at the just ended one day Women Entrepreneurs Financial Access dialogue organized by Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) with funding from European Union, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Women entrepreneurship for Africa.

This will also help them to reduce their exposure to government fines and also participate in public bidings or act as suppliers or retailers of large companies.

"There is need to formalize your business because majority of banks in different areas across the country issued loans to business that has been formalised," he said.

Although the government has been taken serious measures to en-



Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) Theobald Sabi

courage people to formalize their businesses, still there are a lot of unrecorded and legally unrecognized companies within the country that

in turn prevent them to access loans from banks, he said.

He said capital and limited access to loans, this was mentioned as a

challenge for women entrepreneurs and it has been repeatedly reported in many reports.

He called on TWCC and other institutions dealing with entrepreneurs to train them on business formalization to enable them obtain loans that will suit their various needs at competitive rates.

Highlighting on digital technology, he said financial institutions should also see how can expand use of digital financial services in remote areas to support women access loans more easily to improve their economic development and achieve higher economic growth in their localities.

There is need to embark on this strategy because majority of financial institutions are located in urban areas and women especially in rural areas walk long distances from where they stay to the banks to look financial services.

Also the mobile companies should ensure digital bundles should be easily accessible to people in rural areas at affordable price to enable both women and female entrepreneurs use internet services to access loans and other financial services.

'The biggest reason' why people won't switch banks

By Ella Vincent

Very few people feel like they belong at their banks. So why won't many customers switch financial institutions? One bank CEO thinks he knows why.

"I think the biggest reason people don't change banks – and of course, I'm biased on this, but I believe it in my bones – they just don't know what some banks offer," Frost Bank CEO Phil Green told Yahoo Finance.

A Frost Bank survey found that only 11 percent of people felt a sense of financial belonging with their banks, but 44 percent of respondents say they won't change banks.

"Most people feel that knowledge is a big inhibitor for them feeling belonging. They just don't know what some banks offer," Green said. "They don't know that it will provide those elements of financial belonging that people have told us about."

The survey from Frost Bank, a unit of Cullen/Frost Bankers (CFR), found that the four keys to financial belonging were trust, knowledge, access, and a hybrid experience.

Green said it's important for banks to have a mixture of online and in-person access to provide the best customer service.

"In all of our various channels, whether it be technology or whether

it be face to face, whether it's in a local branch, we give you that human access so that when you need something, we can provide it to you," Green said. "That hybrid experience is a combination of personal touch and also great technology, but technology where, if you need to, you can quickly get access to a human."

San Antonio-based Frost Bank's 3,000 survey respondents felt disconnect between wanting a close relationship with their banks and actually having one.

"We asked people how they felt about their relationship with their bank. You're right, (only) 11 percent found that they had a sense of fi-

ancial belonging with the financial institution. But 74 percent of people said that that's what they wanted. So we saw a really big gap there," Green said.

Why is it crucial for people to feel connected to their banks? The survey results found that those who had that connection helped them to build their own financial security.

"We found that if you did feel like you had financial belonging with your financial institution, you were 160% more likely to have better financial health," Green said.

Ella Vincent is the personal finance reporter for Yahoo Finance. Follow her on Twitter @bookgirlchicago

Resilient Russian banks lean inwards in pursuit of profits

MOSCOW

Russian banks have rallied after an initial hit from last year's Western sanctions against Moscow, with lenders now jostling for business from the state, and the country's big corporate accounts.

After Russia sent troops into Ukraine, major banks which were blocked from a global payments system, choked off much of their overseas business and contributed to an around 90 percent profit fall.

That forced a rapid rethink from the banks, the central bank and the government to stabilise a sector critical to the Russian economy, which contracted by around 2.1 percent last year, a far cry from Moscow's early fears of a double-digit drop.

Meanwhile, Russia's current account surplus hit a record high in 2022 as robust oil and gas exports kept foreign money flowing in, despite Western efforts to starve Moscow of cash.

But for banks, sanctions have meant changing how they attract deposits and allocate loans.

"The main tool now is large corporate clients and state budget resources, there is competition for them," said a senior executive at a top-20 bank, speaking on condition of anonymity.

When the Bank of Russia hiked interest rates to 20 percent after Moscow launched what it calls a "special military operation" on Feb. 24 last year, it almost brought lending to a halt.

But the central bank has



Sberbank, one of the largest bank in Russia

since gradually lowered its key rate to 7.5 percent and Russia's banking sector has recovered from a combined 1.5 trillion rouble (\$20 billion) first-half loss to a 203 billion rouble profit for 2022 as a whole.

Some analysts are now predicting a sharp uptick in profits, as Russian banks make the most of preferential state lending schemes, liquidity auctions and a defence sector hungry for financing as Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine continues.

"Judging by the dynamics of recent months, we can speak about banks' near complete adaptation to the challenges of early 2022," said Mikhail Zeltser, a BCS World of Investments analyst.

"The biggest players have got on track in terms of net profit. And if we analyse the sector's leader, Sberbank, then annual profits in 2023 could be no less than those pre-crisis in 2021," Zeltser

said, adding this could be extrapolated to the sector as a whole.

Russian financial institutions were ordered to limit disclosures in 2022, making it hard for analysts and investors to gauge their performance, but they can resume reporting results under international accounting standards this year, which Sberbank will do on March 9.

One stark example of how Moscow's military mobilisation is changing the face of Russia's banks and offering a route to recovery is Promsvyazbank, which was nationalised in 2017 and has serviced the defence sector since 2018.

Promsvyazbank Chairman Pyotr Fradkov told President Vladimir Putin last month that it now ranks among Russia's top five banks by assets, a rapid rise from ninth place in 2019, the last time it disclosed financial results.

Fradkov said the bank's loan book growth has tripled

in recent years and it now has almost 5 trillion roubles in assets.

"As far as the defence industry is concerned, most of this financing and lending is offered at so-called preferential rates," Fradkov said.

Russia discloses little about defence sector finances, but Moscow is diverting nearly a third of this year's budgetary funds to its military operation in Ukraine.

Promsvyazbank has lent on projects to the defence ministry, the industry ministry and the Roscosmos space agency, Fradkov said, helping to fill out cash gaps with regular financing.

VTB, however, has not been as successful. Russia's second-largest lender, which bought Otkritie Bank from the central bank in what amounted to a recapitalisation, has blamed its undisclosed losses for 2022 squarely on sanctions.

"Unfortunately our central

bank was sanctioned, which was already quite force-majeure," VTB Chief Executive Andrei Kostin said, ruing the bank's inability to defend itself against currency fluctuations as the rouble plummeted in March.

The SWIFT global payments system block and the freezing of more than \$300 billion worth of central bank reserves abroad took Russia by surprise.

The top executive at the top-20 Russian bank said Moscow was unprepared in particular for liquid assets being blocked and euro and dollar swaps becoming unavailable.

"No one expected that the central bank would come under sanctions, and that it would be unable to help with foreign currency liquidity at that difficult moment," they said.

For banks, central bank support was crucial to weathering the initial hit to their business.

"The regulator went from being a punisher to a best friend," one banker told Reuters.

The central bank also flooded the market with cash, via repo auctions, and provided refinancing secured by credit claims and other rouble loans, keeping rates well below market levels.

Maxim Osadchiy, head of BKF Bank's analysis department, said that in the absence of "powerful negative shocks", Russia's banking sector could approach the 1.6 trillion roubles net profit of 2020 or even 2021's record 2.4 trillion roubles.

The central bank's forecast is more restrained, at around 1 trillion roubles.

But there are potential pitfalls if they perform too well.

"It is currently dangerous to show big profits due to the threat of the 'voluntary contribution'," Osadchiy said.

Kenya digital lender Tala disburses Sh240bn in eight years

NAIROBI

Fintech credit provider Tala has loaned out a cumulative \$1.9 billion (Sh239.8 billion) to Kenyans in over 3.5 million disbursements since it started operations in the country in 2014.

The revelation was made on Tuesday during the unveiling of the lender's 2022 impact performance report where the firm stated that it has attained an average of 90 percent repayment rate from its customers terming it a huge success.

During the eight years, Tala has accorded up to Sh2.6 billion worth of waivers to hardship-stricken borrowers, a significant chunk of which was extended during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have got a chain of agents spread out throughout the country where borrowers who are unable to pay due to special circumstances can call and request for a waiver," explained Tala's Director of Growth Annstella Mumbi.

"There are different structures for waiver including slashing of the interest rates, reduction of amount payable or even full erasure depending on the case presented."

The firm, which says its loan pricing model is risk-based, states that 70 percent of its lending is to businesses while the rest is to individuals.

The mobile lender says that the recently launched government-backed credit facility Hustler Fund has not eaten into their market share yet, explaining that the two products target different clientele.

"Our average ticket size is between Sh13,000 and Sh15,000 and that's completely different from what the Hustler Fund is offering. We however foresee a danger when the second phase is launched as it will be targeting SMEs and will involve higher amounts," stated the company's General Manager Munyi Nthiga.

Backed by the recent certification by the Central Bank of Kenya, Tala says it is eyeing over \$10 million (Sh1.3 billion) in funding from undisclosed partners, confirming that the discussions are ongoing albeit currently at an infancy stage.

The lender aims to grow its customer base five-fold by the close of next year, saying the demand for credit, especially by SMEs, is huge and will remain insatiable for a considerable period.

Kenya has a market gap of \$19 billion (Sh2.4 trillion) for SME financing, which Tala says creates a huge opportunity for expansion.



Seven million in UK used open banking in 2022

LONDON

MORE than seven million people in the UK used open banking last year, five years after the competition regulator forced banks to introduce services.

According to figures, reported to Open Banking Limited (OBL) by the nine banks and building societies that had to implement open banking functionality, two million users have been added since this time last year.

Open banking services were made possible by the European Union's Payment Services Directive 2 (PSD2).

In January 2018, UK banks were required to implement the Competition and Markets Authority's open banking regulations. This led to the development of application programming interfaces (APIs) in banking to give consumers more control over their accounts. Through these APIs, third parties and multiple finance firms can use a consumer's data to recommend the best service, including bank accounts.

The end goal was to increase competition in a sector dominated by big financial services companies. Customer banking data is shared by the industry through APIs, with customer permission, enabling businesses to offer tailored products.

Marion King, chair of OBL, which enforces open banking obligations on banks, said: "Open Banking is good for the nation, increasing competition and allowing consumers and SMEs to benefit from new and innovative ways to manage their financial lives.

"As we await key recommendations on the future vision for open banking from the Joint Regulatory Oversight Committee, this strong growth underlines the need to continue the momentum so that the many benefits of open banking are developed, promoted and made available to millions more of our citizens," she said.

A total of 1.2 million of the users were doing so for the first time. "From access to cost-effective credit, building a regular savings habit or making more informed financial decisions, Open Banking is delivering the means for our citizens to improve their financial wellbeing," said Henk Van Hulle, CEO at OBL.

While open banking has seen gradual take-up and the development of a new sector of fintech, open finance as the next phase of open banking will go much further. Open finance will see firms share data across more services, such as mortgages and loans, also via APIs, and offer products and services from external organisations.

A survey of about 800 manager-level executives at finance firms, from IT financial services software supplier Finastra, found that 85% believe open finance is already having a positive effect and making the finance sector more collaborative. Most (80%) believe the sector is open to collaboration.

The appetite to develop open banking software in the financial services sector has added focus and resources to open banking.

For example, the acquisition of Danish fintech Aiaa by Mastercard in 2021 was a sign that open banking is entering a new phase.

The takeover of Aiaa - previously the Nordic API Gateway - for an undisclosed sum came hot on the heels of Visa's €1.8bn acquisition of Sweden's open banking fintech, Tink, in June. Both fintechs are now part of huge global financial services organisations with opportunities to integrate open banking technology into every corner of consumer and business financial activity.

China's new capital rules to have limited impact on bank

Shanghai

CHINA'S revised capital rules for commercial banks should have a limited impact on our bank ratings in the near term, although successful implementation over time could be positive for our assessment of Chinese banks' operating environment and widen the headroom for their Viability Ratings, says Fitch Ratings.

"We expect a minimal change in our rated banks' capital position after the new rules come into effect, while government support expectations driving the Issuer Default Ratings will be unaffected," Fitch says.

China's banking regulator on 18 February 2023 launched a draft consultation on new capital rules that implement the international final Basel III standard for large- and medium-sized commercial banks.

The new measures, which are targeted to take effect on 1 January 2024, adopt a differentiated supervision approach by classifying banks into three buckets based on the scale of adjusted on-and-off-balance sheet and cross-border exposures.

The rules for the largest banks that fall into the first bucket, which includes all of our rated commercial banks, are closely aligned with the final Basel III framework, except for more conservative risk weights for certain assets.

This will enhance the risk sensitivity of their capital management and improve the comparability of their capital ratios and public disclosures



China Central Bank

in a global context.

The capital rules for the second-bucket banks are more simplified and largely unchanged from the current requirements.

The smallest banks belong to the third bucket and will be subject to the most simplified capital and disclosure standards, although the new rules do not lower their current capital requirement.

"We believe the tiered supervision shows the regulator's efforts to

strike a balance between improving the resiliency of the banking sector and limiting the cost of regulatory compliance on smaller banks," Fitch notes.

"We consider the change in the calculation method for credit risk as most significant because credit risk accounts for most of Chinese banks' risk-taking activity, although this will have limited impact on ratings."

Those using the revised standardised approach will benefit from

a modest capital uplift, driven by lowered risk weights for specific credit exposures relating to sectors that the regulator considers as supporting the real economy or having lower credit risks.

Still, the potential capital uplift from more favourable treatment for the risk exposure will be partly offset by the higher risk weights for several other exposure types that may be more interconnected with the financial system.

Israel minister fends off cabinet criticism over the central bank

TEL AVIV

Israel's finance minister has vowed to maintain the independence of the country's central bank after a cabinet colleague criticised it for raising interest rates.

Bezalel Smotrich, an ultranationalist who called himself a "proud homophobe" and heads the Religious Zionist party, said the independence of the Bank of Israel was "fundamental" for the development of the economy and warned against "populist statements" that threaten it.

The shekel was down 1.7 per cent against the dollar on Tuesday in the wake of the spat, which coincided with a bitter clash over a judicial overhaul being advanced by Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline government that has sparked weeks of mass protests and concern from Israel's allies.

Smotrich's comments came after Eli Cohen, Israel's foreign minister, said there was "no justification" for

the bank's decision to raise its benchmark rate to 4.25 per cent on Monday, the eighth time it has increased rates since April.

Israeli inflation hit a 15-year-high of 5.4 per cent last month, above the central bank's target of between 1 per cent and 3 per cent.

However, Cohen said inflation was moderating and that the bank's latest rate rise "continues the mistreatment of mortgage holders". He also called on the finance minister to "formulate a framework with the Bank of Israel governor to end the interest rate hikes".

Smotrich acknowledged that rate increases were making life difficult for many households. But he said the government would fight the rising cost of living through fiscal policy and, "with God's help", the coalition would draw up a budget that would combine infrastructure investment with a relief package.

Cohen's intervention was also criti-



Israel finance minister Bezalel Smotrich

cised by Amir Yaron, the head of Israel's central bank, who advised the foreign minister to "delve into the data".

"It is desirable of course, certainly as foreign minister, that he understands the importance of an independent central bank," said Yaron. "In every country in which there was damage to the central bank, we know what the end result was."

The squabble over the central

bank's independence came as Israel's parliament voted on the first batch of judicial changes being pushed by Netanyahu's coalition.

Government officials said the changes were needed to rein in an overly activist judiciary. But critics, which include two former central bank governors, numerous economists and executives from Israel's crucial tech sector, have warned that the changes would undermine democracy, damage minority protections, foster corruption and weaken the economy.

Israel's economic output grew 6.5 per cent last year, according to the country's statistics office, and Moshe Gafni, head of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party, said on Monday that "any attempt" to link the dispute over the judicial overhaul to an economic hit was "politicised".

But as the battle over the judiciary has intensified, bankers and tech executives have begun to warn of the risks of capital flight.

This week, the US venture capital group Bessemer Venture Partners - which has invested about \$1.5bn in Israeli companies - suggested that the Israeli start-ups it had backed should limit their short-term exposure to the shekel and keep their dollar balances in US accounts.

BANKING & FINANCE

MUMBAI

BANGLADESH banks will be forced to borrow at higher costs as they are likely to face persistent liquidity pressures this year due to high inflation, hurting their net interest margins and profitability, Moody's Investors Service said on Wednesday.

"Liquidity pressures being faced by Bangladesh banks may not fully abate in 2023 as high inflation is likely to keep a lid on deposit growth while economic uncertainty may lead to reductions in exporters' earnings, a key contributor of foreign-currency liquidity," the rating agency's analysts wrote in a note to clients.

"We expect inflation in Bangladesh to be 7 percent-8 percent, higher than pre-pandemic levels of 5.5 percent-6 percent," they said.

Liquidity tightened in 2022 due to a combination of factors including a fall in deposit growth due to high inflation, a dollar shortage and a decrease in remittances.

While the central bank has tried to ease the liquidity crunch through the repo window and in-



Bangladesh banks' profits pressured by high funding, according to Moody's

ter-bank funding options, the cost of funding has risen "materially" due to higher demand and monetary tightening and "will hurt banks' net interest margins and their profitability," the Moody's

analysts said. "Weak banks with small holdings of government securities that can be pledged for repos can be vulnerable as they may have difficulty obtaining funding from the

interbank market or via the central bank's repo facility," they added.

Among the domestic banks, Islamic banks are likely to be more at risk than others due to their smaller liquidity buffers and busi-

ness structure, the rating agency said.

One reason for Islamic banks' weaker liquidity cushions is because the central bank has more relaxed buffer rules for them to support the sector's growth, Moody's said.

The banking sector in Bangladesh consists of several types of institutions. Bangladesh Bank is the central bank of Bangladesh and the chief regulatory authority in the banking sector.

Pursuant to the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972 the Government of Bangladesh reorganised the Dhaka Branch of the State Bank of Pakistan as the central bank of the country, and named it Bangladesh Bank with retrospective effect from 16 December 1971.

Other than Bangladesh Bank, banks in Bangladesh are primarily categorized into two types: Scheduled and Non-Scheduled banks.

Three specialized banks are now operating which were established for specific objectives like agricultural or industrial development. These banks are also fully or majorly owned by the Government of Bangladesh.

WORLD

Israeli PM Netanyahu says 'let's talk' as heat rises on judicial plan

JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Tuesday for a dialogue with opponents of his proposals to overhaul the judiciary which have drawn mass protests and criticism from around the world.

Netanyahu has previously derided opponents of the proposals, which would increase the power of politicians to appoint judges and curb the power of the Supreme Court to overturn government decisions, as embittered leftists who refuse to accept the result of the last election.

But as opposition grew on Tuesday, a day after a preliminary vote in parliament on part of the package, he offered

to talk to critics to reach a consensus.

"So I stand up and I call from here: Let's talk - here and now - without preconditions," he said in a video statement circulated on social media. "No excuses - so that together we will achieve a broad agreement for the benefit of all the citizens of Israel, for the benefit of our country."

The proposals, which Netanyahu has said are needed to curb what he calls an activist judiciary that overreaches its authority to interfere in politics, have drawn unusually open criticism from the business sector and Israel's allies in Washington.

On Tuesday, the shekel lost around 2 percent of its value as the turmoil continued.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads the weekly cabinet meeting in his office in Jerusalem, on Feb 19, 2023. Netanyahu called on Feb 21, 2023 for a dialogue with opponents of his proposals to overhaul the judiciary which have drawn mass protests and criticism from around the world. (PHOTO / AFP)

Tens of thousands have joined weekly protests against the proposals, currently making their way through parliament, saying they would destroy the checks and balances underpinning Israel's democracy and hand near-unlimited power to the executive.

Opinion polls show a majority want the reforms slowed to allow for dialogue with critics or shelved altogether.

Israel's head of state, President

Isaac Herzog, has repeatedly urged the government and opposition to hold compromise talks, warning the country faces the risk of "constitutional collapse" if the divisions continue.

But while both sides have voiced willingness, they have remained far apart on the terms of any dialogue, with the opposition calling for the legislation to be put on hold in parliament before talks can begin.

Agencies

Nigeria presidential election to test dominant parties

LAGOS

NIGERIANS will vote on Saturday in what could be their most credible and close electoral contest since military rule ended nearly a quarter of a century ago - and the first in which a presidential candidate who isn't from one of the two main parties stands a chance.

Former Lagos governor Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) faces Atiku Abubakar of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peter Obi, a wild-card candidate who defected from the PDP to the smaller Labour Party and now leads in at least five opinion polls.

Obi, 61, has used a slick social media campaign to galvanise the vote of restless and increasingly disaffected youth, fed up with traditional politics and the old men who tend to dominate them - Tinubu and Abubakar are both in their 70s.

But analysts question whether the polls putting him ahead are reliable and note he does not have the resources or extensive political base - built up over decades - that the other two have.

Whoever Nigerians choose to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari - only the second

incumbent in Nigerian history to bow out willingly after serving two democratic terms - will have to resolve a litany of crises.

These include banditry and militant violence now affecting most parts of the country, corruption that deters investment and enriches a well-connected elite, high inflation and widespread cash shortages after a botched introduction of new bills late last year.

All three candidates have made roughly similar promises to tackle these issues.

Voters will also choose new parliament members.

"This is one of the closest elections that has ever been held in the history of this country," Abiodun Adeniyi, professor of mass communication at Abuja's Baze University, said.

Polls questioned

All the polls showing Obi in the lead had a high number of respondents - on average around a third - who were undecided or unwilling to say who they would vote for. They also tended to target internet-savvy, educated types, and one required a smart phone to participate.

"We must take these polls with a generous amount of salt," said Nnamdi Obasi, senior Nigeria advisor for the In-



Supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) party attend their final rally at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Lagos on Tuesday, ahead of the Nigerian presidential election scheduled for Feb 25, 2023. AFP

ternational Crisis Group think tank.

"The samples are small (and) ... these are online polls with literate people, but there are large numbers of people who are not literate and not online, especially in the north."

Obi's known support base is in the south, whereas Abubakar and Tinubu are both popular in the north.

Though the contest looks close, Nigerian electoral law makes a run-off unlikely, as the winning candidate needs only a simple majority, provided they get 25 percent of

the vote in at least two-thirds of the 36 states.

Spreading insecurity - especially Islamist violence in the northeast and banditry in the northwest and southeast - threatens to make voting impossible for many thousands of Nigeria's 93.4 million registered voters.

But an increasingly professional Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has made strides in tackling fraud that marred previous polls. A law enacted last year provides for electronic voting machines, card readers to confirm voters are registered

in a central database, and the cancellation of results from polling centers where the ballots cast exceed registered voters.

Many Nigerians now trust the process.

"We thank God the election is going to be fair this time," said Ngozi Nwosi, 51, who sells clothes at a Lagos market stall, her voice barely audible above cheering and traditional drumming during a rally for her preferred candidate, Tinubu. "We trust INEC. Nigerians (will) go vote (and) get who they voted for."

Xinhua

Iran slaps 'retaliatory' sanctions on EU, UK individuals, entities

TEHRAN

THE Iranian Foreign Ministry imposed on Tuesday new sanctions on several individuals and entities of the European Union and Britain for "supporting terrorism and inciting violence."

The "retaliatory" move targets those supporting terrorism and terrorist groups, encouraging terrorist acts and

violence against Iranians, interfering in Iran's domestic affairs, spreading false information about Iran and escalating "economic terrorism" against the country, the ministry said in a statement.

The sanctions, covering 13 entities and 15 individuals from the EU and eight British individuals, include blocking accounts and transactions under the Iranian financial and banking systems,

freezing their assets inside Iran, and prohibiting their visa issuance and entry into Iran's territory, it said.

On Monday, the EU imposed further restrictive measures against 32 Iranian individuals and two entities over Tehran's response to the recent protests in the country, taking the total number of Iranian individuals and entities on the sanctions list to 196 and 33, respectively.

Britain and the United States also slapped new sanctions on Iran.

Iran had imposed "tit-for-tat" sanctions before its latest move on Tuesday.

In September 2022, 22-year-old Iranian girl Mahsa Amini died in the custody of Iran's morality police, who said she failed to properly wear the Islamic headscarf known as the hijab. Amini's death triggered nationwide protests in Iran.

South Sudan says arms embargo stalling implementation of peace

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan said on Tuesday that the arms embargo imposed on it is stalling the implementation of the security arrangement in the revitalized agreement on resolving the conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

Michael Makuei Lueth, the minister for Information, Communications Technology and Postal Services, said the government had graduated the Necessary Unified Forces without arms and once they are deployed will not be able to provide security due to a lack of armaments.

"A soldier is not a soldier as long as he or she is in full uniform without a rifle but those we graduated with sticks are the ones that now the international community is telling us to deploy them, okay we will deploy them with sticks, will they protect you?" posed Makuei.

"There will be no difference between them and myself who are not armed," he added during a briefing in Juba, South Sudan's capital.

South Sudan completed the graduation of 52,000 Necessary Unified Forces including the Police, National Security Service, Wildlife Service, Prison Service, VIP Protection Forces, and Civil Defense Services without arms and the forces are yet to be deployed.

Makuei renewed an appeal to the international community to lift the arms embargo so they could deploy the Unified forces with arms and implement the agreement speedily.

"Our appeal to the international community is to reconsider that arms embargo so that we arm these soldiers and deploy them, the only item remaining is the arms embargo which is an obstacle and will continue to be an obstacle as long as that arms embargo is not lifted and to me, this is an obstruction of the implementation of the agreement," Makuei said.

Shortly after its independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan plunged into civil war. Up to 300,000 people are estimated to have been killed during the skirmishes that erupted in December 2013.

In addition, more than 1.5 million people have fled to neighboring countries, while others are internally displaced. The UN sanctions have been in place since 2015.

The UN Security Council imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan in July 2018 in response to hostilities and peace agreement violations between the former rebels and the country's army.

UNHCR appeals for funds to support 2.2 m South Sudanese refugees

JUBA

THE UN Refugee Agency UNHCR and its partners launched an appeal on Tuesday, seeking 1.3 billion U.S. dollars to protect and assist 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the eastern Africa region.

The UNHCR said the funds will be used to support South Sudanese refugees and their local host communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda.

"The appeal also aims to provide digital cash assistance, and other resilience-enhancing initiatives such as access to finance and training, to help refugees and local communities generate income, supplement their needs and live in dignity," it said in a statement.

The latest appeal comes amid a deteriorating economic outlook across the region as the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the ripple effects of the conflict in Ukraine have pushed up fuel and food prices and increased unemployment.

According to the UNHCR, host countries that have generously welcomed South Sudanese refugees are bearing the strain of the crisis amid staggering levels of underfunding, prolonged drought, and severe food shortages, including food ration cuts for refugees.

The UN which launched the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan called on the international community to scale up support for the millions of refugees who are unable to return home.

It said South Sudan continues to face a fragile peace and security environment marked by cycles of sporadic violence, and the impacts of an unfolding climate crisis.

Four years of unrelenting floods have inundated two-thirds of the country, damaging tens of thousands of people's houses, farmland, and livestock, the UNHCR said.

"This support will be crucial in meeting refugees' most immediate needs in host countries, including for shelter, education, health, and food assistance," the UN Refugee Agency said.

NEV engineers indispensable to China's soaring NEV development

CHINA'S production and sales of new energy vehicles (NEVs) reached 7.06 million and 6.89 million units respectively in 2022, up 96.9 percent and 93.4 percent year-on-year, and NEV exports grew 120 percent from a year ago.

During the past decade, China has witnessed a rapid development of its NEV industry, ranking first in the world for eight consecutive years in terms of NEV sales. The country holds over 30,000 relevant patents, or 70 percent of the world's total. It is making constant progress in the development of NEV technology.

The Chinese NEV industry has

grown big and strong in just a few years. This couldn't have been achieved without NEV engineers, a group that's gradually expanding.

NEV engineer Zheng Shuhao of a Chinese carmaker returned to work just after the Chinese New Year holiday. "We delivered 34 percent more NEVs last year than a year ago, and our sales will hit new highs after the mass production of two new models this year," Zheng told People's Daily.

Motor control unit, or MCU, is like the central nervous system of NEVs. Optimizing MCU's algorithm can make the motor run at lower cost and thus extend the range of

the vehicles.

Zheng and his team has upgraded their MCU for over 100 times, extending the range of an NEV from 500 kilometers to 510 kilometers. "Every effort contributes to the competitiveness of a product. Even a single kilometer of range extension is worth the effort," Zheng said.

Vehicles are turning not only electric but also connected. Over-the-air update of MCU makes electric vehicles more intelligent and functional. Different from the cabin and in-vehicle infotainment systems that are appreciable, MCU software is like a "backstage hero"

that, through deep learning, better connects drivers and passengers with the vehicle, Zheng explained.

Thanks to the increasingly robust development of MCUs, the ecology of NEVs is getting better and better.

"A new model we launched at the end of last year was equipped with a series of smart connection functions, as well as a second-generation MCU that we developed. This has not only further optimized the vehicle's energy consumption but also created a better experience for drivers and passengers," Zheng said. Chinese NEVs are being exported at a faster pace. According

to statistics, one in every 10 NEVs in Europe comes from China.

Zheng told People's Daily that his company has started presales of multiple new models in Germany and the Netherlands, built a 10,000-square-meter battery plant in Hungary, and installed 10 battery swapping stations in Europe.

Zheng attributed the big sales of Chinese NEVs in the overseas market to their competitiveness, though cheap and cheerful products are an advantage of "made in China." He believes that only world-leading MCUs can help China gain an edge in global competition.

"We finally received international

safety certification for our second-generation electric-drive platform after experiencing dozens of rounds of validation in the past two years," said Zheng, adding that the new products of the company will surely set new records in the overseas market.

The engineer is committed to his career in the NEV industry. "Developing NEVs is the only way for China to upgrade from a big vehicle-manufacturing country to a strong one. With strong supportive policies and a vigorous market, we are in the best era of NEV development," Zheng noted.

People's Daily

Examining Year One of the Ukraine crisis

BEIJING

IT'S been almost a year since Russia launched a special military operation against Ukraine, but the conflict is far from over.

The Ukraine crisis began on Feb. 24, 2022, following incitement from the United States and its allies due to NATO's eastward expansion. Today, Ukrainians and Russians still grieve their beloved ones killed on the frontlines. When the conflict is piling misery on people worldwide suffering from acute food and energy crises, the West continues to fan the flames by sending more military hardware and intelligence to Ukraine.

The battlefield has been brutal and bloody. Tens of thousands of troops on both sides have been killed, and millions of others were forced to flee their homes. But the echoes of the conflict are heard far beyond Ukraine's borders. Its heavy tolls on the world manifest through a changing landscape of regional and global security, featuring food supply chain disruptions, skyrocketing energy prices and soaring inflation. After the es-

calation of the Ukraine crisis, the United States and its allies imposed sanctions on Russia in hopes of choking the country's energy export channels and destroying its economy. However, those sanctions have backfired, hurt U.S. allies and triggered a worldwide energy crisis.

Adding to the problem were the explosions of the Nord Stream pipelines carrying gas from Russia to Europe. In a Feb. 8 article on the U.S. portal Substack, Pulitzer Prize winner Seymour Hersh said the United States partnered with Norway in a top-secret operation in June 2022 to plant remotely triggered explosives that took out three of the four Nord Stream pipelines three months later.

Ukraine and Russia jointly produce around 30 percent of the world's wheat exports. Russia is also one of the world's biggest exporters of fertilizers. The impact of the conflict between the two countries on food supply chains has contributed to rising food prices, making it harder for people in lower and middle-income economies to afford to feed their families.



A man walks past damaged buildings in Mariupol, Jan. 27, 2023. (Photo by Victor/Xinhua)

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the food price index hit 159.7 points in March last year, the highest since 1990. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in June 2022 that fertilizer prices have risen by more than 50 percent, and energy prices have risen by more than two-thirds, putting pressure on farmers across Asia, Africa and the Americas. To make things worse, the United States and its allies have sent more weapons to Ukraine.

Since Feb. 24, 2022, the

United States has promised nearly 30 billion U.S. dollars in military assistance to Ukraine. In late January, the United States and Germany pledged tanks to Ukraine. The Pentagon announced a new tranche of military aid for Ukraine days later, including long-range precision rockets for the first time.

The United States "is ready to fight to the last drop of Ukrainian blood, in the end, it's prepared to fight to the last drop of European blood," said former British MP George

Galloway. "In the past year, increasing sanctions and upgrading weapons did not calm the situation, but instead made the conflict more acute and issues more complicated, pushing the situation to a more dangerous precipice," said Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, stressing dialogue and negotiation are the fundamental way out to end the conflict and restore peace. "We lied, we cheated, we stole. We had entire training courses. It reminds you of

the glory of the American experiment," former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, once director of the CIA, said in 2019.

The intelligence field is not the only place the United States prides itself on. Breaking a promise made at the end of the Cold War that NATO would not expand to the east, the U.S.-led bloc has expanded eastward five times since 1999, advancing more than 1,000 km to the Russian border. Its membership has increased from 16 to 30 countries. The deep cause of the Russia-Ukraine conflict is the expansion of NATO, and "the Russians are reacting to the West's attempt to make Ukraine a western bulwark on Russia's border," John Mearsheimer, political science professor at the University of Chicago, told Xinhua.

The United States and its European allies want to make Ukraine a member of NATO and the West, he said. "From the Russian point of view, this is categorically unacceptable. It represents an existential threat, and that is what has precipitated the crisis."

To secure military hegemony, successive U.S. governments have been willful in unilaterally withdrawing from international treaties concerning arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes, like the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Treaty on Open Skies. The United States has also initiated "color revolutions" in the post-Soviet space, including Ukraine, stirring up geopolitical tensions in Eurasia.

What awaited a West-leaning Ukraine was never rapid development but industrial collapse, economic recession and brain drain.

For example, the Black Sea Shipyard, a facility in Ukraine's Mykolaiv region that built all the aircraft carrying USSR and Russian ships, was declared bankrupt in 2018. "We don't care how many Ukrainians die. How many women, children, civilians, military will die. We do not care. It's like a great football game, and we want to win," former U.S. senator Richard Black said last year.

Xinhua

Vision of a multipolar world: The civilisational factor and Russia's place in the emerging world

WRITING in Journal , Russia in Global affairs , Alexey Drobinin who is Director , foreign Policy planning department in the Russians Foreign Ministry explained the Vision of a multipolar World and civilization factor and his country place in the emerging world order he said on February 20, 2023. With the worldview crisis in Russia's relations with the West entering a hot phase after the beginning of the Special military operation in February 2022.

He said the future of the world order and principles of international relations is again among the issues making media headlines around the world and featuring widely in discussions held by political pundits. Let's take a look at it through the prism of foreign policy planning.

"For starters, some basic quotes. Reflecting on the prospects for the development of international relations at a meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in October 2022, President Vladimir Putin pointed out that a common future for all will require a dialogue between the West and "new centers of a multipolar international order"

"More specifically, he made it clear that the basis of the world civilization consists of the "traditional societies of the East, Latin America, Africa and Eurasia. Defining the issue in such a way sets a conceptual framework necessary to analyze current global trends.

What do we mean? In essence, the head of the state clearly laid out the civilizational aspect as a methodological basis for understanding, describing and constructing a multipolar system. Let us add that the President applied this kind of approach more than once, describing the substance of the present time in human history as "the West losing its potential, but striving

to restrain and stop the development of other civilizations.

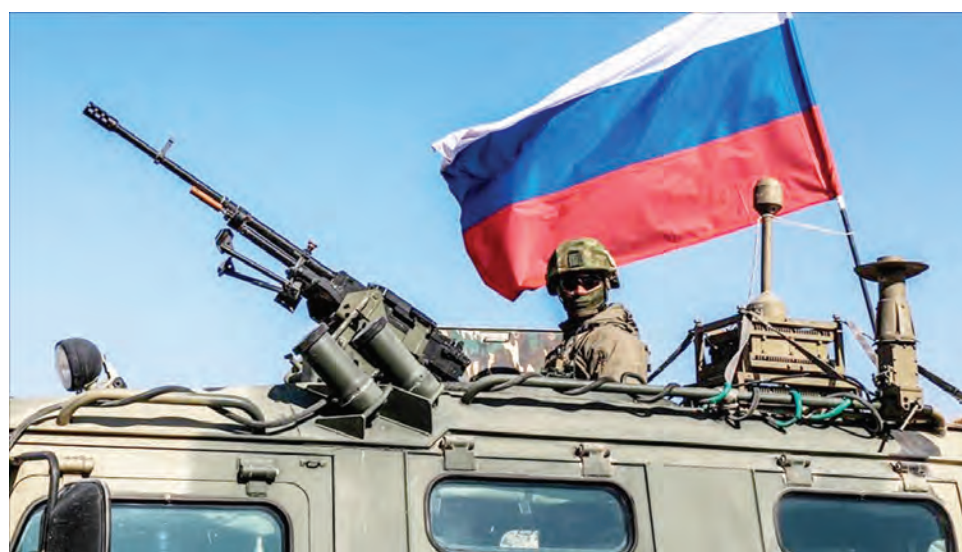
This overarching trend outlined by President Putin is not left unheeded by Russian political scientists. Here is one such opinion:

"The worldwide meaning of the Ukraine crisis is about returning freedom, dignity and independence to the non-West - we suggest calling it the World Majority which previously used to be suppressed, robbed and culturally humiliated. Obviously, it should get back its fair share of global wealth. Once again, it's about returning to the non-Western world - those "other civilizations" in the President's logic - a fair share of global wealth. Besides the far-reaching anti-neocolonial agenda, we see, embedded in this phrase, an analytical juxtaposition between the West and the World Majority.

Strictly speaking, the civilizational approach is just one of a number of possible ways to describe the world. However, it appears that at the current crucial stage this approach provides the most precise "entry point" for the accurate interpretation of processes related to the transformation of the world order. For many years now, we have identified both redistribution of economic and military power to benefit new centers and consolidation of positions by globally significant non-Western players as visible symptoms of the changing world structure" explains Drobinin

He asked , But what does this mean in terms of real politics? What does a new system look like in terms of geopolitics? How will countries interact in a multipolar world? These questions 3 demand answers.

Answers, that we believe, should be looked for by way of investigating large



communities, such as macro-regions or civilizations with distinctive sociocultural, geo-economic and international policy features. Now, let's take another look at the President's Valdai speech

"The meaning of today's historical moment lies precisely in the fact that all civilizations, states and their integration associations see opportunities opening before them to pursue their own democratic, ingenious path of development." In other words, the crystallization of civilizations, or we may call them civilizational platforms, each with the unique structure, as well as the development of connections between them, is what builds the pathway to a fundamentally new system. A system that is on the cusp of replacing the existing paradigm dominated by one civilization that expanded worldwide under the slogans

of globalization, Westernization, Americanization, universalization, liberalization and erasure of national borders.

"According to Vladimir Putin, Whereas the liberal globalization means depersonalization and imposing Western model on the entire world, the integration, conversely, is about unlocking each civilizations potential in the interests of the entire world so that everyone will win." So, the world is moving on from globalization to the emergence of civilizational platforms, which can also be referred to as centers of power or "poles", and onward to the interaction and integration between them. This is a long term historical process, a whole new era that we are entering whatever we like it or not. New centers of world development see multipolarity as chance to preserve their sovereignty and socio-cultural

identity and to develop harmoniously - in line with their traditions and guided by their national interests and aspirations of their peoples. Importantly, civilizational commonwealths need not be, and indeed cannot be, equal in their economic and military might, territorial scope or population numbers. They are united by the fact that they can influence global processes and introduce to the global discussion their own views on how to address various problems.

He explains in the journal that Since the 19th century, Russian scholars have been offering semantically close definitions. Each civilization "is built on the foundation of some kind of spiritual background, some primary cultural symbol of sacred value, which later become the basis for the emergence of an authentic culture A Civilization

is "a special category of states with lengthy and uninterrupted history, a pronounced authenticity, with citizens and leaders who are prepared to resolutely uphold their cultural identity.

Civilizations are defined by "social and political practices enshrined in their culture which are permanently reproduced over an extended period of time; stable, albeit evolving civilizational matrices that reveal the existence of a certain civilizational core.

A civilization is marked by sovereign development. Its identity "is based on the domination of the worldview which translates into the energy of culture and practice of worldbuilding, as reflected in its political project and its historical goal-setting.

A civilization is metaphorically defined as "a particular mankind on a particular land or as a "particular soul" of each people a particular self-sufficient mankind living on a particular land. Now, let us translate the above into the language of political pragmatism and provide a list of criteria which, we believe, civilizations and other globally significant players should meet.

First and primarily, it is about the capability and will to carry out a sovereign and independent domestic and foreign policy. Second, it is about the availability of a sufficient comprehensive economic, military, demographic, scientific educational and technological potential.

It is also about access to adequate resources that make it possible to maintain socioeconomic resilience and high-level of self-sufficiency of the national economy. The capability to act as an "assembly node" for contiguous geographical spaces and to lead integration projects is a critical element.

Finally, an integral aspect of any civilizational identity finds its expression in its authentic philosophy of development as well as its own "signature" vision of international politics, its authentic cultural and spiritual potential with significance for the world at large. As it appears, this criteria are met to varying degrees by civilization-states and civilizational commonwealths such as Russia, China, India, Southeast Asia (ASEAN community), the Arab world and the Muslim Ummah, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Western civilization with its Anglo-Saxon and continental Europe components.

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has said it is committed to improve food security in the world, especially in Africa, but Western countries are continuing its massive disinformation campaign to blame Russia for problems with food security in poor countries while European Union at the same time tries to pretend that it plays the key role in solving these problems.

Giving his opinions, director of Centre of the study of the Russian-African relations Petrov Nikolai said in reality, taking into account of possible consequences for the developing countries, particularly in Africa, the European Union is actively using the issue of global food to achieve its own political goals.

He said at the meeting of the EU Council for Agriculture and Fisheries on 30 January 2023 Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia pre-

Hypocrisy will not help food security

sented a non-paper "Ensuring the EU's resilience and global competitiveness: the need for urgent support and a strategic approach to the agri-food sector".

The document gives reasons for "unprecedented pressures" on farmers and the EU agri-food sector. The obligatory mantra about "the illegal Russian invasion" causing all the problems is there.

Of course, but the real reasons that have brought about the current situation had to be revealed too: the pandemic, high inflation, the dramatic rise in energy prices, combined with wider developments related to the green and digital transition and global competition, have imposed exceptionally high costs on all stages of the agricultural value chain.

In short - a number of factors, including the policies of

the European Union itself and regarding energy shortages - they started after Washington ordered the EU to cut Russian gas supplies and buy the expensive American LNG instead.

He said two completely have different approaches to their own and other countries' problems in agriculture - in the true spirit of neo-colonial attitude - are obvious. In the first case the EU is interested in analyzing the real reasons to find effective solutions.

However, in the second case, with the aim to harm Russia rather than achieve food security of the countries in need, the EU is trying to put the blame for everything on Moscow, while continuing to impose on the third countries its own policies that have already led to controversial results from the point of view of stability in the agricultural sector.

As regards the high prices on fertilizers and food disruption of supply chains, these are nothing else but direct consequences of the illegal sanctions against Russia that hinder export of fertilizers and undermine energy markets. Despite numerous appeals, including from the UN and other international organizations, the EU has not taken any action to really improve the situation but continues to introduce more anti-Russian sanctions instead.

The Europeans prefer to discuss compensations to their own farmers and how to guarantee their competitiveness on world markets. Interests of poor countries concern Brussels, if at all, only for propaganda purposes.

It is interesting that the above mentioned countries in fact agreed with President Putin's assessments that the problems

in the world food situation were direct consequences of anti-Russian sanctions, "predatory" policies conducted by the world's richest countries, which continue buying up food thanks to uninterrupted money printing, and their systemic energy policy mistake.

The EU selfish policies regarding food security are demonstrated in yet another document - "Problems with increasing agricultural imports from Ukraine" - information from the Polish delegation, on behalf of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia for the same meeting of the Council for Agriculture and Fisheries on 30 January 2023. This one is about the so called solidarity lanes initiative which was meant to support the export of agri-food products, especially cereals, across the EU border to third

countries at risk in terms of food security.

But reality again looks very much different! The document reveals that one of the consequences of measures adopted in June 2022 to facilitate imports of products from Ukraine, including the abolition for a year of any customs duties on imports from this country, was a significant increase in the supplies of Ukrainian products to the EU markets. It is not only about the cereal sector but also other products sugar, poultry meat, flour, certain dairy products, honey, apple juice, sunflower seeds or rape seeds.

According to the presented information in some EU member states the import of wheat from Ukraine grew by several hundred or even several thousand times comparing to 2021. The situation appears to be so serious that the above men-

tioned European countries openly demand sealing solidarity lanes so that Ukrainian agricultural products transit the EU and reach destination markets, without remaining on the EU internal market causing disturbances on the markets of EU countries.

Contrary to their high-pathetic declarations regarding food security of poor nations the European countries are actively buying agriculture products from Ukraine to secure their own prosperity.

Providing poor countries with food so much needed there is not a priority for the European Union but just a tool to get rid of the excessive amount of products and support its own agriculture sector. According to the Austrian newspaper The Express, much of the grain from Ukraine ended up in Spain as fodder for pigs. The reason for such disgrace is simple - Spain gave a better price and Ukraine delivered.

Agencies

Why are Africans not worried about Africa Super League?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN the coronavirus-stricken spring of 2021, when soccer stadiums were supporter-less, the leaders of numerous prestigious football clubs in Europe announced their plans to make a breakaway, semi-closed league.

There would only be 15 permanent clubs allowed in the elite league.

The once-prosperous qualification process would wither. Only a few clubs who did not buy a spot in the European Super League could join.

The Super League replaced the magic of the UEFA Champions League that filled TV screens everywhere with a glitzy sham that few could enjoy.

As expected, the backlash was severe, clubs like Tottenham, Liverpool, and more issued apologies within days of the secret project getting leaked.

Although the plans are probably surviving within the closed mind of Florentino Perez and Real Madrid, the UEFA Champions League would stay for another decade or so, to the fans' delight.

Another Super League is starting behind closed doors just miles away from Europe. Its consequences could be fatal for football and become official in a year or so.

The Africa Super League is coming to cripple Africa's minnows and reward its big names, much like its European counterpart threatened to do. So why is no one worried?

How FIFA made Super League

The makings of the Africa Super League came three years before its European contemporary, in a party hosted in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

FIFA chief, Gianni Infantino, attending a TP Mazembe party, alluded to a new 'Africa Super League' that could make at least 200 million USD.

His comments made the rounds on Twitter for a day or two, but they faded away as soon as they popped up.

A 20-team, closed league that would be one of the top 10 most lucrative leagues ever?

The incredible remarks, combined with the lack of details, meant no one would take it seriously.

Three years later, Infantino was back in Africa. This time, he was at a Simba SC party, shaking hands with top African football officers.

He would appear in the tweet to shake the world, along with former Simba SC CEO Barbara Gonzalez.

The responses were varied. Most congratulated Barbara on her bargaining skills to land Simba SC spot in Africa Super League.

Some however came out against the tide, announcing



Confederation of African Football (CAF) president, Patrice Motsepe.

their disdain for a closed league.

But FIFA remembered the European Super League fiasco, recalling its ambitious plans for a semi-closed league with big profits and elusive spots.

The backlash shocked FIFA and the league's founding members, who stashed the plans away for a later date.

While Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club lifted the CAF Champions League title in May 2022, CAF president Patrice Motsepe and other African officials were holding preliminary talks with club officials and tweaking the remains of the Africa Super League project.

When clubs began their Champions League dreams in August, Motsepe wooed Executive Officials, club CEOs, and more.

And when the Champions League group stage got underway, CAF approved the Africa Super League.

From then on, the plan survived in secrecy. Motsepe and a few high-ranking officials talked about the Africa Super League from time to time.

But news outlets overlooked it as clubs decided to stay quiet on their involvement with the Super League.

The Details

It was in early August last year, one of Africa's best coaches, South African Pitso Mosimane, took a hiatus from coaching to become the current manager of a Saudi Arabian club, Al-Ahli Jeddah.

Al Ahly's dominance ends as Wydad Athletic Club topples the Egyptian football club in a controversial 2021/22 CAF Champions League final.

And the Africa Super League, like a Phoenix rising from its ashes, surges back into the headlines.

Journalists flocked to the official announcement of the Africa Super League in Arusha, Tanzania.

As anticipated, there are big promises and big money tags attached to Africa's new, premier competition. There will be a prize pool of 100 million USD.

Each of Africa's 54 member countries will receive 1 million

USD per year.

The members will be presented with 50 million USD per year will develop academies, make CAF's football games appealing, and employ 'world-class staff'.

Aside from Motsepe and his CAF crew promising big price tags to any partakers, there were some other noteworthy promises.

Each participating club needs to own a women's team and an academy to play. Rather than forcing cross-continental trips from the clubs, the group stage will be regionalized. And it will be more inclusive than ever, featuring 16 countries on the group stage.

Yet, some red flags emerged quickly after the meeting finished. What will happen to the CAF Champions League?

What will happen to the localized leagues? Where is this money coming from? Dealbreakers popped up, and the general opinion toward the Africa Super League changed. Rather than something to celebrate, it became something to dread.

The Africa Super League will not replace the CAF Champions League, as most assumed. Instead, it would take some of Africa's best teams and whisk them to the Africa Super League.

Now the CAF Champions League is in an awkward status where it entertains the usual CAF Confederation Cup favorites.

The CAF Confederation Cup will probably become a playground for Africa's minnows.

The Africa Super League has promised football fans 197 matches in its inaugural season, three times the total number of matches in the CAF Champions League last year.

It means teams will play a maximum of 21 games. Combine that with 30+ league matches, 5+ cup matches, and the odd tournament or three sprinkled in, and you get injuries, a lot of injuries.

It is leading to some speculating that powerhouses like Al Ahly, Wydad Athletic Club, and Mamelodi Sundowns could leave their respective leagues for the Africa Super League.

The future does not look

sunny for supporters of local, mid-table teams who probably will not make it to a continental competition anytime soon.

The big question that had forums confused was where the Africa Super League's budget came from.

Motsepe and CAF have said that they will award the winner of the Africa Super League a whopping 11.5 million USD in prize money, only a mere million from the CAF Champions League's entire prize pool.

It would not be surprising to see CAF dip back into its shady ways. Yet it was still shocking to hear that Gianni Infantino and FIFA wanted Saudi Arabia to finance the upcoming Super League in exchange for the hosting rights for the 2030 World Cup.

It is not only weird that FIFA would give Saudi Arabia the green light to host the World Cup on the centennial of the first World Cup ever, but it's even more troubling that FIFA wants Saudi Arabia to bribe the world soccer body.

Aside from the corruption reeking from the Africa Super League, there are some issues with the format. The regionalized groups that kick off the Super League seem very unbalanced.

The North African group will have teams like Al Ahly, Zamalek, Wydad Athletic Club, Raja Club Athletic, and more compete for just six potential knockout stage spots.

The South/East group will have way less competition than the North group. There are only five South/East teams and five Western teams in the top 24 places in CAF Club Rankings, compared to 14 North African clubs.

The format will make it harder than ever for North African teams to grow against their world-beating competition.

A suggested format for the CAF Champions League issued by CAF could be even worse than the Africa Super League.

After pre-qualification, the Africa Super League members and 40 other clubs will play in a March Madness-like knockout stage. If CAF uses its traditional two-legged matches, teams will play 12 matches in the tournament at most.

The shady details that have come out from the Africa Super League, the number of matches, bribery, unconventional format, willingness to throw away the CAF Champions League, and more, mean this tournament should not be welcomed with open arms.

Although the promise of a better Africa could be realized with CAF's pledge to invest in the academies, women's football, and the member associations, CAF has not released enough details to show the confederation's trustworthiness. Why then is no one fascinated about the Africa Super League?

SPORT

Dar to host National Rally Championships Awards Night

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS Tanzania braces to begin another motor sporting season in May, the Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) is hosting a special Night of Champions in Dar es Salaam, to award top motor sporting personnel in the country who shone during the previous racing season.

Several motorists from Tanzania and Zambia with outstanding performances in motor rally events will be awarded during the Atlantic Tanzania National Rally Championship Awards Night which takes place at Khana Khazana Venue along Ghuba Road at Masaki on Friday.

Among the outstanding rally champions to be awarded include Tufail Amin, topping the bill with 122 overall points.

Others are Manveer Birdi in second position with 107 points and Harinder Deere who comes third having amassed 96 points during the 2022 Tanzania National Rally Championships.

The Overall Navigators Champions getting the awards are Ravi Chana, leading the pack with 83 points, Manmeet Birdi with 81 points, and Zambian Dave Sihoka also with 81 points and closing third.

Overall winners of the National Rally Champion (NRC 2) are Gural Sandhu and Dave Sihoka.

Sandhu hails from Arusha and usually races for the AESL Rally Team. His Navigator, Sihoka, comes from Zambia.



Tanzanian rally driver, Tufail Amin, battles it out in the 2019 National Rally Championship which took place in Dar es Salaam. Amin emerged as the champion in the showdown. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TUFAIL AMIN

The National Rally Champion (NRC 3) winners are Amin and David Matete.

Then comes the youngsters, the Junior Champions getting the accolades for their top performance are Prince Charles and Mohammed Kimenya.

The top award for the best team goes to Amapiano Motor Sports of Dar es Salaam.

The Best Club Event award goes to Arusha Motor Sports Club. The Arusha Motor Sports Club organizes and hosts the annual Guru Nanak Motor Rally in the Northern Zone.

As for the Best Club, the award has been won by Mount Uluguru Sports Club of Morogoro.

Meanwhile, Tanzania gets to host the first National Rally Championship event of 2023 through the Rally of Iringa, organized by the Iringa Motor Sports Club in the Southern Highlands. The rally has been scheduled to take place between May 13-14 2023.

It will be followed by the Rally of Tanga, which takes place between June 10-11 2023.

In July, Tanzania gets to host the African Rally Championships event through the Automobile Association of Tanzania from July 21-23 2023.

The Rally of Morogoro is going to take place from the second day of September 2023 to the third.

The Rally of Arusha, on the other hand, is set to take place from October 20-22 in the Northern Zone.

More runners line up for 2023 Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti-Poaching Run

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

APPROXIMATELY 1,000 runners from various parts of the world are expected to participate in this year's Serengeti Migration Marathon and Anti-Poaching Run which will take place in Mugumu, Serengeti in August.

The marathon aims to promote wild safari tourism and enhance anti-poaching campaigns and conservation in the Serengeti National Park.

One of the race's organizers Geoffrey Werema told The Guardian that the marathon will involve both active and social runners.



Some athletes that battled it out in the recent Serengeti Migration Marathon & Anti-Poaching Run are pictured with medals after completion of the showdown in Mugumu, Mara.

According to Werema, the athletes will battle it out in races stretching 21 kilometers, 10.50 kilometers, 10.2 kilometers, and 5.50 kilometers, and there

will moreover be 5.2 kilometers Fun Run.

He disclosed: "Great

Serengeti Migration Marathon is an event organized by Serengeti Tourism

Sports Agency (SETSA) which uses sports to promote tourism along the western side of the Serengeti National Park."

Werema pointed out: "This event's name comes from one of the biggest events that happen yearly inside the Serengeti National Park, whereby some of the wildebeests migrate between Serengeti and Maasai Mara National Reserve."

He further explained that during this time, a large number of tourists visit the Serengeti National Park to witness one of the world's wonders.

The organizer revealed: "This event will allow par-

ticipants to not just witness the migration but also be part of it by running between the groups of migrating wild animals along the Serengeti National Park, Ikona WMA, and Ikorongo/Grumeti game reserves."

Werema revealed: "Participants will include both local and foreign, however, there will be special fun runs for local companies, institutions, and special groups."

The official noted that registration would be closed on August 16 and the two-day event has been slated for August 26-27 with winners being presented with various prizes including cash.

Comeback kings Madrid in their element amid European chaos

LONDON

REAL Madrid made their name as the kings of Europe who can never be written off, and they proved it once again at Anfield against a bewildered Liverpool on Tuesday night.

Despite falling two goals behind in the opening 14 minutes, Carlo Ancelotti's side came back to thrash the hosts and record a spectacular 5-2 Champions League last 16 first leg victory.

Madrid won a record 14th European Cup last season by beating Jurgen Klopp's team 1-0 in the Paris final, but along the way they produced remarkable comebacks in topsy-turvy games against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City.

Their performance on Merseyside was in this vein, with a sloppy start in defence covered up by an attacking onslaught in a chaotic and unforgettable clash.

Ancelotti's side sometimes only seem to click into gear after falling behind and the coach said he was not worried, despite Liverpool moving ahead through Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah.

"I thought about Manchester City and hoped the same thing would happen, and it did, and better still," Ancelotti told Movistar, recalling last season's semi-final first leg, where Madrid fell two goals behind against Pep Guardiola's side.

"We started scoring, creating danger and we improved in defence."

The second goal was particularly strange, with Thibaut Courtois miscontrolling the ball for Salah to fire home.

A key driver for Madrid's comeback was Vinicius Junior, who scored twice to pull the team back on level terms before half-time.

The Brazilian winger has struggled to break free of various problems in Spain, including racist abuse from the stands, and overly aggressive defenders, but shone again against Liverpool.

"Vinicius right now, in my opinion, is the most decisive player in world football," added Ancelotti.

The 22-year-old provoked a similar error to Courtois' from Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker, charging him down and deflecting an attempted clearance into the net.

- Successful habit -

Benzema also played a key role for Madrid with a second-half brace too, despite recent injury concerns.

Los Blancos' captain missed the trip to face Osasuna at the weekend in order to be fully fit to face Liverpool, and Ancelotti's gamble paid off as Madrid won both games.

"After 15, 20 minutes, then we saw Real Madrid," Benzema told Movistar, urging his team not to start as slowly in the future.

However Madrid have made it a habit, and somehow a successful one, dominating the competition over the past decade.

Under Ancelotti in 2014, Los Blancos won La Decima -- the tenth -- by coming from behind to beat rivals Atletico Madrid in the final.

They have not looked back since, adding further trophies in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and then again last year, when they came back from the dead on multiple occasions.

This victory over Liverpool will go down with the most memorable of them.

Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde credited Ancelotti's words at half-time with helping the team romp to victory.

"It's important what he told us at the break, he has few words and (yet he) says a lot to you," Valverde told Movistar.

Jurgen Klopp's first great Liverpool team is over - now he must build another one

LONDON

SO there was an Anfield takeover after all. Real Madrid might as well have pitched their flag in the centre-circle and declared Merseyside theirs.

This is what the end of an era looks like. With great servants bowing their heads at full-time while apologetically accepting sympathetic applause having been schooled by regal opponents.

A thunderous start to last night's 5-2 defeat may have promised a revival, but the party is over for Jurgen Klopp's first great Liverpool team. Deep down, he probably knew that months ago.

There may have been moments in the last two weeks when he allowed himself to think a summer reconstruction need not be so extensive. An evening in the company of Luka Modric and Karim Benzema speaks truth in a manner Everton and Newcastle United do not.

If Klopp felt reliving last year's Champions League final against the same opponents was torture, the manner in which Carlo Ancelotti's side eased through the gears to inflict a heavy defeat will supply a lifetime of nightmares.

The speed of passing, the pace of movement, the killer instinct when pouncing and punishing every Liverpool mistake exposed a gulf in class which was never apparent in the previous four meetings between the sides. In Kyiv and Paris the big moments went Real's way. The second half last night was humbling.

Even a manager of Klopp's immense power can only do so much. For the remainder of this season, there will be more pressure on Liverpool's executives to ensure the club is better equipped than has been the case this season.

Liverpool's master-in-chief John W Henry made his billions in predicting the future of the markets. He never saw this campaign coming, and needs no forecaster to understand the added expectations it has put upon him and his partners to ensure there is no



Vinicius Junior of Real Madrid celebrates after scoring the team's second goal with teammate Rodrigo during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg match between Liverpool FC and Real Madrid at Anfield on February 21, 2023. (Agencies)

repeat.

Henry reiterating that Liverpool is not for sale will be welcomed by Klopp, and the vast majority of his supporters trust their manager's assessment of Fenway Sports Group. So long as Klopp is content with the structure and working relationships, and feels assured that transfer funds will be available will enable him to compete, there will be no outpouring of despair that FSG are staying. For now.

But that is conditional on Klopp being given the tools to keep Liverpool more competitive than they were in a humiliating second half against the European champions.

Amid the headline-grabbing revelation that Henry was never pursuing a full takeover, he did share his optimism a share sale would happen. If that is the only way Liverpool can compete for the players needed to execute Klopp's vision, the principal owner has increased the scrutiny on himself and his partners. The strength of FSG's appeal to potential investors will determine how

soon they can regain lost territory.

Aside from qualification for next year's Champions League, the only prize left for Klopp to compete for this season is Jude Bellingham's signature, the Borussia Dortmund suddenly a symbol of an imagined Liverpool future.

The squad must evolve, and when a world-class player is available, the manager wants him and the target seems keen on the move, there is no hiding place if money turns out to be the chief reason for missing out.

In a rare misstep, Liverpool's strategy of waiting for the right player, rather than any player, has spectacularly backfired as the season has floundered like some of their weary midfielders.

There is a clear and present danger if the owners' pleas for investment are unsuccessful.

During their 13 years on Merseyside, FSG's football operations have been generally immune from criticism. The only protests on the Kop since 2010 have been directed at ticket-price hikes and covert meetings about

the European Super League.

But the appreciation of what the Americans have achieved anticipates ongoing and significant squad strengthening. FSG know that. That is what prompted Henry to appoint merchant bankers to embark on the "sales process" he insists was never intended to provoke speculation about a full buy-out.

The elephant in every boardroom in which he delivers his sales pitch is that Chelsea have just spent in excess of £600 million, and Manchester United are in the process of determining whether to sign a Faustian pact with the Qataris. Klopp has never wanted to work for a club with all the money in the world. But the least he - and the Kop - expects is they have enough to ensure they are not left behind by the world's best.

Will Liverpool get back to where they were without reinforcements? No. Are they the same Liverpool as last season? No. Are investors desperately needed? Yes. Will something happen there? It needs to. Otherwise this

year's likely Champions League exit will be extended and Real will not be the last to leave Anfield feeling they owned Liverpool.

Meanwhile, Jurgen Klopp admitted that Liverpool's defending in their record 5-2 defeat to Real Madrid in the Champions round of 16 first leg at Anfield, was at times "slapstick" and added that he felt in the moment that his team could not rescue the tie.

Klopp would later say that his mood may yet change in three weeks' time when Liverpool travel to Spain to try to achieve one of the most historic comebacks in European football history on March 15. This was Liverpool's worst home defeat in European football and leaves them facing an early exit from the last competition they might realistically be able to win this last season.

When told that Carlo Ancelotti, the Real manager, had not dismissed the possibility of a Liverpool comeback, Klopp said: "I think Carlo thinks the tie is over and I think it as well, in the mo-

ment. But the closer you get to the game, the bigger our chances become. Tonight, winning 5-2, [considering] they are pretty good in counter-attacking and we have to go there and take some risks to score three goals [it is a difficult challenge]. We go there to try and win the game."

Nevertheless, Klopp said that his team could not allow their confidence at a promising start in which they took a quick two-goal lead through Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah, to be diminished. "We gave all five goals away," he said. "It means we could have done better there. In our situation, it is really important we see positive steps and the first half was, besides the two goals we conceded, was pretty much the best we played all season. The second goal was slapstick."

That was Alisson's mistake - hitting a back pass from Joe Gomez against Vinicius for what was the Brazilian's second goal of the game by that stage and brought Real back to 2-2. In the second half, there was a goal from Eder Militao and two from Karim Benzema. On how the result might affect his side's confidence with four league games ahead of the second leg, Klopp said he would not permit his players to be downcast.

He said: "I can see that people think that [losing confidence] is understandable but that is absolutely not allowed. I told the boys that this is a result the opposite of what we wanted but a defeat is a defeat. If you don't learn from it, and if you don't learn the start was outstanding and was us in a nutshell [it would be a mistake]."

"So if we allow this one game to be influential we are really silly. We have a few days when I will make sure we take the right things. Yes, we have a few things to improve, especially on the third goal [from Militao], massively. First goal [from Vinicius] massively. But the intensity, the effort we showed, the football was like everything we want to see. So we have to make sure we keep that. [A] 5-2 [result] could be damaging but I have to make sure that is not happening."

Rashford hot streak sustains Manchester United's quadruple dream

LONDON

MANCHESTER United are riding the crest of a wave thanks to the scintillating form of Marcus Rashford, which is keeping Erik ten Hag's men in the hunt for trophies on four fronts.

The Red Devils could end a six-year wait for any silverware on Sunday when they face Newcastle in the League Cup final.

But first comes the chance to land the scalp of Barcelona in a heavy-weight Europa League clash today.

After an enthralling first leg at the Camp Nou, the sides are level at 2-2 as Rashford carried his carve-up of Premier League defences

onto the European stage.

The England international turned a 1-0 deficit into a 2-1 lead for United in a seven-minute spell in Catalonia as he smashed home at Marc-Andre ter Stegen's near post then drilled in a cross that forced Jules Kounde to turn into his own net.

Another two goals in a 3-0 win over Leicester on Sunday that pulled United into Premier League title contention took his tally for the season to an already career-best 24.

But his explosion since the World Cup break is even more remarkable.

No player in Europe's top five leagues comes

close to the 25-year-old's 20 goal involvements, with 16 goals and four assists since returning from Qatar.

"I don't feel like slowing down," said Rashford after leaving Leicester defenders trailing in his wake.

"I'm always looking to push and improve."

- Out from Ronaldo's shadow -

There is also a sense of a player making up for lost time.

After missing a penalty in England's Euro 2020 final heartache against Italy, Rashford badly struggled for fitness and form last season.

He was not the only one to disappoint in a disastrous campaign for

United.

Ten Hag has transformed the mood around Old Trafford in his first season in charge -- but Rashford's return to form has been pivotal in a squad otherwise short on goals.

It is also hard to ignore that his hot streak has coincided with Cristiano Ronaldo's departure from the club during the World Cup.

Rashford has stepped out from the shadow of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner to become the player United fans dreamed he could become after bursting onto the scene as a fresh-faced teenager in 2016.

"I think as a manager, as a coaching staff we

have to push them but finally it comes from the player," said Ten Hag on Rashford taking personal responsibility to deliver on his potential.

"When he loses focus then the scoring will

stop. (That's) clear.

"He has so many skills, such high potential and I think there can be even more. When he works well, he will even score more goals because he can score with his left,

right and his head."

The issue for United is what happens should Rashford fail to maintain his unparalleled scoring streak.

He has been an ever-present in United's 17

games in a brutal schedule since the World Cup.

There were signs of fatigue in how the visitors ended up clinging on for a draw in the closing stages at the Camp Nou last week.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Small stadiums, high temperatures: What Ronaldo can expect in Saudi

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Harmonize, Marioo to colour 2023 Kili Marathon concerts

By Guardian Correspondent

ALL roads are set to lead to the Moshi Club and Moshi University grounds in Kilimanjaro this weekend as top artists in Tanzania's new genre music 'Bongo Flava', including Rajab Abdul 'Harmonize' and Omary Mwangi 'Marioo', will take the stage to colour the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon.

Speaking to the press yesterday, the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, said all is set for the event.

Pamela noted the two top artists will lead a lineup of artists who are expected to take Moshi by storm during the marathon weekend.

"We are all set and look forward to a memorable weekend as we mark the 21st anniversary of the Kili International Marathon which usually goes with thrilling entertainment," she said.

She said Harmonize will perform at the Moshi Club tomorrow, while Marioo will take the same stage on Sunday after the Kili International Marathon conclusion.

She called on Moshi residents and visitors to turn up in numbers to what is going to be a Kili Marathon concert to remember.

According to the official, there will also be exceptional entertainment at the Moshi Cooperatives University Stadium where the marathon will take place.

"The entertainment here will start immediately after the official Kili Marathon program is over so that the entire stadium can then focus on the entertainment that Kilimanjaro Premium Lager has lined up for them," she said.

Pamela revealed other artists who will perform at the MoCU Stadium include William Nicholas 'Billnas', Lordeyes, Conboi, Saraphina, and 'Machalii Watundu' from Arusha.

Meanwhile, organizers of the Kilimanjaro International Marathon have reminded participants that the last number and kit collection point will be Moshi today (12 pm to 5 pm), tomorrow (10 am to 6 pm), and Saturday (from 9 am to 5 pm) at the Moshi Co-operatives University (MoCU) Stadium.

The organizers called on the participants to observe the announced times to avoid inconveniences, calling on those collecting numbers for their friends or relatives to ensure they have copies of their identity cards or consent letters allowing the representatives to collect on their behalf.

"We hope that the participants will turn up in numbers at this collection point as no number will be issued on the race day," the organizers noted.

The organizers revealed those who did not collect their numbers in Dar es Salaam and Arusha can still do so in Moshi on the mentioned dates.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km (main sponsor), Tigo- 21km showdown, and Grand Malt- 5km Fun Run.

Water table sponsors are TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, and TotalEnergies and official suppliers are Surveyed Plots Company Limited (SPC) Kibo Palace Hotel, CMC Automobiles, KK Security, and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Harmonize (R) and Marioo

Ruvu, Polisi Tanzania facing difficult survival battle in NBC Premier League



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Mbwana Makata, issues instructions to his players when they took part in a recent training that took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RUVU SHOOTING

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH few matches remaining in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, four of the top flight's participating clubs have already nailed a place in the 2023/24 Premier League while four are seeking to avoid relegation to next season's Championship League.

Ruvu Shooting and Polisi Tanzania FC are facing the threat of dropping to the next season's Championship League while Coastal Union and Tanzania Prisons are within the relegation/promotion playoffs area, with both having collected 22 points.

Coastal Union is now sitting 13th in the NBC Premier League log position while Tanzania Prisons FC is occupying the 14th position.

Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting has been placed at bottom of the league table after collecting 17 points while Polisi Tanzania FC is sitting 15th after posting 19 points.

In this season's Championship League, the leader JKT Tanzania continues to perform well, boosting its chance of grabbing a place in the 2023/24 Premier League and, in the process, replacing one of the two sides facing a relegation threat.

This season's NBC Premier League has 16 teams taking part in the top flight and about 23 matches have already been played by each squad, which

occupies its respective spot due to points collected.

The top flight's defending champions, Yanga, are leading the rest of the pack this season with 59 points after taking part in 22 matches.

The league leader that was yesterday expected to lock horns with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC has notched a victory in 19

matches, settled for a draw in one match, and lost one match.

Yanga's age-old rival Simba SC is lately positioned second after notching 54 points, trailing the former by five points.

Simba SC is separated from fourth-placed Singida Big Stars by 10 points as the latter has collected 44 points to

stay just below third-placed Azam FC in the league table.

Msimbazi Street-based Simba SC has, in 23 duels played, won 16 games, recorded a draw in six games, and lost one game while Singida Big Stars have emerged victorious in 13 ties, posted a draw in five games, and suffered defeat in five games.

Azam FC, which recorded

a 1-1 draw with Simba SC in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, is separated from Singida Big Stars by goal difference, sitting third with 44 points after participating in 23 matches.

The Chamazi-based squad's 1-1 draw with Simba SC in the encounter held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium has seen the former hold on to the third place.



CRDB Bank Plc Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela (C), Yanga's CEO Andre Mtine (2nd L), and Simba SC CEO Imani Kajura (2nd R) exchange an agreement for using Simba SC's Clotus Chama, Mohamed Hussein, and Yanga's Stephane Aziz Ki and Farid Mussa to serve as CRDB Bank Plc's ambassadors in conveying financial education to the community through the institution's campaign, dubbed 'Bank is SimBanking'. The agreement was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are head of CRDB Marketing Joseline Kamuhanda (back row R), Simba SC's lawyer Hosea Samba (R), Yanga's lawyer Simon Patrick (L), and CRDB Bank Plc's lawyer, Danford Kisinda. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

'Samatta not enough for KRC Genk striking force'

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER KRC Genk footballer, Marc Degryse, has criticized the team's decision to sell Nigerian attacker, Paul Onuachu, in the January registration window while claiming Tanzanian goal-getter Mbwana Samatta is not enough to fill his fellow attacker's gap.

Onuachu's £18 million January switch from KRC Genk to English Premier League outfit, Southampton, is one of the transfers which will prove that, if things do not go as per plan, could end up becoming pretty miserable for all involved.

Southampton, alias Saints, lately languishing at bot-

tom of the English Premier League table and seeing talks with their top managerial target Jesse Marsch break down, are staring down the barrel of the Championship.

As for Onuachu's former employers, a six-point gap between KRC Genk and second-place Union Saint-Gilloise will be eaten up rather quickly if the Jupiler League leaders cannot immediately adapt to life without their talismanic top scorer.

"You should not underestimate the impact (of selling Onuachu)," Degryse, former Belgium international, argued in HLN.

The former KRC Genk player noted: "He was the top scorer... he guaranteed 20 to 30 goals every year."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

