



### National Pg 3 ICT tools for Iwambi Primary School



### National Pg 4 Management company gets ISO credit



### National Pg 5 'Dealers sabotage production of sunflower seeds'



**Guardian BUSINESS**

**GF Trucks Ltd investing in maintenance services**

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**Oil prices set for another weekly gain**

# VP: Rogue judicial officers impede justice

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (in black track suit) leads a five-km walk in Dodoma city yesterday in launching Law Week activities for this year. To his left is Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

**V**ICE President Dr Philip Mpango has castigated magistrates, judges and attorneys who link up in sabotaging law enforcement on reserved areas by receiving bribes and hampering the dispensation of justice.

Launching the Law Week at Mwalimu Nyerere Grounds here that began yesterday, the VP said that the judiciary halts the auctioning of seized livestock in reservation areas, imposing small fines to owners of the livestock.

"In my visits in various regions and other areas I often receive many complaints from the people against the Judiciary as well as other organs including the police and prisons regarding their justice dispensation system in general," he stated.

Some of the complaints heard relate to magistrates, attorneys and judges who solicit bribes in a spirit contrary to their oaths, he said, underlining that auctioning livestock seized in reserved areas was part of the law.

On many occasions in Mbeya Region for example, such auctions are withheld by order of the courts with such court sittings even being held on Sundays, he asserted, expressing irritation with courts handling small fines which the livestock owners promptly pay and the seized livestock returned.

"My office also has been receiving com-

**“My office also has been receiving complaints in regard to foreign currency seized at border areas that gets lost while in the hands of the court. The judgement thereof gets twisted to award victory to the owner of the currency”**

plaints in regard to foreign currency seized at border areas that gets lost while in the hands of the court. The judgement thereof gets twisted to award victory to the owner of the currency," he pointed out.

"There are also other complaints - including the high cost of case proceedings as well as payments to advocates," he further remarked, noting that people complain with regard to judgements written in English.

Similarly, suspects stay for long periods in remand prisons waiting for completion of investigation of their cases, urging that those involved in the dispensation of justice need to seek alternative ways for solutions where it can be easily attained.

TURN TO Page2

## Chadema holds first rally, ACT for Dar start

By Guardian Reporter

THE leading opposition party on the Mainland, Chadema, hit the ground running at the weekend, promising to strive for sustained political freedom "and form the next government," with ACT-Wazalendo entering the field on February 18, Chadema chairman Freeman Mbowe addressed the first such rally at Furahisha grounds in the lakeside rock city of Mwanza, where he said that the ongoing political dialogue and reconciliation "does not imply that we will dissolve our party." In a statement, ACT-Wazalendo secretary general, Ado Shaibu, said the leading opposition party in Zanzibar will start its first phase of public rallies in nine regions of the Mainland and in Zanzibar a month from now. He told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, that rallies

TURN TO Page2

## EAC, global partners study cross-border health threat

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

SIX East African Community (EAC) partner states were at the weekend seeking to identify strategies in preventing infectious diseases.

Dr David Balikowa, a senior livestock officer at the EAC Secretariat, said here that in the past two decades the EAC region has been plagued by cross border diseases, impacting the livestock sector and other spheres of business and economy.

The meeting involved more than 100 officials from global development agencies, bilateral partners and lenders, examining the formulation of harmonised strategies to curb such outbreaks in the bloc.

Conference participants were

drawn from the One Health (OH) forum coordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), where the primary challenge is to link efforts to prevent outbreaks of diseases like Ebola, Covid-19 and cholera, priority list in the EAC disease prevention agenda.

It was the first meeting of the year for health stakeholders in the EAC zone, to examine the implementation of an inclusive health plan, the global programme for pandemic prevention and response: one health approach (GP PPOH).

The zone's one health strategy was agreed upon in November 2021 that the global inclusive health plan should assist in the preparations for twice yearly meetings to evaluate the pursuit of set goals and enhance the participation of stakeholders.

**“It was the first meeting of the year for health stakeholders in the EAC zone, to examine the implementation**

The meeting discussed joint implementation of strategies to deal with infectious disease outbreaks as well as non-communicable diseases among member states, the secretariat official indicated.

Dr Baltazar Leba, a senior 'one health' coordination official at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), said the forum would enhance understanding

and implementation of the joint health plan among stakeholders and those working in the field.

Dr Irene Isaka, the social sectors director at the EAC Secretariat, said the forum has made an imprint for the first joint efforts in preventing the outbreak of pandemics.

The joint forum involved the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Africa CDC (Centres for Disease Prevention) and the World Bank.

Other key stakeholders include the German Development Bank (KfW), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## LITP: Ministry to issue a million title deeds

By Guardian Reporter

ONE million land title deeds in urban areas and 500,000 customary land occupancy title deeds in rural areas will be issued under the Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP).

Joseph Shewiyo, the LTIP coordinator in the Ministry for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development made this affirmation at a one-day seminar for members of the standing committee for

Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism of the National Assembly.

The committee was discussing the implementation of the land title improvement and security of tenure, where the coordinator said processing the issuance of land title deeds in urban areas will be handled by public agencies by up to 20 per cent and the bulk of the work be outsourced to land surveying firms. Difficulties are anticipated

in zones with unplanned buildings where the coordinator says their identifications will be taken as they are, with one million title deeds nonetheless expected to be issued despite this discrepancy. A pilot project has begun in Dodoma Urban district in areas like Bihawana, Mapinduzi and Mkwawa selected for the preliminary effort, with eight local government authorities (districts) listed as Dodoma City, Chalinze, Mafinga,

Rungwe, Nzega, Tarime, Korogwe and Kigoma covered in the first year of project implementation. Customary title deeds will be processed by land survey firms and public agencies, with intent to make better land use plans for 250 villages, alongside issuing 500,000 such deeds. The committee meeting was also attended by MPs from districts covered by the project this year, in relation to the issuance of title deeds, preparation of original

survey plans, improvement of the Integrated Land Management Information System (ILMIS), basic beacon installation, plus building land offices in 25 regions. The MPs demanded educating the public, especially women, in tandem with implementation of LTIP, with Cosato Chumi (Mafinga) advising the government to extend the project to cover industrial areas. The sector is essential and fast growing in various areas of the country, he stated.



## Rogue judicial officers impede justice, says VP

"I call upon to the Judiciary to work together with other stakeholders in resolving conflicts through amicable negotiations," he appealed, asking civil society organisations (CSOs) to provide legal education to the public, render legal assistance to the needy and build up understanding on basic civil rights, with a focus on resolving conflicts through arbitration. Religious leaders and traditional authorities need to assist the Judiciary to speak to the public about the issues, he stated, whereupon Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma called upon those who claim for their rights to make sure they first understand those rights. They should be reading and seeking education to enable them understand the laws and procedures that govern the justice being sought, he emphasised. The Law Week will be used to provide education and to remind the public how to seek justice in a correct and simple way, he added.

## Six dead in siege at mayor's office

MOGADISHU

At least six people were killed yesterday in an attack by Al-Shabaab militants at the mayor's office in central Mogadishu, police said.

A suicide bomber set off a huge blast that tore through building near the office complex with gunfire erupting afterwards, Somali police spokesman Sadik Dudishe said at the end of the four-hour siege.

"All the six attackers died. Five of them during the fire exchange with the security forces and one of them detonated himself," Dudishe told reporters.

"Six civilians also died during the attack and the situation is back to normal."

All the staffers at the mayor's office were rescued, the police added.

Al-Shabaab, a militant group allied with Al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the attack via its communication channels, saying its fighters "made their way inside the targeted building after killing the security guards."

Witnesses said the initial explosion damaged nearby buildings and gunfire could be heard in the vicinity of the mayor's office.

The area was quickly cordoned off by security officers, a witness who runs a business near the offices said.

Another witness, Omar Nur, said he was inside a nearby mall when the explosion went off and "was lucky to have escaped safely."

The Al-Shabaab militants have been waging a bloody insurgency against the frail internationally backed central government for 15 years, carrying out attacks both in Somalia and neighbouring countries.

The latest attack comes days after seven soldiers were killed on Friday at a military camp in Galdad, a town in central Somalia about 375 kilometres (230 miles) north of the capital Mogadishu.

The US military said on Saturday the attack -- in the Somali town retaken by the army this week -- involved more than 100 Al-Shabaab jihadists.

"The combined actions by partner forces on the ground and the collective self-defence strike is estimated to have resulted in three destroyed vehicles and approximately thirty al-Shabaab terrorists killed" the US military command for Africa (AFRICOM) said in a statement.

In recent months, the Somali army and local clan militias have mounted a major offensive against the jihadist group, retaking swathes of territory in the centre of the country in an operation backed by US air strikes and an African Union force.

But despite the gains by the pro-government forces, the offensive has drawn retribution and the militants have continued to demonstrate the ability to strike back with lethal force against civilian and military targets.

Agencies

## African laboratories training rats to quickly detect tuberculosis

By Guardian Correspondent and

Agencies

IN laboratories in Tanzania and Kenya, rats have been trained to sniff out tuberculosis.

Already known for finding land mines, the rodents could now transform the way the disease is detected.

The African giant pouched rats work with scientists at the APOPO Project, a Belgian non-profit organisation in Tanzania, because they can detect the smell of the deadly disease.

A study conducted by APOPO in 2016 compared the accuracy of the rats to that of standard methods used in laboratories such as smear microscopy, bacteria culture tests and Genexpert - a rapid test for tuberculosis.

Joseph Soka, Programme Manager for TB at APOPO, said: "The sensitivity of these rats is as high as compared to microscopes and as compared to other tests, their sensitivity is independent of HIV status."

"That is, they can easily identify tuberculosis in people living with HIV, keeping in mind that these

people living with HIV, it is very difficult to be diagnosed by the standard test, including Genexpert in microscopes."

APOPO is already known for training rats to find landmines but training them to detect TB was new territory when they adopted the programme back in 2008.

Now the animals work in 21 medical centres in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam as they are thought to be faster at detecting the illness than standard methods.

Many developing countries heavily rely on old TB detection techniques that entail the use

of microscopes to examine the sputum of potentially infected patients. Dhaval Shah, veterinary pathologist at Pathologists Lancet Kenya, said rats can speed up the process.

"So, the conventional laboratory techniques can take anywhere from two hours to even 14 days per sample, depending on what technique you use," he said. "While the rats will be able to complete testing of fifty samples within two hours and this would be ideal in far places or remote places like Mozambique or places in Mozambique which are rural."

According to the WHO, TB claimed the lives of 1.6 million people in 2021 including 187,000 people with HIV. The disease is the 13th leading cause of death globally and the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19.

The WHO estimates that in 2018, 162,000 people (551 cases per 100,000 people) contracted tuberculosis in Mozambique. The figures highlight the need for a speedy, reliable and affordable technique to detect the TB causing bacteria.

It is hoped the use of rats might do away with the need for time-consuming microscope testing.



Community Hands Foundation director Paul Makoe (seated 2nd-R) and trainers, who are conducting an education programme on leadership and self-awareness in Dar es Salaam, have a happy recess (in between sessions) together with students of at Ubungo's Bethesda Girls' Secondary School at the weekend. This is a boarding school established chiefly to provide secondary education to orphans and vulnerable girls in Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

## WFP welcomes funding from US to support Rwanda refugees

KIGALI

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has welcomed a contribution of \$7.2 million from the United States (through USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance) to provide life-saving food assistance in the form of cash transfers and treatment for malnutrition including social and behavioural change initiatives for

113,500 refugees living in all five camps in Rwanda. "This contribution from the United States comes at a time when we need it most. With the recent arrival of over 100 new refugees every day from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and rising costs of food, energy and transport, refugees are now, more than ever in need of assistance to enable them to progress towards self-reliance,"

said Ahmaren Karim, WFP's Acting Country Director in Rwanda. WFP uses cash transfers to empower people with choice to address their essential needs in local markets, while also helping to boost local economies. Despite this generous funding, WFP is still not able to provide full rations to meet the minimum food requirements for

refugees in Rwanda. WFP, in partnership with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, introduced a needs-based targeting approach in May 2021 - a system under which refugees are given food rations according to their levels of vulnerability. Due to funding shortfalls, the most vulnerable refugees currently receive 92 percent of a full ration and those deemed moderately

vulnerable receive 46 percent of a full ration. This ensures that the most vulnerable refugees are prioritized for food assistance while the least vulnerable refugees are supported to become more self-reliant. This contribution is in addition to \$9.5 million received from the United States in 2022 in support of WFP's refugee operations in Rwanda.



Iringa Urban legislator Jesca Msambatavangu (R) airs her views at a one-day seminar for members of the Parliamentary Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee and representatives of various councils on the impending Land Tenure Improvement Project. The project is primarily meant to strengthen the national land administration system and increase tenure security in selected areas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Rallies: Chadema holds first rally, ACT hints at Dar start

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will start with Dar es Salaam on February 18, followed by Unguja, Pemba, Tanga, Tabora, Kigoma, Lindi and Coast regions, alongside the Selous, as a region in ACT statutes. They will be focused on various agenda including living conditions and democratic reforms, he said, noting that the party's central committee has instructed that the rallies should also be used to reiterate to the public what the party promised in its 2020 election manifesto. "ACT will analyse various challenges facing the country, how the leaders have failed to solve them and show alternative policies of ACT Wazalendo to address the challenges," he declared.

The ACT rallies will involve the launching of a new party slogan in the Dar es Salaam event and on February 25 in Zanzibar, he said.

Chadema issued its rallying cry right away in the Mwanza rally, where the chairman said the leading slogan is "no hate, no fear." It will drive the party's political activity up to the next general election, he stated stressing that the principal goals for Chadema remain a new constitution and an independent electoral commission. ACT promised details on a second phase of meetings sooner, "to ensure that we reach all regions."

The once-dominant opposition Civic United Front (CUF) issued a statement after a meeting of its general council affirming that party chairman Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba said in his opening speech that "failure to have an independent electoral commission will put the country in serious trouble," the reports indicated.

# Intra-EAC-trade to hit \$15bn mark in 2023 - says Ngalula

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) is targeting \$15 billion mark in the intra-regional-trade in 2023, should the current political goodwill prevails.

EABC chairperson Angelina Ngalula said this at the weekend in a statement made in her New Year message. She said that the business community is upbeat to grow the intra-EAC-trade by leaps and bounds.

She said in 2022 the trading bloc witnessed the intra-EAC-trade grew to historic \$10 billion mark, up from \$9.5 billion in 2021, courtesy of the political goodwill from the leaders of the EAC member countries.

"Last year we saw deeper political goodwill from the EAC partner states leaders in expediting the growth of intra-EAC trade. Should the trend prevail in 2023, surely business community would attain the \$15 billion mark," Ngalula said.

The political goodwill prompted the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) hampering intra-regional trade such as the easing of Covid-19 restrictions to allow free movement of goods, capital and labour within the trading bloc and admission of the DRC Congo into the EAC, driving the intra-regional-trade surge.

The EAC data indicate that the intra-EAC trade, accounting for imports and exports in the seven EAC partner states, surged from 13 per cent in 2019 at a value of \$7.1 billion to 15 per cent in 2021 at a value of \$9.5 billion. By September 2022, the EAC trade value was at \$10.17 billion representing 20 per cent share of intra-trade to global trade.

Formal figures show that the EAC's total trade with the rest of

the world stood at \$62 billion in the period under review.

Ngalula who is Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairperson said that this year the EABC will engage the chair of the summit of the EAC Heads of State to enhance food security, strengthen the integration of regional supply chains, eliminate non-tariff barriers, restrictions to the free movement of services, double taxation, open skies, telecommunications, and infrastructure development to boost the expansion of businesses across EAC borders.

"A pre-heads of state summit consultation and presentation of memoranda of private sector policy priorities to the EAC Council of Ministers during the high-level summit on common market protocol were among the EABC milestones achieved in 2022," explained, EABC

Seven out of ten EABC policy priorities were adopted in the Communiqué of the EAC council of ministers on common market protocol.

Yet another breakthrough was the adoption of 35 per cent as the fourth band of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) by the EAC Partner States.

Indeed, since 1st July 2022, imports of goods such as meat, furniture, and textiles from non-EAC countries, have been attracting a tariff of 35 per cent, Ngalula said, stressing that the idea behind this is to protect local production and spur regional industrialisation.

It is understood that CET is one of the key instruments under the customs union pillar, which justifies regional integration through uniform treatment of goods imported from third parties.



Works and Transport deputy minister Atupele Mwakibete (in tie) exchanges greetings with former Tanzania Truck Owners Association chairperson Angelina Ngalula (now Tanzania Private Sector Foundation and EABC chairperson) at the association's 7th annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, as vice chairman Rahim Dossa looks on. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EABC in partnership with COMESA and SADC business councils has launched the African Tripartite Business Council to spearhead the inclusion of private sector proposals into the negotiations of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and the African Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

EABC in partnership with the

EAC organised a trade mission to the DRC Congo under the leadership of the EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki.

"It's the EABC commitment to cement partnerships with the Federation of Enterprises of the Congo (FEC) to boost trade ties," Ngalula said.

EABC chief was grateful to Coca-Cola Africa and Equity Bank Ltd, de-

velopment partners such as Trade-mark East Africa (TMEA), German Development Cooperation led by GIZ- Support East African Market Driven and People-Centered Integration (SEAMPEC) project, Business Scouts for Development, Afreximbank and International Trade Centre (ITC) for being supportive to the regional business apex body.

# Govt, Swiss to open centre for organic agriculture in Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Agriculture ministry is finalising processes to sign a vital Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Swiss Aid Tanzania in readiness to open a special excellence centre for organic agriculture in Bihawana area, Mbabala ward in Dodoma city.

The envisaged crucial development in the country's biological farming system sector was unveiled over the weekend in Dodoma by Obadia Kamea, head of legal services unit at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The robust initiative came to light during the 8th annual general meeting of the Tanzania Organic

Agriculture Movement (TOAM) held in the city, attracting key agro-ecology stakeholders, pundits as well as farmers from different regions across the country.

Kamea, in his opening remarks said the parent ministry is keen, and it was further working round the clock to ensure smooth metamorphosis of the sector, through joint efforts from the private sector. "We have earmarked at least 5 hectares in Bihawana area for the specific purpose to develop a professional and excellence centre for organic agricultural undertakings, the facility to be used by the farmers to acquire biological farming practices, but also, the hub will be used as a useful benchmark for them to evaluate

their performance," Kamea added.

Realising the importance of organic agriculture in the country, he said the government continues to draft and implement a series of varied strategies meant to improve performance of organic agriculture, targeting to heighten production and productivity, among others.

"We are currently working to revitalise and rectify several policies, including those pertaining to seeds. Among others, we're focusing on identifying and improving the quality declared seeds (QDS) varieties for both conventional and organic farming," he detailed.

The official insisted that the parent ministry will continue to stand firm to iron out all hiccups that tend

to derail and upset efforts by indigenous organic farmers to realize enough crop yields, but also in accessing the necessary agro inputs, including bio-pesticides, organic fertiliser and others.

Apart from hailing TOAM for excellence performance, he challenged the movement to develop a vast countrywide organic forum, one that will further help to accelerate awareness over importance of the environmental friendly farming system across the country, and in East Africa at large.

"Organic farming is useful for both, food security and safety and the country has been endowed with potential agro-climatic zones that support biological farming and thus

what is needed most is to lobby for more support from both the public and private sector," he added.

In further efforts to improve the sector, he said the government has developed meaningful policies and strategies, including the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II), the 2017 Climate -Smart Agricultural Guideline

"Later on this year, we're expecting to embark on the effective implementation of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy, the eight-year initiative which has been coordinated by the ministry of agriculture to further create awareness over organic agriculture among local farmers

and relevant stakeholders," he said.

TOAM chief executive officer, Bakari Mongo said the movement was well prepared to continue fuelling a pace of biological agriculture among the local farmers across the country.

"After passing through some tough years, TOAM is currently roaring back with a series of strategic plans to assure Tanzania become an important hub for agro-ecology across East and Central Africa," he stated.

He added, there's increased demand for organically produced food items in the world, the -mesmerizing economic trend which has equally unlocked varied opportunities that ought to be effectively grasped by Tanzanian farmers.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

# Minister presents ICT kits to Iwambi primary school

DEPUTY minister for Water, Eng Maryprisca Mahundi presented information and communication technology (ICT) tools to Iwambi primary school in Mbeya city to support teaching and learning as well as printing of tests and examinations.

The deputy minister who also doubles as Special Seats MP in Mbeya handed over a printer and a computer which the school was in dire need of the tools.

According to her, the handing over of the tools is the implementation of the promise which she made last year when she participated in a tree planting exercise at the school in collaboration with the Iwambi Active Group.

She said that the government has been spending a lot of funds to improve delivery of education which include improving infrastructures and financing fee-free education.

"As an MP, I will ensure that I work hard to support the development of the sector so as to ensure that we produce enough and competent experts including doctors, teachers, engineers and others in the agriculture sector to push the country's development," he said.

Mahundi however wanted citizens to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan in implementation of various development projects which include water, education, roads, health and other key sectors.

Elijah Kasanga, the

school head teacher appreciated the MP for supporting them with the tools which are going to support record management as well as printing of examinations.

"We will no longer spend time and money printing examinations and tests outside the school, these tools donated will support us and help address various learning and teaching challenges. It was so hard for us printing documents outside the school because some of the documents needed secrecy but we had no way," he said.

Iwambi ward education officer, Gilbert Kasebele said many schools in the ward are facing various challenges that affect teaching and learning progress.

"We still need to equip our school with tools that facilitate smooth learning and teaching, but we cannot do this alone without support from stakeholders," he said.

Humphrey Ngalawa, Iwambi ward councillor commended Engineer Mahundi for the support and called her to continue remembering the school and other areas in need.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE



Alliance Life Assurance Ltd would like to notify the General public that **Ms. Anne Michael Mushi** is no longer working for the Company effective **20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**. The company will not be bound or Liable and will not accept any liability arising from any business transactions conducted by her after **20<sup>th</sup> August 2021**.



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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2023

### 1. Background and project description

The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP), Baltimore USA, receives funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania project to implement social and behaviour change (SBC) interventions.

The Tanzania Breakthrough ACTION is a social and behavior change (SBC) project, designed to increase the practice of priority health behaviours and enable positive social norms, including gender norms, for improved health and development outcomes, with an emphasis on family planning/ reproductive health (FP/RH), HIV, maternal, new-born, and child health (MNCH), malaria, and zoonotic diseases.

The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs wishes to identify and enlist reputable and registered suppliers and service providers to go through the prequalification process and those selected will be engaged as potential pre-qualified suppliers and service providers on various supplies and services for Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania contract services for the year 2023 (i.e., February 2023, to December 31, 2023) for the following categories:

Request For Proposal #	Item Description
RFP 0001-2023	Hosting, Designing and Maintenance of Social Behavior Change Monitoring System
RFP 0002-2023	Mid Media /Community Theater Events
RFP 0003-2023	Printing Services
RFP 0004-2023	Accommodation services
RFP 0005-2023	Conference services
RFP 0006-2023	Creative Agency and Graphic Design Services
RFP 0007-2023	Event management and public relations services
RFP 0008-2023	Development/Updating of Guides, Strategies and Standard Operating Procedures
RFP 0009-2023	Mass Media and Social Media Monitoring
RFP 0010-2023	Omnibus Survey
RFP 0011-2023	Procure and Place Out of Home (OOH) materials
RFP 0012-2023	Mass Media & Social Media Design and Implementation

### 2. Application Requirements

Interested applicants may request a full RFP document. To [infotvca@jh.edu](mailto:infotvca@jh.edu) and the deadline for requesting the RFP document is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 5 pm**. The deadline for application submission will be on **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at 5:00pm (17:00hrs)**.



Emmanuel Mwandambo (L), a resident engineer with Tanroads Engineering Consulting Units (TECU) based at the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, takes former ministerial permanent secretaries around the site of the project at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Malawi runs out of cholera vaccine amid its worst epidemic in decades

LILONGWE

MALAWI'S worst cholera epidemic in decades has sparked massive demand for vaccines but stocks are reportedly running low.

According to the spokesperson for the Malawi's Health Ministry - Adrian Chikumbe, the country has no more cholera vaccines.

Malawi secured a tranche of 2.9 million doses from the Gavi-supported Global Oral Cholera Vaccine Stockpile in November.

The country's 29 health districts reported cholera cases since the confirmation of the first case in March 2022.

As of January 20, Malawi's health authorities reported a total of 631 new cases of cholera; 17 new deaths.

The cumulative confirmed cases and deaths reported since the onset of the outbreak stood at 28,132

and 916 respectively.

In its daily update, the health ministry urged all Malawians to adhere to preventive and containment measures.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease spread via contaminated water and food which can cause severe dehydration. It is a bacterial disease that affects both children and adults.

If left untreated, up to 30% of cholera cases can be fatal and in extreme cases, the disease can kill within hours.

If Malawi is the epicentre of the African epidemic, cholera is surging globally.

In December, the World Health Organization said the global stockpile of cholera vaccines it helps manage was 'empty or extremely low'.

## Record management company gets ISO credit in quality and information security

By Getrude Mbago

A record management company, Top Archive EA Limited has been certified by the ISO 9001 for consistently providing services that meet and exceed both the customer and regulatory requirements.

The award certifications include ISO 9001:2015 in quality management systems and ISO 27001:2013 in information security management systems.

Speaking during the event to celebrate the milestone achievement in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Epafra Kimario, the company's archive and cataloguing manager said that the ISO recognition demonstrates that the company follows best practice on the management of data to avoid security breaches and cyber-attacks.

"Our principle is to enable small, medium, and large-scale businesses to be competitive and

productive in this digital age, by leveraging the highest standard, world-class record storage facilities and information management solutions in order to streamline record storage and management, and quick access to relevant business documents and information," he noted.

He said that Top Archive EA Limited has been in operation in Tanzania since August 2015 and later acquired shares of RI Management Ltd. in 2020. The com-

pany was established in Tanzania and Nigeria after the success in Ghana which was incorporated in May 2010, and is currently the market leader in all three countries.

Sophia Tendega, the company's operations manager said Top Archive provides a comprehensive range of services related to archiving and document management to several clients across all private sectors in the country.

"These services include solu-

tions for physical and digital archiving with a variety of software solutions for management of electronic documents and additional services such as implementation of archiving policies and staff training on archiving and document management. In addition, the company provides secure destruction of documents beyond their retention period as well as logistics services for storage and mobilisation of equipment, furniture, and stationery."

She said the ability to maintain the above standards and continually improve on the same are monitored on a regular basis and recertification is subject to Top Archive EA Limited meeting the standard requirements.

Sophia assured clients and Tanzanians in general that the staff and management of Top Archive EA Limited will endeavour to continually innovate to surpass industry trends and expectations.



ACT-Wazalendo Secretary General Ado Shaibu (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on resolutions by the opposition party's central committee as endorsed after a meeting held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Inabi Nathaniel

## 'These Dar residents were found with elephant tusks'

By Correspondent Zuena Shame

A witness with the police force, Sergeant Beatus, has explained before Kisutu Magistrate Resident Court how he set a trap at Mbezi Msigani on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam and managed to arrest three residents with 30 pieces of elephant tusks.

Accused in the ivory trafficking case are Kefas Mlenzi, Juma Mfali and Greyson Muhapa, all are allegedly accused of trafficking 30 pieces of tusks worth 239,505,000/- without permit from the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority.

Sergeant Beatus explained the case of brought for another hearing on Friday before Kisutu Principal Magistrate Richard Kabate.

Led by State Attorney, Ashura Mnzava, witness Sergeant Beatus, claimed that on June 28, 2018 while on patrol he and two other police officers around 8 pm they received information from a Good Samaritan that there were three people trafficking ivory tusks waiting for customers.

"Soon after we received the information, me and one wildlife officer, Gumbo went to Mbezi Msigani while communicating with our fellows who were around the crime scene led by Corporal Majaliwa and our driver, Khalfan," claimed Sergeant Beatus.

He said that after reaching the area they managed to arrest three

people with a black bag and a white bag loaded with tusks.

Beatus told the court that after arresting them, they inspected them to ensure that if the information received was true where they found 13 pieces of ivory tusks inside the bag.

Inside the white bag, Beatus told the court that they found 17 pieces of ivory tusks.

"After that I counted the pieces of ivory tusks and marked," he said.

He claimed that after finishing all procedures, they packed the ivory tusks and took the accused to Stakishari police station.

The Principal Resident Magistrate, Kabate adjourned the case until February 3, this year and the suspects were taken into police custody.



**In order to achieve SADC engagement we can learn from other regional integrations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Union and the French Agricultural Union on Agricultural Subsidies and Tariffs and**

## Chaula urges women, youth to explore credit

By Guardian Reporter

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Zainab Chaula, has urged women and young people to take advantage of the loan opportunities provided by councils so as to strengthen themselves economically.

Dr Chaula made the remarks over the weekend when speaking shortly after visiting the GSI Tanzania Limited that deals with the provision of barcode services to Tanzanian brands in Dar es Salaam.

She said women and young people have

a reason to be excited about the loans along with the services provided by GSI Tanzania to empower themselves economically.

"Women and young people are encouraged to take loans issued by councils—4% to women and 4% to young people and 2% to the disabled because it will help them to strengthen themselves economically and thus get rid of poverty," said Dr Chaula.

The PS called on women to use the loans for empowering themselves economically and not for things that are not intended.

Dr Chaula also expressed her satisfaction with the service of the GSI Tanzania

for being at the forefront of raising entrepreneurs in the country and urged the institute to continue providing education to Tanzanians on the importance of Barcodes in Business. "I am really satisfied with the service provided by this institution by providing line numbers that are Barcodes which will help traders to be sure of their products to sell domestically and abroad. I would like to give my opinion to them to continue providing education to Tanzanians about the use of Barcodes and its benefits," said Dr Chaula.

Fatma Kange, GSI Tanzania, Chief Executive Officer said that the company has been

insistence for the past 12 and will continue to work closely with all institutions to ensure that they help the small entrepreneur to reach foreign markets along with being recognized for loans to talk about employment and income for the government

She said: "Until now, a total of 5000 companies have been given barcodes to use on their products make the number of products reach more than 46,000 that are in the market so far that use the services of GSI Tanzania Barcodes and our goals are to reach 10000 companies by the year 2024."

Kange said GSI Tanzania redefines itself

in delivering services to Tanzanians and bringing about major events that contribute positively to the development of the country's economy.

"It is time for Tanzanians to identify themselves to know what GSI Tanzania is doing. We are grateful to the government through its Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade, which has continued to support us in solving the challenges we faced in order to reach the goals we have set for ourselves, including helping Tanzanian producers to find strategic foreign markets in parallel and recognizing them for loans," said Kange.

# Tamwa advises govt to boost fights against GBV and VAC

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) has tasked the government to increase efforts in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) incidents so that justice can be done and timely.

Despite the fight against GBV and violence against children (VAC) actions are still ongoing, but the level of access to justice is still low.

The Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar has recently released a report for 2022 where it has mentioned the reporting of 1360 incidents in the police stations.

The report explains that only 181 incidents equal to 13 per cent were reported guilty, when many crimes are still in police stations and some are in the courts and in some cases, the accused have been released and in others no actions have been taken, when other suspects were not found.

"Therefore, there is a great need to intensify efforts in managing these events in all stages so that the search for justice for the victims can make sense more," said TAMWA-Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa

"We advise the relevant institutions as well as the people not to cancel the case for any reason because GBV and VAC cases are cases against the country and not against a person or family," she said.

According to her, in order to facilitate access to justice, the government needs to strengthen the systems so that the case is heard in one place and a judgment is obtained where the evidence law number 9 of 2016 in section 66 has given the opportunity to hear the case electronically.

"As the report explained, many children are the ones who have been affected in this way, along with obtaining justice, it is good for the victims to be given a sufficient level of psychological support so that the saying of leaving no one behind can be achieved in Zanzibar," Dr Mzuri said in a statement.

She however commended all responsible institutions for the achievement made including OCGS for releasing information that will be vital in the fight against GBV and VAC.



Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (4th-R), who is also a Mbeya Region Special Seats legislator, pictured in Mbeya at the weekend presenting IT equipment and supplies to Iwambi Primary School teachers for use by the school. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

## 'Dodoma dealers sabotage production of sunflower seeds'

EFFORTS by the government to boost production of sunflower seeds to curtail shortage of edible oil in the country are facing serious hiccups as some agro-dealers sabotage the established subsidised seeds system.

The demand for edible oil in Tanzania is projected to shoot up and reach 700,000 metric tons by the year 2030 whereby the currently production stands at only 290,000 MT, compelling the country to annually importing another 420,000MT to satisfy the local market demand

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year the government directed the Tanzania Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA)

to multiply enough of improved sunflower record seeds to be sold to farmers at affordable subsidised prices, target being to ensure more farmers to access the seeds to improve crop yields.

Under the directives, ASA sells packages of the subsidised seeds to its agents at wholesale prices of 4,500/- per kilogramme, whereas the retail required to charge 5,000/- per kilogramme.

But in contravention to the government's good intentions, most of the seed dealers across the country are marketing the subsidised seeds at unauthorised prices, with those

in Dodoma city appearing to be at forefront in taking advantage of the farmer's craving for quality seeds by selling the same at rip-off prices.

Over the weekend, top management of ASA's officials, led by the agency's CEO, Dr Sophia Kashenge, conducted a special impromptu crackdown to all seed dealers' shops in the city, the fruitful exercise which found nearly all dealers sabotaging the subsidised sunflower seeds system.

She said: "Early last week, we terminated the contract and arrested our only Dodoma-based monopoly kernel agent, Wema Agrovet after finding her marketing the state sub-

sidised sunflower seeds at unauthorised prices. But after a few days we received some shocking news that most dealers are continuing to parasitize the farmers by selling the crucial seeds at legal prices and thus, we decided to come here to put the unpatriotic habit to an end."

During the exercise, at least three seed sellers, from DM Agrovet, CM Agrovet and Blessing Agrotech were nabbed by police for special interrogation over implication in the malpractice. At the central police post, the dealers alleged to have purchased the seeds from one, Junis Mollel, an unidentified and unofficial

seed dealer who is allegedly to run his services under the carpet.

"He is the one who supplies these seeds at all seed shops within the City, and normally comes to collect his money at night," expressed one among the arrested seed dealers.

They said the distributor was selling to them the seeds packages from ASA without subsidised price stickers, only comprising the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) stickers. "There's no way we can remain comfortable until we wipe out this 'discouraging' spate. The government has spent a lot of money to subsidize the seeds and

thus, marketing them at high prices at the expense of farmer's thirst is serious venom which should be fought day and night," insisted Dr Kashenge.

She appealed to farmers across the country as well as individual well-wishers to report in case of being sold the seeds at inappropriate prices, detailed. She said that a 2 kilos package of sunflower record seed should be sold at 10,000/-.

ASA coordinator for the provision of subsidised sunflower seed varieties, Benjamin Mfupe said the agency is mulling to extend its services in Dodoma in the near future, saying the move is anticipated to help fuel a war against unpatriotic seed dealers.



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## Expression of Interest

### The United Nations World Food Programme seeks Milling Companies, that can provide milling services in Tanzania.

The United Nations World Food Programme is updating its Milling Services shortlists and is inviting applications from registered grain (maize and sorghum) milling facilities Millers who are interested and capable to provide these services:

1. Miller must own the milling facility registered in the company name and indicate the daily working hours capacity (MT/day).
2. Miller must have a good internal control measures in place to ensure the quality of the milled products along with the technical staff required to run and monitor the operations.
3. Miller must have the capacity to do fortification if required or requested.
4. Miller must have an adequate holding or storage capacity for grain stock before and after milling.
5. The ideal location for the milling facilities should be in Dodoma town (most preferred), Kahama town and Kigoma.

Any grain Milling Company which is interested and capable of providing these services is requested to complete a WFP Milling Questionnaire (see below for details). Only companies which meet above-mentioned WFP's criterias need reply to this Expression of Interest:

- Milling company must be fully registered with all relevant Tanzanian Governmental departments and has all required licenses.
- Milling company, as well as its employees must not be blacklisted by any UN or non-UN organization.

If your Milling company meets these criteria and wishes to be considered for provision of these Milling services in Tanzania, you must submit the below documentation via email by close of business day of the **30th of January 2023** to [Mohammed.KHALIFA@wfp.org](mailto:Mohammed.KHALIFA@wfp.org) and [Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org](mailto:Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org)

1- A completed WFP Questionnaire (please contact [Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org](mailto:Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org) or [Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org](mailto:Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org) to obtain a copy).

2- A copy of the company Commercial registration, Certificate of Incorporation, a copy of the most recent audit report, a copy of Bank letter that shows your company's account information.

**This announcement is not a tender and rates are not being requested at this stage.** Accordingly, please note that neither this Expression of Interest nor the receipt of completed questionnaires binds the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to any such interested parties. **Following assessment of applications, WFP reserves the right to accept or reject your interest to be included in WFP's service provider's shortlist, without any further clarification.**

Please note that WFP does not charge fees from applicants at any stage of the Milling Services shortlisting process.

Queries, strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to: [Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org](mailto:Mohammed.Khalifa@wfp.org) or [Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org](mailto:Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org)



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## Expression of Interest

### The United Nations World Food Programme in Tanzania Seeks a Warehouse Facilities in Dodoma and surrounding areas.

WFP Tanzania seeks to identify warehouse facilities in **Dodoma and surrounding areas**. The warehouse Facility will mainly be used for the storage of food and commodities and some non-food items, which should ideally meet the following requirements:

- Very good condition without any major repairs required.
- A good accessible location, Near a main roadway and preferably accessible to railway.
- Fitted with Fire detectors; Ablution amenities; main Water and Electricity power from national supply.
- Secured by a surrounding fence, equipped with a gate and proper lightings.
- **Minimum size required, in terms of covered storage area**, is no less than **5,000 SQM** and can at least hold up to **10,000 MT of food commodities** with an adequate open area for trucks to turn, manoeuvring and park.

Any interested party/ies in possession of a warehouse facility that fit the description in or around Dodoma City should respond to this expression of interest, as WFP may require such facilities soon.

WFP invites qualified landlords, who own such facilities, to submit their information (as detailed below) for consideration for short listing.

1. Proof of ownership/**Title deed** (certified)
2. Certificate of **incorporation or commercial registration**.
3. Land and structure **blueprint**, pictures of the facility and **Google coordinates** of the Warehouse location.

Please submit requested information to WFP no later than 4pm, **30th January 2023** at the address listed below:

Please note that this is **not an invitation to tender**. No rates/prices are required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies who expressed their interest. This expression of interest may be followed by a visit, inspection of facility and offices.

Please note that WFP does not charge any fee for registration forms.

**WFP Tanzania Logistics Unit**  
113 Ada Estates, Kinondoni, Burundi Street, Mwindu Lane,  
P.O. Box: 77778, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

By email to: [Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org](mailto:Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org) and [Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org](mailto:Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org)

Queries strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to [Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org](mailto:Mohammed.khalifa@wfp.org) and [Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org](mailto:Clementina.mapunda@wfp.org)

## Museveni issues order to ban travel abroad for MPs and govt servants

KAMPALA

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni issued a directive against travelling abroad for government officials, Members of Parliament and civil servants.

The president made this directive during the commission of the Uganda Petroleum Institute Kigumba (UPIK) over the weekend.

According to the President, there is so much that needs to be done and needs money, but such money is being wasted on useless ventures like travel abroad.

He said the government should plan well and prioritise investing in lucrative projects that will generate billions of dollars for the country in a few years to come.

"Your ancestors had the technology where they got a small quantity of sour milk then added it to a gourd full of fresh milk and within a few hours, all of it would be sour. So really this is a concept of planning. We need a small 'sour milk' to get all this big resource turned into money in our pockets," he stated.

"Therefore, even if we are to spend \$50 million, 60 or even \$100 million to make Kigumba Petroleum Institute a world-class training centre, we shall do it. We have the money. Yes, we have got very many needs, some want money to eat. We can constrain that. We can say stop trav-

elling. Tell the civil servants, the MPs, the politicians to stop travelling abroad; money is being wasted in external travel and here Kigumba is crying for money," he added.



**Your ancestors had the technology where they got a small quantity of sour milk then added it to a gourd full of fresh milk and within a few hours, all of it would be sour. So really this is a concept of planning. We need a small "sour milk" to get all this big resource turned into money in our pockets**



Manyara regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere (in black hat and sunglasses) shares a light moment with teachers and students of Mirerani's Benjamin Mkapa Secondary School at the weekend as he followed up the enrolment of new (Form I) students. Left is Simanjiro district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera and right is school's headmaster, Samwel Kaitira. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## 8 suspects in court charged with illegal trafficking of 116 turtles

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

EIGHT suspects including Sargent Cosmas Ndomba from the Tanzania Peoples Defence Forces (JWTF) appeared before Kisutu Residents Magistrate's Court on Friday facing three charges including illegal trafficking of 116 turtles.

The charges were read by State Attorney, Yusuph Aboud before

Kisutu Principal Resident Magistrate, Rhoda Ngimilanga.

Apart from Sargent Ndomba, other suspects are Joseph Moyo, Deogratius Lugeng'a, Hamza Abdallah and MT 88046 Kassim Abdullah, a security officer from the Tanzania Airport Authority (TAA).

Others are Nkanamuli Mgaza, TAA officer, Stephano Chedego and Mwaluko Ngomole. In the first

count the suspects are alleged to organise and lead a criminal gang.

Aboud claimed that the accused committed the crime on January 3rd 2022 at different areas within Dar es Salaam and that with bad intentions, they sponsored a criminal gang to purchase, collect and sold 116 turtles worth 18m /- illegally and without permit from wildlife conservation authority.

In the second count, it was alleged that on the same date the suspects illegally purchased and sold government properties which are 116 turtles.

In the third count, it was alleged that in July 3rd last year, at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, all accused persons colluded to export the said turtles without permit

from relevant authorities.

The accused were ordered not to respond to any of the charges because Kisutu Resident Magistrates Court has no jurisdiction to hear economic sabotage cases.

Defence lawyer, Nemiah Nkoko, appealed to the court to grant bail to his clients since it has powers to do so in accordance with the laws. However, Principal Resident

Magistrate Ngimilanga told the court that the request from the defence side was received, stating that the court will go through the mentioned law articles and will later on provide bail procedures to be followed by the suspects.

Their suspects were taken back to custody until January 23rd 2023 when the case will come up for another mention.



Dr Dio Woiso (L, gesturing), a project advisor with the Morogoro-based Sokoine University of Agriculture, pictured yesterday briefing the Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Khamis Hamza Chilo (4th-L), during an inspection visit to a project meant to combat the impact of climate change. It is being implemented at Ntoba in Nzega District, Tabora Region. Photo: VPO

## Insurance firm unveils two health schemes targeting elderly, children

By Guardian Reporter

JUBILEE Health Insurance has unveiled two health schemes that are specifically designed to cover elderly and children.

The products dubbed 'J Care Senior' and 'J Care Junior' are targeting the elderly aged at least 61 and the children whose age range from zero to 17 years.

Jubilee Health Insurance executive director, Dr Harold Adamson, said the two products were introduced in response to customer demands and will support the government's universal health coverage (UHC).

"We believe these products are going to solve some health insurance challenges in our society by covering these special groups that have been neglected for a long time," he said, adding that Jubilee was the first company to introduce such services.

He said the company supports the efforts of the government its Universal Health Insurance agenda.

According to him, 'J Care Senior' is designed for the senior citizens from 61 years and above. The cover includes health screening, lifestyle management programme and health clubs for the elderly.

On the other hand, 'J Care Junior' covers all children including those with underlying conditions such as sickle cell and cardiac issues.

The government is preparing a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) law with the Bill expected to be read in Parliament for the second time on January 31, 2023, with the new arrangement expected to come into effect on July 1.

## Mbeya police conduct general city cleanliness

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have organised a clean-up campaign in the city of to protect residents from infectious diseases including cholera.

At the weekend, more than 200 police personnel were posted all over the city including areas with huge assemblies of people for general cleanliness to mark Police and Community Day.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Benjamin Kuzafa said the cleanliness campaign is part of directives from the Inspector Gen-

eral of Police (IGP), Camillus Wambura.

He said apart from cleaning city areas, they also aimed to beef up their cooperation with the community in various issues in regard to security.

He added that they planned to clean water drainages, cut grass and bushes as well as cleaning up public places including bus stands, market places and health centres.

"Our aim is to show the example to the community so that they also fully participate in these chores, we are today doing so on the IGP's instructions, but we are also ready to work together with the com-

munity to do such cleaning work once a month," said RPC Kuzaga.

He added that the police are among institutions that produce waste hence it is part of their responsibility to participate in its disposal to them as well.

Mbeya district commissioner, Dr Rashid Chuachua, who launched the cleanliness campaign showered praise on the police for turning up in big numbers and called on other public institutions to emulate police.

He thanked the country's IGP for issuing the instructions to the police to do

community work in his district.

Dr Chuachus also called on Mbeya residents to work together with committees established in their areas for the supervision of cleanliness in order to make sure the City of Mbeya becomes clean city.

"I also call on Mbeya City Councillors to continue supervise cleanliness programmes in their areas, as cleanliness is among their priority for our City, we have already issued to them the directives, what is now required is implementation"; said DC Chuachua.

Head of waste disposal control for Mbeya City, Nimrod Kapoloza said the City Council had abandoned high expenditure in using vehicles to dispose waste as the procedure was costly.

He said the procedure contributed to piles of refuse in various areas of the city due to low disposal capacity, adding that the challenge was contributed by the shortage of vehicles for refuse disposal.

He added that after introducing the new procedure for every ward to depend on itself, the issue of cleanliness has started to improve.

## Germany offers to return 1,000 human skulls to former East African colonies

BERLIN

THE Berlin Museum Authority has announced that it is ready to return hundreds of human skulls from former colonies of German in East Africa, after studying the remains to establish to which present-day countries they belong.

Scientists examined 1,135 skulls at Berlin's Museum of Prehistory and Early History, assigning 904 to areas that are now part of Rwanda, 202 to Tanzania and 22 to Kenya.

German East Africa, established in the 1880s and broken up after the end of World War I in 1918, included present-day Burundi, Rwanda, mainland Tanzania and part of Mozambique.

According to Hermann Parzinger, president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which oversees many of Berlin's museums: "We are ready for immediate restitution and are now waiting for signals from the countries of origin."

In a tweet, Parzinger also hailed the collaboration of Rwandan scholars, who searched local archives to try and pinpoint where the remains came from.

Skulls from burial sites and executions

The vast majority of the skulls originate from cemeteries and other burial sites, according to a statement by the foundation, but some were taken from executions carried out locally or by Germans.

The remains were part of a collection

of more than 6,000 skulls assembled by doctor and anthropologist Felix von Luschan during German colonial rule.

They were taken over by the Museum of Prehistory and Early History from Berlin's Charité hospital in 2011.

Improper storage had led to some of the skulls becoming damaged or mouldy, according to the museum's curator, Bernard Heeb, who's managing the project to research their provenance.

The first step was to clean and repair the remains, he said in 2017: "Today, all of the skulls are stored with the dignity they deserve."

The human remains were then examined and inventoried in a pilot project that Heeb said he hoped would "serve as a model for a general reassessment of colonial-era collections, not just the collection in Berlin".

Since 2011 Germany has been returning remains to Namibia of indigenous Herero and Nama people murdered by German colonial forces.

In recent years, pressure has grown to return human remains and artefacts that were pillaged by European colonialists.

Among the most famous are hundreds of the so-called Benin Bronzes, which were stolen by British colonial troops before ending up in museums across Europe and the United States.

Germany started returning its collection to Nigeria late last year following an agreement between Berlin and Abuja.



It's the 40th Diploma class graduation day at the Tabora Ardhi Institute, as found at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kijazi calls on lands graduates to invest in private sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Ministry for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has said it will continue to work together with planning, formalisation and surveying of land to make sure they continue to be utilised by experts from the land sector including new graduates who are yet to enter into the country's formal employment system.

Speaking here at the 40th Gradu-

ation of Tabora Ardhi Institute, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Allan Kijazi, said the ministry will look into the possibility of utilising some of the graduates in the planning, surveying and formalising of land in the grand land formalisation plan sponsored by the World Bank that will soon start in 41 local councils countrywide.

Dr Kijazi also called on the graduates to understand that the private sector has a great contribution in

reducing the unemployment challenge in the country and called on them to think of establishing companies because the government has been collaborating with private companies in various activities.

He added that there are still big opportunities in the land sector in the country, and the basic issue is how the graduates can invent these opportunities.

He also instructed Tabora Ardhi Institute to continue providing ad-

vice to students who graduate and should have a database to identify where they are even if they are employed. Responding to issues raised by students, Dr Kijazi said he will take up some of the issues to work on them and give decisions thereon as soon as possible.

In regard to the shortage of dormitories at the institute, Dr Kijazi called upon the Institute's management to work together with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to look

for another area for the construction of dormitories for students.

Earlier, in his statement, student's president, Alphonse Makingi cited the institutes' achievements as including graduates on short tasks at the Institute, changing of lands details from the analogue to digital system as provided by the Lands Ministry.

For his part, Prof Henry Mzale, a member of Tabora Land Institute Board who represented the Insti-

tute's Board, told the graduates that the board will be happy to see the Institute's achievements.

He said his Board congratulates the Institute's efforts to invest in improving its infrastructures, including the construction of classrooms and the library.

Meanwhile, Prof Mzale welcomed the graduates to the employment community and called on them to abide by professionalism and discipline.



Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), presents a certificate to the coordinator of the Re-greening Dodoma Programme from the Tanzania Forest Reserve Agency, Alexander Mboya, at a meeting held in Dodoma city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## RC instructs govt officials to hunt for Form I children who are not yet in school

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

KAGERA regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has instructed public officials from district down to village and street level to hunt from house to house all children who were selected to join Form I this year but have so far not reported to their respective schools.

Addressing reporters in his office at the weekend, Chalamila said for Kagera Region 59,324 students who were selected to join Form I, only 20,203 reported or 60 per cent of those selected.

"This means 23,730 students, or 40 per cent are in the streets, all public officials at all levels should collaborate in going from house to house to make sure all children who have not reported to school should do so before January 31, this year," said RC Chalamila.

He also said parents who will be found to prevent their children from reporting to school will face stern legal measures.

He said from now on, district commissioners are supposed to receive daily reports from heads of schools showing how many children have reported on any particular day at schools in their areas, as well as knowing reasons that make other children fail to report.

He also called on heads of schools to receive all children sent to schools by their parents without any obstacles, the same for those who will not have needed school items or contributions.

He cautioned of disciplinary steps against school heads who will place obstacles on children who report to their schools.

## Foundation brings together school-girls, urges them to study hard

By Guardian Reporter

SIXTY young girls who returned to school after dropping out due to various reasons were brought together in Dar es Salaam in a meeting meant to discuss challenges and encourage the group to study hard and achieve their intended goals.

The meeting was organised recently by Flaviana Matata Foundation (FMF) and

held at Turiani secondary school in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the session, TMF director Flaviana Matata said that the meeting was aimed to see how the girls are going on and discuss various issues as well as encourage them to stand on their dreams.

She commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for lifting the ban to allow girls to return to school after dropping out due to

various reasons. Flaviana said the foundation recognises challenges which the girls are going through especially after dropping out and coming back to school, that's why it was executing an initiative to support the girls and enable them to stay in school.

"Our aim is to ensure that all who agree to come to school, are supported and encouraged to focus on studies, they should go out of line but invest time and work to

attain their educational dreams," she said.

She wanted the young girls to recognise the value of the government's decision to lift the ban and allow pregnant girls to return to school after giving birth.

Halima Ngodu, one of the girls commended the foundation for bringing the girls together to discuss various issues and encourage them to focus on studies.

"We have learnt a lot of things in this

meeting as most of us stayed out of school for some years, there are a lot of challenges that we are facing when continuing with our studies but we have learned how to overcome them," she said.

Ngodu, however, called on the government to help them with challenges in buses as most of them are sometimes forced to pay adult fare due to differences in their identity cards.

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MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2023

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

## We need to take up benchmarks to attain credit expansion for AfCFTA

TOP officials of the African Union Commission are urging African governments to make greater efforts to facilitate access to capital and crowd-funding to support small and medium enterprises in Africa. The reason is that Africa needs a benchmark of fiscal and monetary policy and standards that create similar conditions across the zone, so that a number of multilateral guarantee funds for small and medium scale firms, and similar arrangements, work smoothly. Where such funds disbursed by international organisations and lending agencies relate only to the private sector, this kind of benchmarks is less important as such operations are more selective. But often they entail government credit guarantees to work.

Taking note of this issue, Mousa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the AU commission told a meeting of the commission, representatives of regional economic communities and strategic development partners lately that investment incentives and agro-sector subsidies are key to this quest, especially in relation to making sufficient use of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) mechanism. Most countries are since 2010 aware of the urgency of extending subsidies to agricultural production, though not all experiences were garlanded with roses.

Malawi had acute political instability after agro-subsidies worked and then other sections of society started to demand for their special needs to be financed, or felt ill at ease as some groups handsomely gained from subsidies or easy agro-sector lending, marketing.

For those who know something about fiscal and finally monetary policy, they realise that the issue isn't an excellent environment for everyone but optimising ability

to make use of big markets. That means some traditional concerns are put aside so that the strategic objectives are cushioned, for instance opening up the grain market pushes up the price of cereals in local markets, which leads to political undercurrents about 'excessive liberalisation.' At the same time it is the best way to enliven or motivate markets, when openness is irreversible.

So far AfCFTA is generally portrayed as an opportunity for vast markets for the goods we produce locally, especially when we have some strategic advantage for instance in food crops, and eventually some strategic products or services - given the country's strategic location. Yet the more important strategic significance of AfCFTA is that it creates rights to trade with others, or for them to trade with us in ways that box in the country's institutions to accept a market economy anchored in supranational or international institutions. Such rules would not be held hostage by changing whims or sentiments locally, whose role is trimmed.

So we need to tidy up financial sector regulation, including ability to lay-up and access collateral, as well as creating residential rights for those doing business in the country and entered the country legally.

We also have the Diaspora we need to enhance their rights as they are the most visible private sector outreach in the world market; when they feel that the situation is right to invest in large numbers or sink large amounts of capital, they will get partners to come here with them. Outside that bridge, getting sizeable investments is hard.

And they also have the reach to know the world market, regional markets, technology prices, etc and would naturally aspire to AfCFTA size of operations, just local super markets, etc.

## Experts have a vital role to play on use of intragastric balloon services

A BIT of excitement is in the air with the latest push by authorities at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Mloganzila branch that has launched intragastric balloon services. This is a medical procedure where an inflatable medical device is inserted into the stomach to eat less and reduce weight without surgery.

The hospital informs the public of the service designed for obese and overweight patients, where since its launching, there is an influx of inquiries, and of those actually seeking to take it up. So a treatment camp with the low output of three patients per day was put up from Friday to Monday January 23 to conduct some insertions.

There were still some loose ends in the sort of medical advisory that was coming up concerning the service, for instance if it isn't as invasive as surgery, why just three people can be served per say, and it is unclear how many in medical personnel the patients would be allocated for the day.

Again there is an issue of costs as to what the hospital would be asking from patients to conduct that sort of intervention, as it is somewhat akin to cosmetic surgery.

It is similarly unclear what kind of interviews are conducted with potential patients to find out those who are suited for such intervention and

those who would rather just stay away.

One can be excused to suggest that what hospital authorities were saying amounts to the idea that anyone can make use of gastric balloon insertion service, in like manner as health and state authorities campaign about vaccination, that it is safe.

But looking at the matter closely one sees elements of self-medication or cosmetic surgery even when actually inserted by acknowledged experts. And since it may not be freely administered and has potentially a wide market among those who have tidy amounts of cash to spare, their zeal can be high.

There is a rule in self-medication or seeking an optional medical procedure as in this case, that one has to do careful reading not just of 'directions' (how to use) but pay attention to 'counter indications' (when not to use such medication). As this aspect wasn't coming out forthrightly from what senior medical officials at MNH were saying, it was evident that a check on the subject for generally usable on-line medical advisories was appropriate, and the results weren't especially surprising. The procedure isn't just a simple get in, get out service.

The respective experts have a crucial part to play in 'selling' the procedure.

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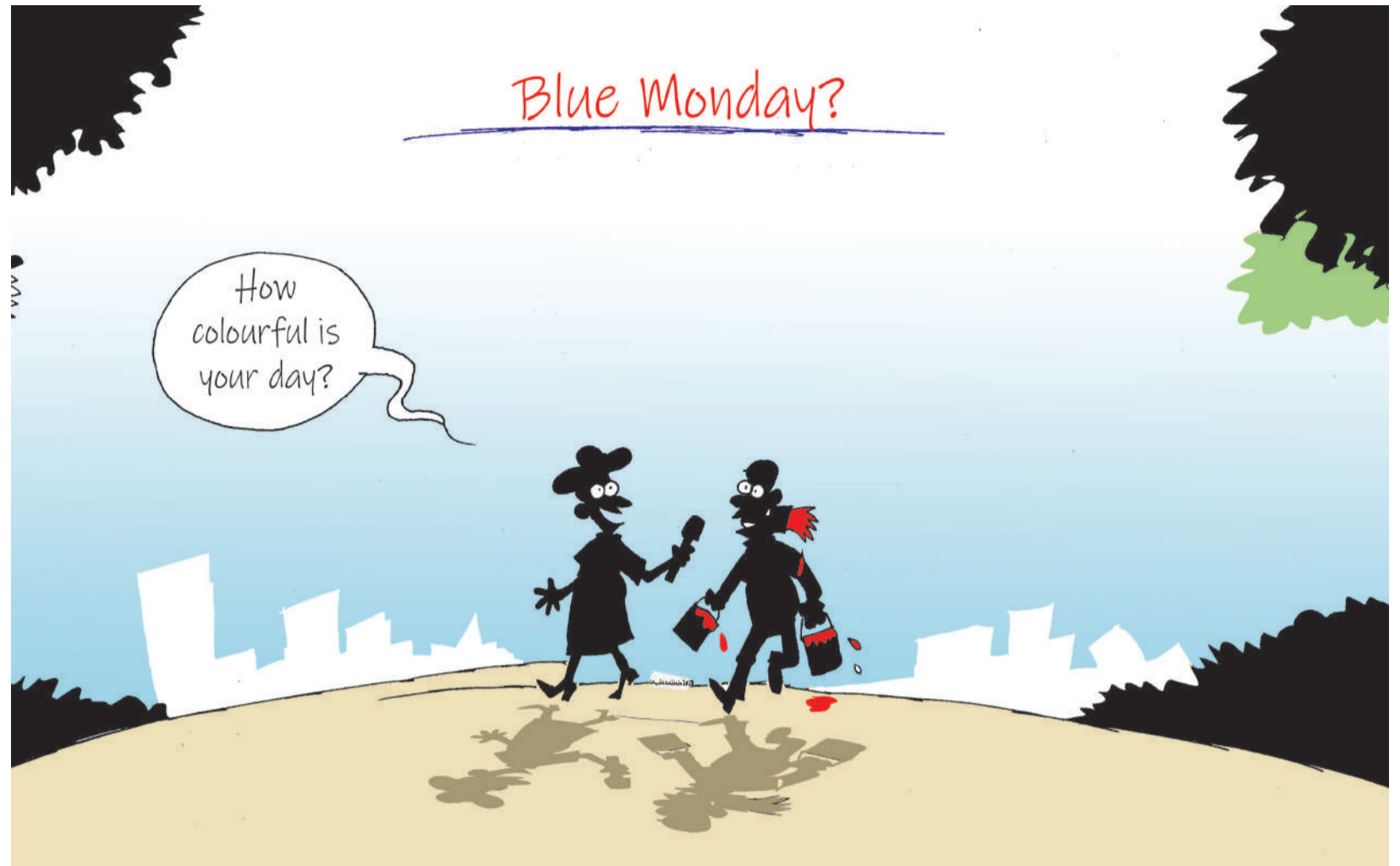
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## The people of Africa need relief

By Pauline Muchina and Emira Woods

UNITED States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is traveling to South Africa, Zambia, and Senegal this week in the hopes of strengthening U.S.-Africa relations at a time of waning U.S. influence on the continent -- the first in a series of Biden administration trips announced at last month's U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit.

As African women leaders working for peace and climate justice, we welcome this renewed engagement with a region that is too often sidelined. But meetings and photo-ops are not enough.

If the United States wants the trust of the African people, we need more than words. We need tangible action to materially improve the lives of communities across the continent.

There are two steps the Biden administration could take today to do just that: supporting a new issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for cost-free, debt-free crisis relief, and providing additional financial support for the Loss and Damage Fund agreed to at COP27, the most recent UN Climate Conference.

Three years since the COVID-19 outbreak, under one-third of Africans have received a single vaccination dose. Economic growth in Africa slowed "sharply" in 2022, due to a worldwide economic slump, inflation, and an ongoing series of shocks.

The World Bank is warning of a "sharp, long-lasting slowdown" in 2023 that will "hit developing countries hard." One-fifth of Africa's population faces chronic hunger-double the world average-and the climate crisis is only deepening these stark statistics.

For perspective: Driven by climate and conflict, half of Somalia's population faces acute food insecurity. Trekking for weeks to refugee camps for food, many Somalis are forced to bury starved loved ones in shallow graves.

Against such challenges, the 2021 issuance of \$650 billion in SDRs by the International Monetary Fund provided a lifeline for millions of Africans. SDRs are a reserve asset that can be issued in times of crisis at no cost to the U.S. or any other country. Developing countries can then use these SDRs to pay debts, stabilize currencies, or fund critical purchases like vaccines and food supplies.

Since the 2021 issuance, over 100 low- and middle-income countries have used their SDRs for often life-saving care for their citizens. African countries used SDRs more than any other region, with 47 of 54 African nations using some or all of



US Secretary of Treasury Janet L. Yellen had earlier met with Senegal's President and AU Chairperson Macky Sall during the US - African Leaders Summit in December 2022.

their allocation.

Though last year's SDR issuance was impactful, it was not enough. That's why African leaders like African Union Chair Macky Sall and finance ministers across the continent are calling for a new SDR issuance of at least the same size.

The UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance; dozens of US lawmakers; the International Chamber of Commerce; and nearly 150 civil society organizations worldwide also support the proposal.

Additionally, African countries must be compensated for the harms caused by a climate crisis for which they bear little responsibility. Despite having contributed the least of any continent to greenhouse gas emissions, Africa remains the most vulnerable to climate change.

Nineteen million Africans have been affected by extreme weather events in 2022 alone, and cyclones and droughts wrought havoc on infrastructure, agriculture, and domestic economies.

In the words of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance, "you cannot set fire on someone's house and sell them the fire extinguisher, or worse still, loan them money to rebuild it." The Loss and Damage Fund will provide climate reparations through financial support to

nations most vulnerable to climate shocks.

The Fund's impact, however, will only be as strong as the world's commitment. While nations like Germany and Belgium have made symbolic pledges to the fund, current contributions fail to address the existential magnitude of the crisis. Increased U.S. financial backing will pave the way for additional support from other high-income countries.

Naysayers may balk at the cost of these proposals, or suggest they do not align with U.S. national interests. However, a new SDR issuance, while costing nothing to U.S. taxpayers, would foster global economic-and therefore political-stability, while proving U.S. responsiveness to African needs.

Following the passage of the highest-ever Pentagon budget, the Biden Administration should recall their own analysis that climate change exacerbates global security challenges.

Instead of paying massive sums for weapons of war, often in the name of debunked strategies to counter terrorism, the U.S. should invest in measures that address the root causes of violent conflict in places like Somalia and the Sahel.

During last month's U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit, 60 organiza-

tions, including Partners In Health, Africans Rising, and Friends of the Earth US, called on President Biden to support these two urgent proposals. At the time, he failed to do so.

As Secretary Yellen travels to our continent, the administration has another opportunity to move beyond rhetoric and toward action to improve the lives of Africa's 1.2 billion people.

Supporting a new SDR issuance and contributing funding for the Loss and Damage Fund would go a long way toward salving the ever-present economic wounds of colonialism, addressing the climate crisis, and bolstering opportunities for Africans to chart their own course in the 21st century and beyond.

Pauline Muchina comes from the Rift Valley in Kenya, where her family still resides. She is the Policy, Education and Advocacy Coordinator for Africa for the American Friends Service Committee in Washington, DC, and the Chair of the COVID-19 Working Group of the Advocacy Network for Africa.

Emira Woods, originally from Liberia, is the Executive Director of Green Leadership Trust and an ambassador for Africans Rising for Justice, Peace, and Dignity, a network of African social movements on the continent and the diaspora.



# Busy weekend for opposition political parties after the lifting of ban on rallies

**O**PPPOSITION political parties swung into action at the weekend with rallies and internal meetings following the lifting of a six-year ban on such activities outside election periods.

The main opposition Chadema began its nationwide rallies on Saturday with the first one at Furushisha grounds in Mwanza city where the party's national chairman Freeman Mbowe addressed members and supporters.

ACT-Wazalendo, another opposition outfit, held an internal meeting in Dar es Salaam which discussed views gathered from Tanzanians on the current status and future of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in Zanzibar. The party was the first runner-up in the 2020 General Election and formed the GNU with CCM in the isles.

The Civic United Front (CUF) through its national council also held an internal meeting at the weekend which dwelt mainly on how to reform national electoral body before next elections. Tanzania has civic polls next year and General Election I 2025.

In his speech in Mwanza, Mbowe hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for lifting the ban on political activities which was imposed by her predecessor the late John Magufuli and for initiating reconciliation talks with opposition parties.

"I stand in front of you and the world to thank President Samia. We have had fruitful negotiations, and we stand here as a result of such talks. Mama Samia and Mzee (Abdulahman) Kinana (CCM vice chairman—Mainland) agreed to our demands; they faced internal opposition but never gave up," he said.

The politician said that under



Supporters of the main opposition party Chadema throng Furushisha grounds in Mwanza city on Saturday for the first political rally since President Samia Suluhu Hassan lifted the ban on such activities early this month. File photo

President Samia, the police force demonstrates professionalism, pleading for the same to happen at other rallies because that is what his party fights for: a peaceful nation where people are free to associate and express themselves.

He said the Head of State has demonstrated that she is interested in unifying the country and has been listening to and working on issues raised by other Tanzanians including opposition parties.

Mbowe used the meeting which also marked the 30th anniversary of

Chadema's full registration as a political party to dispel rumours that the ongoing political dialogue and reconciliation could end up weakening the opposition. To the contrary, the talks are meant to strengthen the opposition, he said.

"We are not going to join them (CCMO); we will keep on acting as the main opposition party until we form the government; our slogan is no hate, no fear; this will drive us throughout."

In what some saw as a surprise New Year gift, President Samia early this month announced that all registered

political parties were free to conduct rallies and meetings without being harassed by authorities.

Speaking at a meeting with political party leaders at State House Dar es Salaam, the President directed the police and other security forces to allow parties to hold rallies without undue hassle.

"The government's responsibility is to provide sufficient space for such rallies to be held peacefully regardless of the party's political affiliation and not to try and obstruct them as political rallies are constitutionally legal,"

she said.

The decision earned the President praise from stakeholders within and outside the country since political activities are part and parcel of freedoms of expression and association.

Since taking over following Magufuli's unexpected death in March 2021, Samia has emerged as a strong advocate of political reform and reconciliation with both the opposition camp and within her own ruling CCM party, which she chairs.

As opposed to her predecessor, Samia wants level playing field by allowing opposition parties to engage with voters just like her own CCM. And by meeting opposition leaders and listening to their views, the President has demonstrated that she is for the common good of all Tanzanians.

"When I took up the responsibility to lead this country, I sensed that my priority should be to restore unity and oneness that had gone missing. I decided that reconciliation was important so that we Tanzanians could all start speaking the same language again," she said when announcing the end of restrictions.

"Now let's go and practise mature and civilised politics, constructive and not destructive, and without breaking any of the laws of our land."

The ban on political party rallies was imposed by the late President Magufuli in 2015 in his first address to Parliament in Dodoma, saying the priority was building national economy.

But according to President Samia, robust democracy and national unity are important for building a strong national economy. Democracy is credited for playing a vital role in the story of civilization, helping transform the world from power structures of monarchy, empire, and conquest into popular rule, self-determination, and peaceful co-existence.

## Rare fish species reappear in the Indian Ocean thanks to ecological restoration

By Telesphor Magobe

RARE fish species, which had disappeared as a result of dynamite fishing and other destructive human activities, have started reappearing off the coast of Somanga North Village, thanks to a local coral reef restoration and protection initiative. Somanga North Village is in Kilwa District in Lindi, one of Tanzania's coastal regions.

Speaking recently on the occasion of coral reef restoration in Mwamba Fisi ecosystem, Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group founder and secretary Said Chande said coral reef restoration activity had started producing positive results, which make them feel a glow of pride.

Mwamba Fisi ecosystem, which is a colony of coral reefs, is situated about 5 kilometres off the coast of Somanga North Village bay. But for many years it suffered frequent dynamite fishing and other destructive human activities.

Two University of Dar es Salaam College of Education (DUCE) Centre for Social and Political Research (CSPR) researchers, Dr Almas Mazi-go and Dr Emiliana Mwita, conduct participatory research in collaboration with Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group (as co-researchers) on coral reef restoration and protection in Mwamba Fisi ecosystem as a pilot project. This ecosystem, which covers an area of 1km<sup>2</sup>, serves as habitat and a breeding-ground and provides shelter and the primary source of food for aquatic biodiversity.

"Climate change and destructive human activities have a detrimental effect on aquatic biodiversity. Sea level rise has caused ocean water to submerge a habitable island and its occupiers had to relocate to highlands. By 2015 there was a high inci-

dence of dynamite fishing off the coast of Kilwa District, which borders the Indian Ocean. Low fish catches disrupted the economic activity and earnings of the fishing community," he said.

According to Chande, it was only during the fifth phase government of the late President John Magufuli (2015-2020) that dynamite fishing was kept at bay and now it has disappeared off the coast of Somanga North Village.

"So, we decided to embark on coral reef restoration and protection because as part of the fishing community we know how much climate change and destructive human activities, particularly dynamite fishing, have damaged coral reefs," he said.

Other destructive human activities that damage coral reefs include extraction of lime and stone-like lumps used as boat anchors from hardened rock-like coral reef structures.

When asked how they knew coral reefs, which are underwater ecosystems, had been damaged Chande said damaged coral reefs produced unpleasant smell and as fishermen it was easier for them to know which areas were most affected by dynamite fishing or other destructive human activities.

Chande was Beach Management Unit (BMU) Chairperson in Somanga North Village after BMUs were established in coastal communities such as Mafia, Rufiji and Kilwa districts (including in the Lake Zone) in 2009. The aim was to fight against fishing malpractices, such as dynamite fishing, by increasing community involvement in surveillance and management of fisheries resources.

He explained that that when the BMUs were introduced the fishing community was negative about them as they were perceived as a subtle way of selling coastal areas to foreign investors and sooner rather than later the fishing community would be barred from entering the Indian Ocean from which it earned a living.

"Therefore, at the beginning it was



very difficult for BMUs to be accepted, but thanks to awareness raising the situation eventually changed and now the attitude towards BMUs is positive."

He said as the chairperson of BMU in the village he played a crucial role in community mobilisation and awareness raising and in 2020 he started mobilising BMU members to form a group that would engage in the restoration and protection of coral reefs.

Comprising of 20 members (seven men and 13 women), Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group on May 12, 2022 transplanted for the first time coral reefs in Mwamba Fisi ecosystem.

"The efforts we have made as a group have started producing positive results. Just to put records right between May 2022 and January this year we transplanted a total of 6,918 pieces of coral reef in Mwamba Fisi ecosystem.

On December 18, 2022 alone we transplanted 1,440 pieces of coral reef, on January 7 this year we transplanted 900 pieces of coral

reef, on January 8 we transplanted 900 other pieces of coral reef and on January 14 we transplanted 1,065 more pieces of coral reef."

He explained some members of their group were notorious for dynamite fishing, but had reformed their ways and worked very hard to restore and the protect coral reefs they participated in damaging. He said since some members were among the perpetrators of dynamite fishing it was easier for them to locate areas with damaged coral reefs and "that is why we decided to start coral reef restoration with Mwamba Fisi ecosystem."

Chande revealed that what they were doing was their own initiative for the benefit of their children and their grandchildren.

He explained that the fishing community was very aggressive in the protection of marine resources and was involved in community policing as they had formed patrol teams along and off the coast of Somanga North Village in collaboration with other villages in the district.

To restore coral reefs Somanga North Coral Reef Restoration and Protection Group uses small bricks on which a piece of coral reef is attached and cemented in each of the three holes made on each small brick as coral reef holders.

Although this rare technology was invented by a trainer, Hamis Basha, from Mtwara Region, the initiator and champion of coral reef restoration and protection in Somanga North Village was Chande.

It was the latter who invited Mr Basha to the village to train group members after Chande had met him and talked to him about coral reef restoration and protection a few years ago. Mr Basha had attended a coral reef training workshop in Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam, in 1994, but kept it to himself until he met Chande.

If you visit Somanga North Village bay during low tide you will view a stretch of sand and sparse mangroves, but during high tide it floods with ocean water. This is one of the effects of climate change (sea level rise).

# US installs new nukes in Europe, as destructive as 83 Hiroshima bombs

By Baher Kamal

AS if the 100 billion dollars that the United States has so far provided to Ukraine in both weapons and aid were not enough, the US has now started to install in Europe its brand new, more destructive nuclear warheads.

The US 100 billion dollars are to be added to all the weapons and aid that 40 Washington's 'allies' - Europe in particular - have been sending to Ukraine since it was invaded by Russia in February 2022.

The US spending on the Ukrainian war in less than a year amounts to the desperately needed funding that the United Nations require to partially alleviate some of the horrifying suffering of over one billion human beings over two long years.

In a further escalation, the United States began in December 2022 to ship new nuclear warheads to Europe: "the B61-12 warhead is a more advanced warhead from the ones currently deployed in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey," according to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

Boeing designed the bomb's new guided-tail kit, giving it additional manoeuvrability and the appearance of more precision. But, it's a nuclear weapon, and has different yields, from 0.3kt to 50kt, ICAN reports.

## Much more destructive

"These bombs can detonate beneath the Earth's surface, increasing their destructiveness against underground targets to the equivalent of a surface-burst weapon with a yield of 1,250 kilotons - the equivalent of 83 Hiroshima bombs."

Even if the bombs are American and the US retains launch authority, they would most likely be dropped by Europeans. If the US decides to use its nuclear weapons located in Germany,



War damage in Borodivka, Kyiv Oblast. Photo: Oleksandr Ratushniak / UNDP Ukraine

the warheads are loaded onto German planes and a German pilot drops them, ICAN further explains.

This Geneva-based coalition of 652 non-governmental partner organisations in 107 countries, promoting adherence to and implementation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

## The 'brutal struggle for power'

The production, testing, and use of nukes is one of the reasons why the biggest powers are now pushing the world into the abyss of lawlessness. In fact, the UN chief has once more sounded the alarm bell.

"From illegally developing nuclear weapons to non-sanctioned use of force, States continue to flout international law with impunity", said the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres.

The rule of law stands between peace and 'brutal struggle for power,' he warned in his 12 January message to the UN Security Council - where five countries: US, Russia, China, UK and France - hold a self attributed authority to override the will of over 190 states, members of the UN.

## 'Grave risk' of lawlessness

The UN chief painted a grim picture of civilians around the world suffering from devastating conflicts, rising

poverty, and surging hunger, warning that "we are at grave risk of the Rule of Lawlessness".

The rule of law "protects the vulnerable; prevents discrimination; bolsters trust in institutions; supports inclusive economies and societies; and is the first line of defence against atrocity crimes."

Guterres cited Russia's invasion of Ukraine; unlawful killings of both Palestinians and Israelis; gender-based apartheid in Afghanistan; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's unlawful nuclear weapons programme; violence and severe human rights violations in Myanmar; and a deep institutional crisis in Haiti.

Meanwhile, the world is falling apart, witnessing an "ongoing collision of crises for which traditional response and recovery are not enough," warns the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

"Our future is at stake, as wars, epidemics, the climate emergency and economic upheaval leave almost no country untouched.

From the war in Ukraine that sparked a global cost of living crisis to the climate emergency, the floods in Pakistan, the global pandemic, hunger in the Horn of Africa, to the crisis in Yemen - we face never before seen challenges to our future, adds UNDP.

Developing economies accounting for more than half of the world's poorest people need urgent debt relief as a result of "cascading global crises. Without action, poverty will spiral and desperately needed investments in climate adaptation and mitigation will not happen."

## Also meanwhile, millions of children under armed conflicts

The UN Children Fund (UNICEF) reports that more than 400 million children live in areas under conflict; an estimated 1 billion children - nearly half the world's children - live in countries at extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change...

And at least 36.5 million children have been displaced from their homes; and 8 million children under age 5 across 15 crisis-hit countries are at risk of death from severe wasting.

Today, there are more children in need of humanitarian assistance than at any other time since the Second World War. Across the globe, "children are facing a historic confluence of crises - from conflict and displacement to infectious disease outbreaks and soaring rates of malnutrition."

UNICEF has appealed for 10.3 billion US dollars to reach more than 110 million children with humanitarian assistance across 155 countries and territories.

# The journalist stranded in Europe's 'Guantánamo'

By Karlos Zurutuza

IT'S 23 hours a day in a cell without natural light and just one to walk around in a 7x4-metre courtyard. For Pablo González, an independent Spanish-Russian journalist, it's been almost a year spent in solitary confinement in Poland.

González was arrested on the night of February 27th in Przemysl, a Polish city bordering Ukraine. A journalist specializing in the post-Soviet space, the reporter had worked in Ukraine several times and he was planning to cross the border to cover the Russian invasion of the country launched a few days before.

Three days after his arrest, the Polish government released a statement that the Internal Security Agency (ABW) had arrested González "on suspicion of having carried out operations for the benefit of Russia, taking advantage of his status as a journalist."

"They said they had 'irrefutable proof' that he is a spy, but no one has yet seen it. The secrecy around it is overwhelming," Oihana Goirienea, González's partner, told IPS from her residence in Nabarniz, in Spain's Basque Country.

Following the latest three-month extension granted by the court handling the case, Polish authorities still have not made public the evidence they claim to have against the journalist. His lawyers in Poland are not allowed to speak publicly about the case, there is no date for the trial and not even a formal accusation against González.

"He has lost a lot of weight, but the worst thing for him is being in solitary confinement, not being able to talk to anyone all day," explains 47-year-old Goirienea. She was able to visit him on November 21 of last year. A Polish security agent supervised the reunion, for which Goirienea travelled to Poland.



Pablo González during a previous trip to Ukraine. Credit: Juan Teixeira/IPS

González is prevented from making telephone calls and has to rely on letters to communicate with the outside world. The letters need to be translated and filtered by Polish security first, however, and replies can take four months. "Two for the letters to reach him and another two to receive his," says Goirienea. As for her three children, "they have not seen their father in all this time."

Goirienea describes the Spanish Government's response to the case as "tepid."

"So far we have only had contact with the Spanish consul in Warsaw, no one else has reassured us or shared any hints," she says.

The reason González has been dragged to the Polish cell remains vague, she says. Goirienea believes her partner's two passports, Russian and Spanish, set off alarm bells in Warsaw.

The son of a Russian and the grandson of an exile from the Spanish Civil War, Pablo González was born in Moscow in 1982 as Pavel Rubtsov. When his parents split eight years later, the child was left in the custody of his mother - the granddaughter of another Spanish exile - who returned to Spain and registered her school-age son as Pablo, the Spanish translation of Pavel, and under her last name, González.

Alternatively, Goirienea says her partner's reporting might have also caught Polish officials' attention. "Pablo had previously worked a lot in Poland, covering stories such as the anti-government protests, the threats faced by the LGTBI community or the migratory crisis on the Belarusian border, where people were left to die in the cold in the 'no man's' land between both countries," she

says. "He is an 'uncomfortable' journalist," for Polish officials, she says. "I think they went too far and now they don't know how to get out of this."

## Administrative silence

A Polish lawyer was hired in April 2022, and Goirienea sought advice from a criminal justice panel in the country last October. González's primary lawyer since he was arrested, though, has been Gonzalo Boye.

A Chilean based in Spain for over three decades, Boye is an expert in European International Law who has been involved in several high-profile cases including the March 11, 2004 jihadist bombing of Madrid's Atocha train station, and Edward Snowden's whistleblower case, among others.

Speaking to IPS by phone from Madrid, he said González's arrest is "unprecedented" within the European Union. "It is an unsustainable case, one of those in which someone is arrested and later investigated," Boye has not yet been allowed to visit his client.

"Neither Brussels nor Madrid have lifted a finger, their only answer so far has been silence," says Boye. Claiming institutional indifference to what he describes as "a kind of Guantánamo within the European Union," he has already forwarded a protection request to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions.

"Europe has sided squarely with Ukraine, and Poland is key in the conflict. Pablo González is just another victim of that war," argues Boye, in an attempt to find a logic to González's arrest in Poland.

Alongside a platform that struggles to make the case visible, several personalities and professionals in communication and law have requested Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain for greater involvement in its resolution.

In a reply to repeated efforts at contact from IPS, Spain's Ministry of External Affairs stated by email that Spain's embassy in Warsaw "is up to date on the case and following it closely."

The statement says González has been offered an opportunity for consular assistance, and received seven visits, with "the next expected soon."

"At all times, the need to respect their rights has been stressed to Polish authorities. In addition, efforts have been made at different levels in relation to his case, conveying the same message," the ministry said, in its statement.

## The damages

The war in Ukraine has turned Poland into a main hub for supplies of all sorts in Ukraine - from basic food items to hit-tech weaponry -, as well as the main exit point for millions of refugees flee-

ing the war. It is the focal country in a conflict whose consequences are felt globally.

Poland's role in the conflict, however, has not prevented the progressive deterioration of its democracy.

In its 2022 report, the US NGO Freedom House claimed that Poland had the fastest decline in democracy among the 29 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia monitored by the organization.

"I don't recall a case similar to that of Pablo González in the European Union," Alfonso Bauluz, the president of Reporters Without Borders in Spain told IPS over the phone from Madrid.

While he pointed to the "complicated scenario" posed by the war in Ukraine, he also highlighted that Poland is "one of those EU countries that have toughened measures against plurality of information."

"For Poland, it's already been eight years of consecutive decline in the World's Press Freedom Index we release at RSF," stresses Bauluz. The eastern European country ranks 66th (just behind Cyprus, Mauritius and Montenegro) on a list of 180 countries.

On January 10, RSF Spain called again for the "end of the prison cruelty inflicted on Pablo González," that his presumption of innocence be respected and that "all the guarantees for a fair trial" are met.

"All I want is a trial as soon as possible, either public or private, but as soon as possible," says Oihana Goirienea. Although the journalist's partner is confident that his innocence will finally be proven and he will be released, she also stresses that the damage has already been done:

"In a few weeks, he will have served a year in prison. In addition, paying lawyers and costs has put us in debt for a long time, not to mention the professional damage it entails for a journalist specializing in the post-Soviet space".

## 'Reforms essential for women also to excel in economic development with enhanced vigour'

By Correspondent Carlos Banda

GENDER activists have suggested the need for policies and procedures reformation to access financial resources as a move to relieve women of poverty.

In separate interviews, some of the activists noted that women are actively engaged in productive sectors but once they want to boost their economic activities they are denied to get support from financial institutions because of lacking collateral as the house they live in is owned by men.

"This I think is very wrong, so I would suggest that women need to have their own arrangement so that they easily access loans and polish up their business undertakings," said Najma Hussein Haji, the Executive Director of Zanzibar Women Chamber of Commerce.

Najma, who is also a member of the Generation Equality Forum Advisory Committee, said that women contribute significantly to the national economy.

She cited women and youth who make up a large portion of the micro-economic sector achieve little or no progress in entrepreneurial activities due to the fact that, the present financial services and institutions do not provide a friendly environment for women to excel.

"This includes access to loans and financial aid which demands women to have collateral in terms of immovable assets like land, hence resulting in women's failure to access funds and services in order to expand their capital and business," she said.

The activist noted that in the cultural aspect, movements that are channeled into helping women economically have been viewed as a threat to male dominance.

A point, she has stated is a result of the misrepresentation and misinterpretation of what women's empowerment is all about, and pointing out that the use of the word 'Gender' is not sided to women alone, but it's a reference to all sexes, male and female.

"Thus, as a result, women in communities have been forced to remain home with no means to generate income but rather depend solely on their spouses as the key breadwinners.

In the likelihood when disaster strikes and the husband dies, the woman and her family become vulnerable to losing their inheritance to the husband's relatives and become financially crippled and homeless."

Dr Monica Magoke-Mhoja, Outreach Director -Africa Landesa (Member of the National Advisory and Coordinating Committee on GEF) outlined that, Land is foundational to the human rights to housing, food, livelihood, a clean and healthy environment, cultural participation, and even to life; and land rights determine how women, girls, boys and men access, own, control, and bequeath land and other natural resources.

"Progressive and comprehensive land rights help women break the cycle of poverty and improve not only their own lives, but those of their families and communities. The benefits of women's land rights multiply in crucial ways both at home and in communities – when women have secure rights to land, spending on children's education, land production and household nutrition increase," she said.

Land serves as a foundation for security, shelter, income and potential gender equitable livelihoods. However, land rights are not equitably distributed to all – and this is especially true for women in Tanzania.

Patriarchal land ownership systems in Tanzania can mean that women are often dependent on men for access to land. Tanzania has ratified international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and introduced national laws seeking to address gender inequalities, but the prevailing customs are often discriminatory along gender lines," she added.

Dr Monica stated that the already existing interventions should be continuous around awareness rising through usage of all available media channels on the land-related gender inequalities so as to have ongoing engagement, target and reach a range of stakeholders in order to spearhead cultural change.

She believes by doing so, a changed culture can help women have the required support to assert their rights as well as build on from prevailing customs that will help identify new opportunities to respond to new pressures on access to land as a resource, plus, create laws on equal rights to develop gender sensitive interventions.

Hassan Hamisi Juma, Executive Director of the Association of Non-Government Organizations in Zanzibar (ANGOZA) also stated that there are already initiatives that are geared to help women gain access to land ownership.

He however said the problem is that most individuals fail to observe this economic right for women and therefore the perpetrators get away without being held accountable.

The fact that such laws and regulations to protect women's rights are not observed is a major hindrance to realizing gender equality and the reforms that intend to help more women have access to and control of resources.

# Shule Bora programme supports provision of inclusive education



By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a, Mpanda

**S**HULE Bora programme, an initiative that supports the provision of inclusive education the priority being for girls and children with special needs and those living in vulnerable environments, has started to produce positive outcomes in the beneficiary regions of Tanga, Coast, Mara, Simiyu, Singida, Dodoma, Kigoma, Rukwa and Katavi

The seven-year (2021-2027) UK Aid funded government-led education support programme at a cost of £89 million (271bn/-), is aimed to reach at least four million school children across the country, improving systems and the environment to facilitate quality learning for all children.

The programme receives technical assistance from Cambridge Education Tanzania in partnership with ADD international, International Rescue Committee and Plan International.

Raymond Kanyambo, programme communication manager from Cambridge Education said the programme which was launched in 2021 intends to scale up the level of inclusiveness education by creating good and safe learning environments for all girls and boys in public schools by giving priority and conducive environments to girls and those with special needs.

He was speaking during the meeting with media practitioners to further inform them more on programme progress and outcomes. The meeting was held recently in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region and Mpanda and Katavi in Katavi Region.

He said: "The implementation of this programme includes supporting government efforts in identifying and assessing children with special needs and teaching children suffering autism in nine regions which face many educational challenges as cited by the government. It is operated under the Ministry of Educa-

tion, Science and Technology Regional Administrative and Local Governments."

Kanyambo said that the programme implements its plans on inclusiveness as directed through education guidelines issued by the government for children with special needs, but also to support market-centres for children with special needs.

"We are working to train teachers on how to identify children with special needs both invisible and visible ones, this will involve taking suspected children to the spotted health facilities for major investigation, for instance those children who seem to be too meeker or too wilfulness while at class room they both might be facing health problem, they should be taken for medical check-ups, and once diagnosed with medical challenges will be treated accordingly," he clarified.

Kigoma regional academic officer, David Mwalalasi elaborated that inclusive education is the one that doesn't leave

any children behind bringing together girls, boys and children with special needs to fulfil their education dreams.

"We came up with a solution to rescue the school girls by building hostels for them, the idea was to comfort at least 150 girls who lived at the hostels, they were safe and completed Standard Seven last year. Apart from government efforts to build hostels there are some corporations which in one way or another are doing the best in ensuring safety to our girls by providing them with different Aida including bicycles," Mwalalasi said.

Kigoma assistant administrative secretary (education), Paulina Ndigeza revealed that there are insufficient infrastructures for children with special needs.

"We have requested for special secondary schools, and the government has already helped to cushion the challenge by starting construction of the school for children with special needs after completing their primary education," Ndi-

geza added.

Katavi regional special needs education officer, Anna Sawasawa said that there is still a poor response in bringing children with special needs to school, something which they are putting much effort into educating the public.

"We are identifying children with special needs by visiting one house to another, and at least 10 children have been found and enrolled in primary school this year, but due to our plans the number will be increased," Sawasawa said.

Community development officer in Katavi Region, Anna Shumbi said that there are some parents who have been forcing them to go for domestic activities like livestock keeping, farming and mining instead of sending them to school.

Fred Kibano from the Information and Communication unit, President Office, Regional Administrative and Local Government called upon media practitioners to increase efforts and put more efforts in reporting on the importance of education and various programmes working to improve the quality of education.

"Shule Bora" programme is focused on four outcomes which are inclusion where every child can access Schools that are safe and appropriate for their learning needs, especially girls, children with disabilities and those living in deprived areas; Learning where all children are developing necessary skills and knowledge, so they can progress to secondary education).

Others are teaching where the school workforce is strengthened and teachers can deliver effective lessons, including all children and productive learning environments and systems where the government is supported to strengthen education service delivery systems and achieve better value for money at school, local government, and national levels.

NAIROBI

**A** drive by the Kenyan government to kill up to 6 million red-billed queleas birds that have invaded farms will have unintended consequences for raptors and other wild species, experts have warned.

The continuing drought in the Horn of Africa has reduced the amount of native grass, whose seeds are queleas' main food source, causing the birds to increasingly invade grain fields, putting 2,000 acres (800 hectares) of rice under threat. About 300 acres of rice fields have been destroyed by the birds.

A single quelea can eat up to 10 grams of grain a day, according to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). Farmers in western Kenya stand to lose close to 60 tonnes of grain to the birds. In 2021, the FAO estimated crop losses attributable to the birds amounted to \$50m (£40m) annually.

The spraying of fenthion, an organophosphate pesticide, has been the method of choice in fighting the pests in Africa, but the chemical has been described by researchers as "toxic to humans and to other non-target organisms".

"Fenthion can therefore injure or kill indiscriminately, with consequent adverse effects on non-target organisms," the researchers concluded.

Paul Gacheru, species and sites manager at Nature Kenya, a local affiliate to BirdLife International, said the method used to control quelea should be well-informed since "widespread use of non-target species avicides can result in environmental contamination and mass deaths of other birds and animals".

"Often, there is poor post-spraying site management, thus increasing the risk of poison-related wildlife deaths, especially among scavenging animals – hence the need to enhance education and awareness on quelea control," he said.

With an estimated breeding population in Africa of 1.5 billion birds, ornithol-



## Kenya declares war on millions of birds after they raid crops

ogists say there are neither enough birds of prey to wipe out vast quelea colonies nor effective, environmentally friendly solutions.

Simon Thomsett, a director at Kenya Bird of Prey Trust, said the culture of guaranteeing human food security above all else would be amplified "due to what we now perceive to be a probability, owing to climate change, as open grasslands that were quelea feeding grounds quick-

ly turn into farmlands".

In wheat-growing parts of Kenya, Thomsett added, farmers have sprayed any species of birds deemed to be a threat to farms, "yet some of the birds are there to feed on insects that feed on their wheat".

But it is the effect the pesticide may have on the few remaining raptors that worries him most. "Those on the raptor conservation side of the fence are greatly

alarmed at the spraying. Today, all raptors [in Kenya] are endangered. In any case, how effective has the spraying been in the last 60 to 70 years?"

The FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly administer the Rotterdam convention, whose aims include reducing risks from hazardous chemicals in agriculture. They have been considering listing fenthion in Annex III of the treaty, a list of pesticides and industrial chemicals banned or severely restricted on environmental or health grounds.

A report prepared by Robert A Cheke from the University of Greenwich and which was used as a working document in a 2017 FAO workshop in Sudan recommended alternatives to the use of the chemical, including a forecast and control planning method.

"If the efficiency of control operations could be improved, then the quantities of fenthion used could be reduced. One way of improving the efficiency of control strategies is to detect the presence of suitable quelea breeding areas by satellite imagery ... or to forecast where the birds are likely to breed," the report said.

It added: "Given that the birds' migrations and breeding opportunities are determined by patterns of rainfall, it is possible to devise forecasting systems to predict where the birds are likely to breed and, thus, to concentrate activities in search of the colonies to areas where the birds are likely to be."

Quelea invasion frequently occurs in many African countries. Six months ago, the FAO released \$500,000 to the government of Tanzania to support pesticide spraying, surveillance and capacity-building after 21 million quelea invaded rice, sorghum, millet and wheat fields.

By Don Pincock

THEY left at dawn in two boats on a low-sky Monday, heading for the warm blue waters of the South Atlantic. Thunderstorms were predicted, but water was their medium so this was of no concern to them.

They will most likely spend Christmas in the great Indian Ocean gyre skirting Antarctica. Our season of Christian goodwill will not match their joy as they swim free again. Their traditions are far older than ours.

Their human-given names were Kijani, Turbo, Basil and Juniper – three green turtles and a hawk-bill that had been recovering at the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation in Cape Town. How they name themselves, if they do, we cannot know. They are strangely silent creatures.

Also into the heaving sea 45 nautical miles south of Hout Bay went 65 loggerhead hatchlings, each taken from their container and lovingly slipped into the water.

Their future is not assured. "It's always a terrifying thrill to release our turtles because humans have made their home unsafe," said Talitha Noble, Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's conservation manager, as we loaded the animals on board.

A few of their carers were wet-eyed as they bade them farewell. Plastic is their nemesis and most species are endangered. We do them great wrong.

Each turtle had their story of stranding or hurt that landed them in rehab at Two Oceans. The hawkbill, Juniper, was rescued in Mossel Bay suffering from pneumonia, but quickly recovered. Ki-



He final interview as a turtle is released into the ocean. The conservation work of the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation includes rehabilitation efforts that contribute to the conservation of five of the seven turtle species. (Photo: Sacha Specker)

## The trials, tribulations and joys of turtle liberation work

jani, a green turtle found on the beach at Paternoster, also had pneumonia and Turbo came on shore at De Hoop Nature Reserve suffering from a neck abscess.

All were badly underweight, having eaten plastic, and were treated and fed a nutritious blend of gelatine, vegetables, shellfish, fish and supplements.

### The ocean gyres

The hatchlings would have emerged from eggs on the beach-

es of northern KwaZulu-Natal in December 2021 or January this year. Once they emerge, they're driven by an urge to survive that promotes a dash to the sea and a frantic, continuous four or five days of swimming from which nothing will deter them. They instinctively head for the blue of the Agulhas Current, then drift south.

However, near Struis Bay, the current doubles back on itself, heading north. Some turtles are spat out into colder Cape waters

and beach as they go into shock and hypothermia. They're found by members of the public and handed to the aquarium. This year there were 157 such strandings.

Until recently, nobody knew where they went and how they returned to the same beaches many years later. But knowledge of ocean gyres, together with radio tagging of turtles, have revealed a story of extreme travel. They ride the world's ceaseless ocean currents, pulses of water that flow

to the heartbeat of sun, moon and sea, Earth and the rotation of nights and days. They are truly pelagic and the world is their oyster. They're thought to make course changes by the stars and an internal magnetic GPS system.

Currents are formed when the continents on our spinning planet push against the inertia of the oceans, damming them along their eastern shores, raising levels and forcing the seas to flow north or south to regain gravitational

equilibrium.

This results in the movement of prodigious amounts of water, which everlastingly circle in five massive oceanic gyres. Add to this the gravitational pull of the moon and coriolis winds and you have ocean currents.

Huge vortices are spun off the Agulhas and find their way into the main gyre circulating in the southern Indian Ocean. This mass of water slowly spins, moving eastwards and then up past the west coast of Australia and back towards Africa in the South Equatorial Current.

### The harm we do them

Sadly, turtles have been massively exploited for hundreds of years and regularly graced the tables of both sailors and the wealthy classes as meat or soup. Until recently, the Lord Mayor's annual banquet in London served green turtle soup. In the US you could buy turtle burgers.

Green turtle oil was once a key ingredient in women's toiletries, creams and balms. Hawksbill shell has been highly valued since the time of Cleopatra. But turtles' main enemy these days is the plastic we chuck in the ocean, much of it from ships.

Turtles are opportunistic feeders and will eat anything that looks edible. High on their menu are marine greens like sea grasses, as well as bluebottles and other jellyfish as they are impervious to stings. In pursuit of food, they have been recorded in dives of well over a kilometre deep.

Unfortunately, it all looks very similar to plastic bags and other human-made junk. Juniper had a plastic bag in her stomach when she was brought, in and she was starving.

## Norval's Pont in the Northern Cape – where legends shine forever

By Chris Marais

IN the summer of 2009, I came to Norval's Pont to see the longest bar counter in the Northern Cape. Within the space of five minutes and one double Jameson, I was more interested in David Kramer's electric guitar and the smoking crocodile under the old dial-up telephone than anything else.

I also liked the bumper stickers around the Glasgow Pont Hotel. The first one read: "Where the \$#%# is Norval's Pont?"

The second: "Norval's Pont: Not as Kak as You Think".

I made myself dizzy – and a little sad – walking around the pub, reading the signs, looking at the old pictures of the Gariep Dam (then called Hendrik Verwoerd Dam) and the tintypes of the concentration camps where so many Boer women and children died.

Even the Going Nowhere Slowly TV crew had clearly been here and left their party graffiti: "Don't fall off the wagon. Fall off the Pont." – Viv Vermaak.

"All three-headed policemen are invisible." – Ian Roberts.

Going Nowhere Slowly once had a bit of a cult following as it covered the rambling progress of a band of off-beat travellers roaming South Africa in a 1966 Chevrolet Impala that went by the name of Chilli Pepper.

### Was this David Kramer's old guitar?

Hotel owner Rod McGregor Mann arrived: shoulder-length grey hair, piercing eyes and lots of confidence; about the blue Gallo electric guitar behind the counter, he says: "I found it in Edenburg on a farm, in its case but covered with crap. This is actually David Kramer's old guitar, last used when he played during his Budgie and the Jets era in 1982."

McGregor Mann said he got hold of Kramer, who couldn't believe he had found it. How much did he want for it? Nothing, replied McGregor Mann. Just come and get it and play a few songs. I finished my lunch, swigged back my drink and left – that's the last I saw of Rod McGregor Mann and the Glasgow Pont Hotel. I often wonder if Kramer ever made it out here. I sometimes also think



The Norval's Pont bridge was rebuilt in 1904 after being blown up by retreating Boer forces. Image: Chris Marais

about that smoking crocodile. But when it comes to Norval's Pont, I mostly think about an enterprising Scot and his two brothers who came to these frontier lands to make combs and hats.

### The enterprising Norvals

Fresh out of Glasgow in 1848, James Norval bought a farm called Dapperfontein on the south banks of the Orange River from one Petrus Brits and, instead of embarking exclusively on the normal agricultural practices of the district, went out looking for tortoise shells in the veld.

Somehow he and his kin had discovered that this part of the Karoo was well populated by the leopard and the berg varieties of tortoise – back then, combs were fashioned from tortoiseshell.

Having cornered the local market for combs and wide-brimmed hats, the Norvals did not stoep-sit and dream for long. They soon became part of the mega-sweep of southern African history as the interior of the country lit up with discoveries of gold and diamonds.

Everyone, it seems, from prospectors to soldiers to salesmen and many more souls, wanted to cross the mighty Orange in their wagons and head north. Apparently, the idea of a pont across the Orange came to the Norvals via the British Army commander Harry Smith, who moved his troops across in in-

flatable rubber boats at the height of flood season.

Once the military crossing had been made, James Norval acquired the inflatables and went into business ferrying travellers across the river. Shortly after the rubber perished in the Karoo sun, a permanent wood and cable crossing was built and the spot became known as Norval's Pont. For one pound, everyone, wagon and oxen included, was safely ferried over into the Orange Free State.

In the meantime, the Norvals had also set up a bar with some overnight rooms and, in honour of their roots and new money-spinning line of work, named it the Glasgow Pont Hotel. A hardy little sheep farm had now been transformed into a thriving village that hummed with north-south-north traffic, mainly drawn by beasts of some description.

### The kit-form British bridge

Then along came the railways, and by 1890 a bridge spanned the Orange and steam locomotives were chugging across it. The 500m-long marvel of steel and concrete arrived in kit form from "the workshop of the world", England, and was assembled on site.

Ten years later, retreating Boer forces paid this massive bridge little respect when they dynamited it. In no time, however, British sappers set up a pontoon bridge at Norval's

Pont and carried on operations. Long after the end of hostilities in 1904, a sturdy railway bridge was built at this spot across the Orange.

After my bar lunch and the Jameson that accompanied it, I found myself at Norval's Pont Concentration Camp Cemetery in that late-afternoon light that brings on a wave of sadness in baboons and those who drink whiskey too early in the day; experts call it Hesperian Melancholia.

### Norval's Pont Concentration Camp

The sign itself was enough. Even though Boer rights campaigner Emily Hobhouse classed Norval's Pont as having "the best woman-camp" of them all, complete with school for 500, fountain-fed water source and an initial abundance of fresh vegetables, conditions soon became dire as the camp filled and supplies dwindled.

In the case of the South African War, the concentration camps were established to cut Boer guerilla fighters' supply lines by removing their women and children from their farms – which they mostly then burnt to the ground. It was part of Lord Kitchener's plan to end the ebb and flow of battle in the South African hinterland. The Brits held the major cities, but the platteland was another story.

Another segment of the Kitchener Plan was to establish nearly

8,000 blockhouse fortifications running right across South Africa and along the major rail routes. These would be manned and the spaces between them patrolled.

### Military life in a blockhouse

The standard Orange River blockhouses were three storeys high, of dressed stone and low-pitch corrugated iron roofs. Steel firing boxes jutted out from the sides, water was stored on the ground floor which was separated from the first-floor sleeping quarters by a thick steel trapdoor, and the top floor was where you kept watch and shot from. Many blockhouse firing loopholes were numbered so that as a British soldier, presumably, you were assigned to a specific position. You were watered and fed by passing trains or, if stationed out in a veld blockhouse, via water carts and supply wagons.

Barbed wire, especially the much-prized eight-strand variety, was spanned between blockhouses right across South Africa. Spare a thought for the blokes in the blockhouse, some fresh from an English village, others from a faraway rural kraal, now in the middle of a very dry nowhere, living the typical army dream of "hurry up and wait".

Someone in the bar on that day in 2009 told me there was still a blockhouse left standing here at Norval's Pont, but after my brief visit to the concentration camp cem-

etry I had simply run out of steam.

### Civilian life in a blockhouse

In the midsummer of 2019, we follow up on the Norval's Pont blockhouse lead – and it's not a minute too soon. We're about to meet the only living people to have taken an old South African War blockhouse and converted it into comfortable living quarters for themselves. The ultimate military treehouse, if you will.

The guy who had owned the Glasgow Pont Hotel just before Rod McGregor Mann was Paul Johns. While living and working at the hotel, Johns decided to expand into vegetable and fruit farming. He and his wife, Suzette, bought an irrigation farm on the Orange River. He adored the place, the wild vegetation, the rush of the river, the toot of the trains crossing the bridge.

On the land he'd bought was an old British blockhouse, a sturdy fort made of stone and steel. Its twin had once stood on the other side of the river. Both had shooting slits and housed soldiers who guarded the bridge against the Boers. Not well enough, as it turned out. The twin fort on the other side of the river was dismantled by a farmer decades ago, its stones used to build a piggery

### From a fort to a dwelling

Suzette's father (she was from Venterstad) encouraged Johns to fix up the old blockhouse, then falling apart. He did more than that: he saw it commanded a glorious view of the river and decided it would be a splendid place to live.

And so the sturdy old blockhouse was to be transformed into a modern home. His first job was to clear out the snakes and rats, then make a doorway at the bottom. The British soldiers had used a ladder that led to a narrow entrance several metres up.

Turning a mini-fort into a modern-day dwelling was a work of love, construction genius and very crafty interior plumbing. The kitchen and living areas were at the bottom, with a fireplace that heated up the three storeys above it. He and Suzette thrived there for 45 years and raised four children in it. It was as snug and colourful as a Gipsy caravan. But for Paul Johns, the best thing was the view over the river, which he adored.

# BUSINESS

## GF Trucks Ltd investing in maintenance services

By Francis Kajubi

GF Trucks and Equipment Limited has opened one-stop-service centers at border posts of the country to serve for maintenance services to truck owners who transport cargo from the port of Dar es Salaam to the East African region and beyond.

The company has also deployed 20 patrolling vans with technicians to ply through highways to the borders to offer maintenance services and sell spare parts whenever breakdowns occur.

Salman Karmali, GF Trucks Commercial Director told the press on Saturday in Dar es Salaam that the one-stop-centers been opened at the Namanga, Holili, Kabanga, Tunduma and Masasi where most of the trucks carrying cargo from the Dar es Salaam port to the rest of the East African region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) pass through.

Karmali revealed the news at the 7th Annual General Meeting by the Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATO) that brought about 300 members to discuss success and challenges realized through 2022 in business operations and the way forward in 2023.

"The mobile vans are deployed through the routes of Dar es Salaam through Morogoro-Dodoma-Mwanza. The other routes are Dar es Salaam-Iringa-Mbeya and Dar es Salaam-Pwani-Mtwara. The main-

tenance services are offered for free but one buys the spare parts," he said.

The vehicle assembling company based in Kibaha district in Coast region has a significant contribution to the growth and development of the manufacturing sector in Tanzania thus boosting the country's economy.

Karmali said the company is set on increasing this year's vehicle assembling capacity that it targets at creating more employment opportunities for locals.

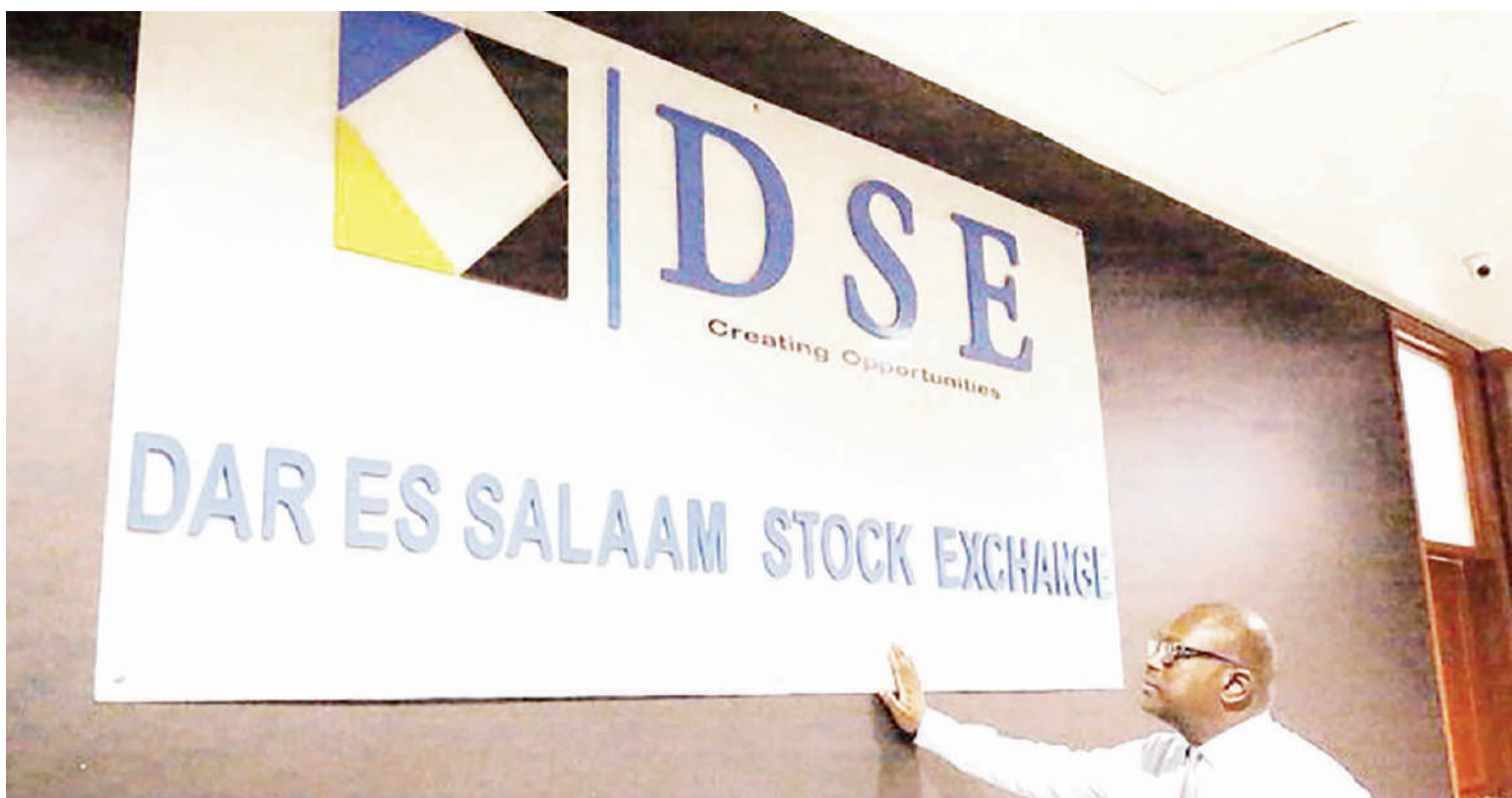
However, the company is working on the final stages of expansion of its facility in Kibaha district to be accomplished this year.

He said since its inception the company has invested US\$2.5million (6bn/-).

"GF has so far employed over 180 workers at its Kibaha facility and created another 100 temporary jobs. Since last December the company has been working on expanding the factory at a tune of 5bn/-," said Karmali.

He said the company had in June last year launched a new FAU Tipper CA 3256 model.

"Not less than 70 assembled vehicles are sold by the company on a monthly basis. We hope that the factory expansions will double production. The expansion has been influenced by the growing demand from mining companies especially in the coal and gold sectors," asserted Karmali.



## 'DSE's foreigners net outflow reaches 4bn/- in three weeks'

By Guardian Reporter

FOREIGN investors' shares sellout at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) has continued to increase, as the market report indicates net outflow of nearly 4bn/- during the first three weeks of this month, which is equivalent to half of total value of shares they sold during the fourth quarter of last year.

The DSE market report shows foreign investors have so far sold shares valued 4.7bn/- to January 20, 2022, which is 79.79 percent of total value of shares sold during the reported period, while the buying value was only 870mn/- or 14.16 percent of

the total value of shares bought in the market.

Analysts say the fear of global recession projected by international financial institutions is causing foreign investors to exit in small markets, as some were targeting to invest in fixed assets in developed economies, including US where interest rates have been increasing.

According to analysts some investors are selling shares because their investments have been realized but their share prices are not increasing, therefore they were looking to invest in companies which they believe the shares are undervalued.

The market report shows a total turnover of 6.1bn/- has been

recorded during the first three weeks of this month, of which local investors dominated in shares buying, while foreign investors dominated in share selling.

Local investors accounted for 85.84 percent of total value of shares bought during the reported period and 23.21 percent of total value of shares sold.

Both domestic and total market capitalisations decreased during the period, due to slow down of share prices of both local and cross listed companies.

Total market capitalization slowed to 15.64trn/- as at January 20, from 15.68trn/- recorded during the end of December last year while domestic market capitalization also slightly

decreased to 10.25trn/- from 10.28trn/- respectively.

All shares index (DSEI) closed at 1,877.05 points on Friday last week from 1,881.99 points on December 30, 2022 while Tanzania Share Index (TSI) closed at 3,879.40 points against 3,888.81 points respectively.

Top performer CRDB Bank Plc share price closed at 380/- during the end of last week from 385/- recorded during the end of last year closing, while NMB Bank share price closed at 3,100/- from 3,020/- respectively.

Tanzania Portland Cement Company (TPCC) share price closed at 3,620/- from 3,700 respectively while NICO share price slowed to 300/- from 325/-



## Gold and silver prices jump in three months

NEW YORK

Ongoing inflationary pressures and increasing risk the federal government could default on its loans will likely see Wall Street traders rush to precious metals in 2023.

The US hit its \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling on Thursday, after the latest inflation data showed consumer prices still 6.5% higher on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, gold and silver jumped roughly 15% and 21%, respectively, the last three months, as plummeting stocks pulled the major US benchmarks even lower, and the US dollar slumped to just \$0.81 of the British Pound and just \$0.92 of the Euro.

In an interview with FOX Business, Jonathan Rose, CEO of Genesis Gold Group, said, "The primary driving force behind gains in the precious metals market are a devaluing US dollar, inflation, and other federal government monetary policies."

"Anyone can see that government spending is a major problem for our country's economic health, and now our gov-



ernment is at risk of defaulting on its bills," he continued. "If the federal government defaults on its loans, it will destroy whatever investor faith might be left in the U.S. dollar and weaken it dramatically."

"This environment creates a strong case for allocating funds to physical precious metals," he added.

A Kitco News' online survey showed investors could see silver jump

more than 50% in 2023 to reach \$38 an ounce, while gold could top out at a record \$2,100 an ounce.

According to Morgan Stanley, "The volatility of silver prices can be two to three times greater than that of gold on a given day." Rose said this was due to the silver market being "significantly smaller" than that of gold, resulting in lower market liquidity.

However, silver's in-

creasing applications in industry could begin closing the gap in 2023, particularly as the automotive sector makes greater shifts to electric, and alternate forms of energy are harnessed through solar.

As an investment for the near future, Rose said "professionals are hailing silver as having a much higher ceiling due to its industrial potential, from its chemical use as a catalyst and conduc-

tor to electrical switches and solar panels."

"Demand for silver is at an all-time high the last 12 months, he went on. "Combining the allure of physical silver as a haven asset creates a strong case for investments into the metal in the near future."

Gold is predicted to reach \$2,000 an ounce in 2023. Over the last year, the yellow metal is up roughly 5% and 5.5% year-to-date.

## Oil prices set for another weekly gain

SINGAPORE

Crude oil prices are about to end this week with another gain, driven by optimism about a demand rebound in China.

It was that same optimism that yesterday pushed prices to the highest close since the start of December, Reuters reported. Brent crude gained \$1.18 per barrel on Thursday and West Texas Intermediate added \$0.85 to top \$80 per barrel for the first time in weeks.

"Prices gained as China optimism continued to reign," Charu Chanana, market strat-

egist at Saxo Capital Markets, told Bloomberg today. "Reports that China's Covid caseload has peaked further boosted optimism that demand will start to recover more sustainably."

Meanwhile, Reuters cited new figures about Chinese demand showing that it rose by close to 1 million bpd in November, signaling further strengthening this year. If this strengthening in Chinese demand does materialize, it would keep the supply side of the oil market tight, adding an upside potential to prices.

"All roads seem to lead back

to the same input - rising Chinese demand," Again Capital's John Kilduff told Reuters. "There's just so much bullish sentiment out there, so much fear, that it keeps underpinning this market."

On the bearish side, there are the continued signs of weakness in the U.S. economy, with the latest updates including a drop in retail sales that suggests inflation remains problematic, and the likelihood that the US manufacturing sector entered a recession in the final quarter of 2022.

This week, the Energy Infor-

mation Administration's petroleum report also weighed on prices as it estimated yet another weekly inventory build in crude oil, and not a small one, at that, at 8.4 million barrels. It followed a 19-million-barrel weekly inventory built estimated for the first week of January.

Bloomberg, meanwhile, noted that trading activity in oil has begun picking up recently after lower liquidity discouraged active trading last year, increasing the likelihood of more sharp swings in prices going forward.



# 55,000 tonnes of coal exported through Mtwara port in 15 days



By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

**Mighty Logistic truck offloads coal from Jitegeme Holding Company mine located in Ruvuma region before being exported to France, Belgium and Spain Photo by Guardian Correspondent**

THE amendment of the mining laws resulted into a series of successive developments in the sector, including local content such as an increase in employment in the mines and domestic purchases, it has been unveiled.

55,000 tonnes of coal exported through Mtwara port in two weeks

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

Over 55,000 tonnes of coal have been exported from Mtwara Port to European and Asian countries such as Belgium, France and Spain in the last two weeks.

They were mined in the Kitai Mines located in Ruvuma region by Jitegeme Holdings and Mighty logistics.

The Mighty Logistics operations manager, Mr Masan Fazal said in Mtwara that over 100

trucks have been involved in the transportation of the 55,000 tonnes of coal to the port.

"These trucks have created jobs for over 500 drivers since the commencement of operations and this has helped in addressing the challenge of unemployment," he said.

"We commend the sixth phase government for creating a conducive business and investment environment for local and foreign investors to benefit with available opportunities in the country," he added.

Acting Mtwara port manager Norbeth Kalembwe called on Tanzanian investors and businessmen to grab the available opportunities by using the port for export of cargo.

"For the export of coal to different destinations across the world, the port has been consistently receiving large ships since 2021. We have the responsibility of ensuring that the ship's arrival

is consistently maintained for the benefit of individual players and the general public," he said.

Data from the Port show that from November 2021 to September 2022, Mtwara Port exported 548,000 tonnes of coal starting from November 2021.

During the period, Ruvuma Coal Limited had shipped 526,000 tonnes, while Jitegeme Holdings Company Limited exported 22,000 tonnes.

Jitegeme Holdings Company Limited supervisor and board member Boscow Mabena said a total of 7.01bn/- has been paid to the government in terms of tax and levies since commencement of operations in 2021.

Prices for thermal coal used for electricity generation have leapt to record levels as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This has led to many European countries losing access to vital supplies of natural gas and coal from their top supplier, Russia.

Buyers in Europe and beyond are now vying to pay top dollar for coal from often remote mines in places such as Tanzania, Botswana and even potentially Madagascar.

The resurgent coal demand, driven by governments trying to wean themselves off Russian energy while keeping a lid on power prices, clashes with climate plans to shift away from the most polluting fossil fuel.

Ruvuma regional resident mining officer Hamis Kamando said 21bn/- revenue had been collected from the mining sector in the 2021/22 Fiscal Year, surpassing the 12bn/- target by 175 percent.

"In the 2022/23, we have been given a target of collecting 26.3bn/- revenue. 23.1bn/- which is equivalent to 87 percent of the target has been collected between July 2022 and January 2023," said Kamando.

He said the region has 328 million tonnes of coal deposits.

## Banks prepare for deepest job cuts since 2008



Banks including Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Bank of New York Mellon have begun to cut more than 15,000 jobs in recent months

LONDON

Banks are gearing up for the biggest round of job cuts since the global financial crisis, as executives come under pressure to slash costs following a collapse in investment banking revenues.

The lay-offs – which are expected to be in the tens of thousands across the sector – reverse the mass hirings banks made over the past few years and the reluctance to

fire staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The job cuts that are coming are going to be super brutal," said Lee Thacker, owner of financial services headhunting firm Silvermine Partners. "It's a reset because they over-hired over the past two to three years."

Banks including Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Bank of New York Mellon have begun to cut more than 15,000 jobs in

recent months, and industry watchers expect others to follow suit, emboldened by the headline-grabbing plans already announced.

"We've seen some warning shots from the US," said Thomas Hallett, an analyst at Keefe, Bruyette & Woods.

"Investors need to see management acting on cost and trying to maintain a reasonable return profile. The Europeans will tend to follow the US banks."

Ana Arsov, co-head of global banking at Moody's, said she expected the job cuts to be less severe than during the financial crisis, but heavier than the collapse in the markets after the dotcom crash in 2000.

"What we are seeing is a catch-up of normal bank layoffs that were put on pause over the past few years," she said. "We will see trimming in European franchises, but not as big as at US banks."

Bank executives said Goldman's eye-catching lay-offs – part of its biggest cost-cutting drive since the financial crisis that includes everything from corporate jets to bonuses – had set a precedent that other banks would look to follow.

"The Goldman headlines are accelerating decision making," said an industry executive with knowledge of several banks' plans. "It's a good time to announce painful cuts if you just follow Goldman."

The Wall Street bank began a process of firing up to 3,200 staff last week, equating to 6.5 per cent of the workforce, as pressure mounts on chief executive David Solomon to improve the bank's return on tangible equity.

Goldman is cutting a simi-

lar number of staff as it did in 2008 during the depths of the global financial crisis, but its workforce then was two-thirds of its current size.

Morgan Stanley laid off 1,800 staff in December, just over 2 per cent of its workforce. Despite having a strong wealth management business, the lender's investment bank suffered along with its fierce rival Goldman Sachs from a near halving of M&A revenues last year.

Morgan Stanley said no further staff cuts were imminent.

"We were frankly a little overdue," chief executive James Gorman told analysts. "We hadn't done anything for a couple of years. We've had a lot of growth, and we'll continue monitoring that."

Bank of New York Mellon, the world's biggest custody bank, plans to cut just under 3 per cent of its workforce – around 1,500 staff – in the first half of the year.

Chief executive Robin Vince told the Financial Times that the bank had been "very careful to recognise" that letting people go during the Covid pandemic would have "broken the social contract" with employees.

## Google staff anxiety runs higher after retrenchment

CALIFORNIA

Google employees, after watching peers at rival tech firms lose their jobs en masse, were anxious about when layoffs would happen to them. Then on Friday morning, some of them couldn't get into their corporate accounts.

The company, owned by Alphabet Inc., had finally decided to cut 12,000 employees, or 6% of the workforce.

Employees described a mostly orderly if impersonal transition, communicated mostly via the same technology products they helped build, with no direct answers for individuals about why they were included or not.

Some found out they lost their jobs via messages sent to their personal email addresses. With no central way to see which roles had been eliminated, the remaining workers took to writing their peers on messaging app Google Chat to see if it worked.

If not, it meant that person had lost their job, according to a Google employee who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

On messaging apps and internal chat rooms, employees started to pose theories and share anxieties about the future. The layoffs appeared to be structural, rather than performance-based.

With performance reviews yet to be finalized later this month, some workers fretted that their roles were still at risk of elimination, according to multiple employees who spoke with Bloomberg, who asked not to be named speaking about internal matters.

Workers who had lost their jobs gathered on messaging platforms such as Discord and Slack to stay in touch.

For months, the search giant had refrained from thinning its ranks as tech giants such as Amazon.com Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Meta Platforms Inc. laid off thousands of workers. When the cuts did come, they appeared to impact a wide swath of the company.

"It's hard for me to believe that after 20 years at #Google I unexpectedly find out about my last day via an email," one software engineer, Jeremy Joslin, wrote on Twitter. "What a slap in the face. I wish I could have said goodbye to everyone face to face."

The company's prized artificial intelligence teams appeared to escape mostly unscathed. In a message to staff announcing the layoffs, Alphabet Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai framed the cuts as a way for the company to sharpen its focus on artificial intelligence.

But Area 120, an in-house incubator for new ideas, was decimated. The unit's managing partner and workers on three projects slated to be folded into Google were spared, but virtually all other employees were laid off, according to two people with knowledge of the matter.

Google employee Dallas Barnes, a visual designer, wrote on Twitter that he was the only member of his team who had survived the cuts. "The amount of sadness, frustration, and confusion I'm feeling right now is hard to put into words," he wrote.

The Alphabet Workers Union, a so-called minority union that does not have collective bargaining rights, said the layoffs underscored the importance of worker organizing.

"This is egregious and unacceptable behavior by a company that made \$17 billion dollars in profit last quarter alone," Parul Koul, executive chair of Alphabet Workers Union, said in a statement. "With billions in profits and executive compensation untouched, our jobs should not be on the chopping block."



## ADC launches construction of new data centre in Nairobi

NAIROBI

WITH the ongoing digital transformation, African businesses need more internet capacity to support their operations, and local and foreign companies are stepping up investments in building data centers to better meet the growing demand on the continent.

Africa Data Centres (ADC)

has announced that it launched the construction of an additional data center in Nairobi, Kenya.

The new infrastructure is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2024 and will expand ADC's current facility with up to 15 MW of additional IT load.

"We believe that data centres will play a significant role in digital transformation and

economic growth on our continent. Without them, the push towards a digital economy in Africa will be missing a key pillar. Our decision to increase our investment in our data centres in Kenya is in recognition of the position the country now occupies as a leader in the adoption of digital technologies in Africa," said Hardy Pemhiwa, CEO of Cassava Technologies, ADC's parent company.

ADC announced its plans to extend its Sameer facility by adding a new data center last December. The plan aims to meet the growing demand for its services in a context marked by the significant increase in the adoption of digital services in East Africa.

The company is thus pursuing its African expansion strategy, under which it will invest US\$500 million to build data

centers in about ten African countries.

The additional capacity should enable ADC to better meet the growing demand from businesses in Kenya and East Africa, and strengthen its ecosystem on the continent as competition increases in a growing market with the presence of companies such as Huawei, Google, Microsoft, Teraco, OADC, Raxio and Amazon.



## WORLD

## Davos may be over, but weeklong affair left behind some changes

GENEVA

THE World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023 closed on Friday, with more than 2,000 honorable guests participating in hundreds of sessions during the weeklong event.

This year's version remained unchanged in some respects. For instance, global elites gathered for brainstorming in the same "Davos spirit," China was given plenty of attention and climate change was a hot topic.

But there were some notable and lasting changes.

## Geopolitical Europe

First, a more divided Europe emerged from a surge in geopolitical confrontations, reflected in the absence of a Russian delegation from Davos.

Tensions between the West and Russia intensified during the Ukraine crisis. Europe has proceeded with "de-Russification" policies, particularly in its energy sector. Despite strategic partnerships between Russian companies and the forum, Russian political and business leaders were not invited to this year's event.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in his Davos speech that Germany had stopped importing Russian gas and

coal, indicating "a profound turning point in German foreign and security policy."

Similarly, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen revealed that Europe has collectively reduced its foreign dependence on pipeline gas by 80 percent in less than one year.

Their statements imply that "de-Russification" is underway in Europe, yet its outcome remains unknown.

## Consensus on global challenges

Another change is the growing consensus that humanity's challenges have never been greater, evolving from regional and individual issues to global and interconnected ones.

As the first in-person event held since the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers described this year's affair as occurring amid the most complex geopolitical and geo-economic situation in decades.

WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab has repeatedly stressed that today's world is facing multiple unprecedented crises, such as an energy transition, the pandemic, climate change and geopolitical tensions.

In addition, a wobbling global economy, widening deficits in global gov-



Participants are seen during a session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos on Jan 17, 2023. AFP

ernance, food and energy crises ... the list of unprecedented challenges tormenting humanity seems unending and is growing.

"Our world is plagued by a perfect storm on a number of fronts," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his Wednesday speech. "We are in the worst situation I can remember in my lifetime," he warned.

Not coincidentally, Gim Huay Neo, managing director of the WEF's Centre for Nature and Climate, deemed the multiple crises the "new normal of the planet."

## Shift to resilience

Third, the mood has shifted away from a focus on growth to a focus on resilience.

A global economic recovery remains fragile and tortuous, with many countries grappling with supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures. Policymakers are being called upon to take robust measures to build up resilience.

"Black swan" events over the past three years have made economic resilience a core agenda for every country and business, said Khaldoun

Khalifa Al Mubarak, CEO of Mubadala Investment Company, calling for moving from a cost-driven to a resilience-driven mindset.

Michelle Williams, dean of the faculty at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, said the "long COVID" impact on the economic and financial sectors is here to stay and that the entire health system and societies must rebuild resilience from such an impact.

For her part, Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Rania A. Al-Mashat said Egypt knows firsthand the impact of climate change and firmly believes that investing in climate protection is investing in economic resilience.

Other topics at the forum included a growing call for re-globalization, artificial intelligence, the meta-universe and data regulations, and such emerging topics as future work styles and demographic trends.

All shed light on the current evolution and development of humanity. But one thing remains unchanged: Only in unity can the global community make steady progress and achieve its long-term goals.

## India blocks BBC documentary on Premier Modi from airing

MUMBAI

INDIA has blocked the airing of a BBC documentary which questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership during the 2002 Gujarat riots, saying that even sharing of any clips via social media is barred.

Directions to block the clips from being shared have been issued using emergency powers available to the government under the country's information technology rules, said Kanchan Gupta, an adviser to the government, on his Twitter handle on Saturday.

While the BBC has not aired the documentary in India, the video was uploaded on some YouTube channels, Gupta said.

The government has issued orders to Twitter to block over 50 tweets linking to the video of the documentary and YouTube has been instructed to block any uploads of the video, Gupta said. Both YouTube and Twitter have complied with the directions, he added.

Modi was the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat when it was gripped by communal riots that left more than 1,000 people dead, by government count - most of them Muslims. The violence erupted after a train carrying Hindu pilgrims caught fire, killing 59.

Modi denied accusations that he failed to stop the rioting. A special investigation team appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate the role of Modi and others in the violence said in a 541-page report in 2012 it could find no evidence to prosecute the then chief minister.

Modi was later named the head of his party, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which he led to power in general elections in 2014 and then in 2019.

Last week, a spokesperson for India's foreign ministry termed the BBC documentary a "propaganda piece" meant to push a "discredited narrative".

Agencies

## Speaker warns of powerful retaliation for weapons supplies to Kiev for attacks on Russia

MOSCOW

WEAPONS supplies to Ukraine by the United States and NATO for attacks on Russia would lead to retaliatory use of more powerful armaments, State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin warned yesterday.

"Supplies of offensive weapons to the Kiev regime would lead to a global disaster. If Washington and NATO countries send arms that will be used for attacks on peaceful cities or attempts at occupying our lands, a threat they have been making, this would provoke retaliatory measures with the use of more powerful weapons," Volodin wrote on his Telegram channel.

The senior Russian lawmaker slammed as untenable other countries' arguments that "nuclear powers never used weapons of mass destruction in local conflicts." "Those powers never faced a situation where the security of their citizens or their territorial integrity was at stake," he argued.

The State Duma speaker called on members of the US Congress, Germany's Bundestag, France's National Assembly and other European parliamentarians to realize their responsibility for humankind.

"By their decisions, Washington and Brussels are pushing the world to a disastrous war - to military operations that will be quite different from what they have seen so far, when only military and critical infrastructure being used by the Kiev regime has been attacked.

Agencies

## Russia to take action against French media in response to RT France account bans

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will take retaliatory measures against French media in the country after RT France account have been blocked, the Russian Foreign Ministry told TASS on Saturday.

"Blocking RT France account will lead to retaliatory measures against French media in Russia. They will be very noticeable, if the French authorities do not stop intimidating Russian journalists," the ministry said.

The bank account of the RT France TV channel was blocked in France at the request of the General Directorate of the Treasury under the French Ministry of Economy and Finance, Le Monde reported on Thursday. It was noted that the decision was made in accordance with the ninth package of EU sanctions, adopted in mid-December 2022.

Agencies

## 1st Chinese tourist group arrives in Egypt since COVID outbreak

CAIRO

AHEAD of the upcoming Chinese New Year, Egypt received the first Chinese tourist group on Friday since the outbreak of COVID-19 three years ago.

During a welcoming ceremony for the Chinese tourist group at Cairo International Airport, Egyptian Vice-Minister for Tourism and Antiquities Ghada Shalaby welcomed the Chinese tourists, expressing aspiration to see more Chinese tourist groups.

Highlighting the attention Egypt pays to the health and safety of tourists, Shalaby said all workers in all Egyptian hotels and tourist facilities have been vaccinated and trained on the highest health and safety standards.

Chinese tourists will find many Chinese products in Egypt that will



Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang (4th right, 2nd row) and Egyptian Vice-Tourism and Antiquities Minister Ghada Shalaby (3rd right, 2nd row) and others pose for a group photo with members of a Chinese tourist group at the Cairo International Airport in Cairo, Egypt, on Friday. XINHUA

make them feel at home, she added.

Yehia Zakaria, chairman of the EgyptAir Holding Company, also welcomed the arrival of the Chinese tourist group, noting both Egypt and China boast of ancient civilizations steeped in history.

According to Zakaria, the number of weekly flights between Egypt and China will be increased to 13 starting March: Seven to the southern city of Guangzhou, three to the eastern city of Hangzhou, and three to Beijing.

In his address at the welcoming ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang thanked the Egyptian government and people for giving a warm welcome to the Chinese tourists and wished for an ever-lasting friendship between the two countries.

"It is believed that in the near future, the number of Chinese tourists and flights to Egypt will return to the pre-epidemic level," Liao said.

Feng Jian, a tourist from the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, said it is his first time to travel abroad since the start of

the pandemic.

"I chose Egypt for my first trip, as Egypt, like China, is also one of the four ancient civilizations and I want to experience the culture of Egypt," he told Xinhua.

Fu Bo, another tourist from Beijing, said he has always wanted to visit Egypt as he is interested in Egyptian history and culture.

"I heard that the Egyptians are generally friendly to Chinese tourists, so I hope to visit Egypt more often," Fu added.

China used to be the fourth largest source of tourists to Egypt in the pre-pandemic years.

In 2019, Egypt received 13.1 million tourists, with its tourism revenues hitting a record high of \$13.03 billion before the pandemic badly hit the sector in the next few years.

Xinhua

## Danube Hospitality, AirOWater introduces drinking water solution to the MENA region

DUBAI

DANUBE Hospitality, the one-stop, end-to-end solution provider for hospitality businesses for the Middle East is playing the way towards sustainability with its multi category, multi brand tie-ups that employ sustainable practices to supply eco-friendly products and services, helping reduce carbon footprint. The brand has recently signed up extensive assortment of sustainable products for the hospitality and healthcare industry.

Governments and decision-makers in different sectors have realized the importance of sustainable, earth-friendly solutions to global problems like scarcity of natural resources,

pollution, plastic waste, and other factors that damage the planet. Danube Hospitality aligns with the thought of the leadership in different sectors to play its part in the sustainability movement that is gaining momentum rapidly.

"Danube Hospitality aims to pioneer the sustainability movement across the MENA region. With our partnership with AirOWater technology, pure drinking water will be made available to Hospitality, Healthcare, Government Offices, Educational Institutes, and other sectors, economically, and sustainably. AirOWater generates pure drinking water which is filled in glass bottles for distribution, greatly reducing plastic waste,



Shubhojit Mahalanobis, Director-Retail and Hospitality, Danube Group

and in turn the plastic footprint of the nation," says Shubhojit Mahalanobis, Director-Retail and Hospitality, Danube Group. Danube Hospitality's partnership with the sustainable drinking water solutions provider, AirOWater, will ensure the provision of sustainable water as a service and a solution.

The brand is now entering the market with a vision to replace plastic water bottles with glass bottles and generate sustainable drinking water from the air. This is a path-breaking effort by Danube Hospitality to supply pure drinking water with a gradual reduction of plastic footprint across industries.

AirOWater specializes in manufacturing Atmospheric Water Generators (AWG) that use a one-of-a-kind, reliable and adaptable technology that creates water from the humidity in the air. This water then goes through a filtration system to obtain fresh, bacteria-free, pure drinking water that is untouched by contaminants in the ground or other surfaces, unlike

pipled water, making it an ideal solution to the global problem of water scarcity and plastic waste.

"We are extremely happy to be associating with Danube for this sustainable and growth initiative. Our innovative technology shall make drinking water a service available to all, which is gradually getting scarce in the world. I am very confident this effort shall help governments and the public sector reach their Sustainable Development Goals faster. The Partnership with Danube will help us achieve our never ending goal of providing Water to World (W2W) and contribute towards reducing this global problem," says Rahul Mathur, CEO AirOWater.

## China sees accelerated recovery of culture, tourism consumption

CHINA, the most promising consumption market in the world, is seeing a dramatic rise in the culture and tourism sector as the Chinese New Year, the most important festival of the year for Chinese people, approaches.

The demand for cultural and tourism products is increasing at an accelerated rate, boosting confidence in the recovery of the industry and guiding its innovative development.

"There are more and more visitors coming to Sanya. I received three batches of tourists this morning alone," said Wang Yu, who works in the tourism industry in Sanya, south China's Hainan province.

According to statistics released by Sanya Phoenix International Airport, the airport handled 929,000 passengers in the first 15 days of January this year, up 15.3 percent year on year.

A report on tourism consumption during the 2023 Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, issued by Tongcheng Travel, a market leader in China's online travel industry, said there has been a significant rise in traveling demand during the Chinese New Year period this year, especially for medium- and long-distance trips.

The Spring Festival travel rush officially started on Jan. 7. The number of ticket orders

received by Tongcheng Travel for trains departing on the Chinese New Year's Eve and a day before surged 31 percent from a year ago, ranking first in the past three years. Between Jan. 1 and 8, the consultation volume for long-distance travel products scheduled for the Spring Festival vacation increased nearly 20-fold. Besides, the search volume for hot destinations, such as Xishuangbanna, Changbai Mountain, Sanya, and Xiamen, more than doubled from a year ago.

The per-customer transaction of travel products scheduled for the Spring Festival period has increased by over 70 percent from a year ago, and the numbers of hotel

and tourist site ticket bookings have increased by nearly 20 percent, said Alibaba's travel portal Feizhu. There is also a significant rise in the distance and duration of trips as well as the number of travel companions, according to Feizhu. Besides, the bookings for high-end hotels also improved by nearly 30 percent, and those for rural B&Bs increased by over 100 percent.

Li Donghan, owner of a B&B hotel in Dali, southwest China's Yunnan province, told People's Daily that all rooms had already been booked for the Spring Festival period. The man has cooperated with local farmers to sell local specialties and artware at his

B&B. "There are around 7,000 B&B hotels in Dali. A large portion of the rooms have been booked for the period from now to the Spring Festival vacation, and the figure is over 90 percent in some high-end B&B hotels," said Li Haizhong, head of the homestay association of Dali.

In a theater near the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum in Lintong district, Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province, a show about the renowned Terracotta Warriors is chased after nowadays.

People's Daily



## Xi extends Spring Festival greetings to all Chinese, urging solid work to create better future

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, on behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council, extended Spring Festival greetings to all Chinese on Friday at a reception in Beijing.

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivered a speech at the gathering at the Great Hall of the People, greeting Chinese people of all ethnic groups, compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, and overseas Chinese.

This year's Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, falls on Jan. 22.

The outgoing Year of the Tiger is an extremely important year in the history of the Party and the country, Xi said.

Confronted with high winds and choppy waters in the international situation and the challenging tasks of pursuing reform and development and ensuring stability at home, the whole Party, the entire military and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups have risen to the challenge, united closely and worked in concert, writing a new chapter of socialist modernization, he said.

Li Keqiang presided over the reception. Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Han Zheng, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi and Wang Qishan were also present at the event.

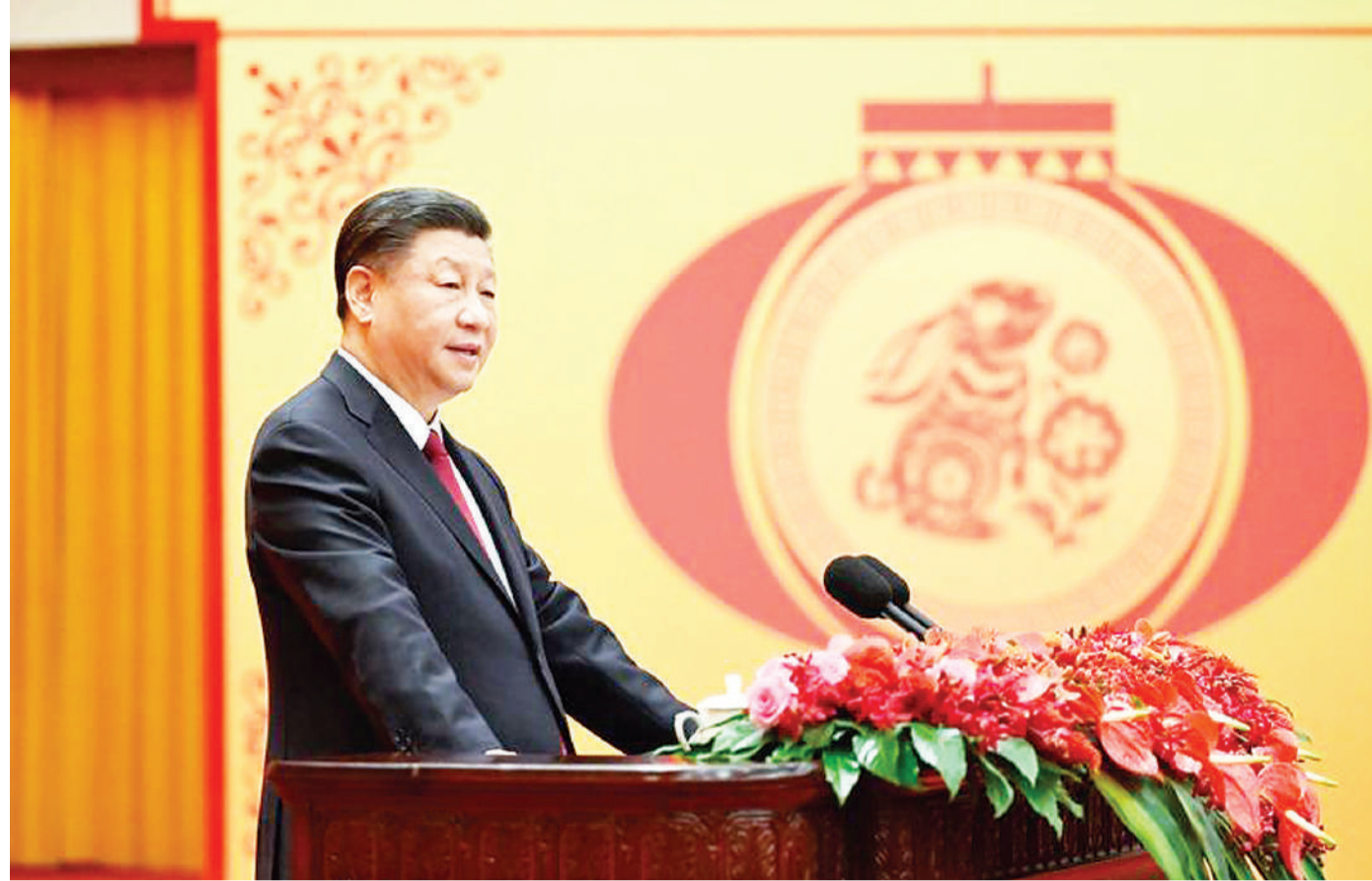
Over the past year, the CPC successfully convened its 20th National Congress, Xi noted, lauding the country's efforts in accelerating the building of a new development pattern, promoting high-quality development, maintaining steady economic growth, achieving bumper harvests, keeping employment and prices generally stable, and having people's livelihoods well guaranteed.

He also praised the progress made in work on consolidating poverty alleviation outcomes, technological breakthroughs and ecological improvement.

Solid steps have been taken to modernize the national defense and armed forces, while full and strict Party self-governance has proceeded at a deeper level, and social stability has been maintained, Xi said.

"With the commitment to putting the people and lives above all else, we have constantly optimized epidemic response in light of virus development and the epidemic prevention situation," Xi said, noting that these efforts have protected the safety of people's lives and their health to the maximum extent, while minimizing the impact of COVID-19 in the economic and social fields.

The country successfully hosted the Beijing 2022 Win-



President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at a gathering at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to extend Spring Festival greetings to all Chinese at home and abroad on Jan 20, 2023. (LI XUEREN / XINHUA)

ter Olympics and Paralympics and celebrated the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland last year, Xi said, adding that the initiative to steer relations across the Taiwan Strait has been maintained, while major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics has been promoted to inject stability into this volatile world.

The hard-won achievements over the past year have come from the collective dedication and hard work of the Party and the people, Xi said.

"As long as the Party stands together with the people, always remains true to the people's aspirations and works in concert with the peo-

ple, our iron-will will not be wavered by any storm, and our strides will not be stemmed by any difficulties," he said.

Noting that 2023 will be the first year for fully implementing the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress, Xi underscored the need to better coordinate COVID-19 response and economic and social development, better coordinate development and security, deepen reform and opening-up in all respects, achieve overall improvement of the economy, and steadily raise the living standards of the people.

"The new journey ahead will be a long one filled with glories and dreams," Xi said. "There

are no shortcuts, and only actions count."

The glorious past was created through solid work and only through solid work can a better future be created, Xi said.

In traditional Chinese culture, the rabbit is considered smart and agile, pure and kind, as well as peaceful and happy, Xi said, expressing his hope that the people, especially the youth, can forge ahead with swift actions like rabbits, and fully display their charm and abilities in their respective sectors. **People's Daily**

## Burkina Faso gov't demands departure of French troops

OUAGADOUGOU

BURKINA Faso's military government has demanded the departure of French troops stationed in the country, the West African nation's national television reported on Saturday, citing a local news agency.

A spokesman for the government did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A spokesman for the French government was not immediately available for comment.

A source close to the Burkina Faso military government confirmed the news of the demand for the departure of French troops, but gave no further details.

Burkina Faso's state television RTB, citing the news agency, said the military government on Jan 18 suspended a 2018 military accord that allowed the presence of French troops in the country. It added that France had a month to pull its troops from Burkina Faso.

The decision is a sign of a further deterioration of relations between France and its former colony since a September 2022 military coup. Some of the tension revolves around perceptions that France's military presence in Burkina Faso has not improved security in the insurgent-hit West African country.

Hundreds demonstrated against Paris in the capital Ouagadougou on Friday, chanting anti-France slogans and wielding placards calling on the French army to leave the country.

France has some 400 special forces based in the country to help local forces battle the Islamist insurgency that has spread across the Sahel from Mali over the past decade.

**A source close to the Burkina Faso military government confirmed the news of the demand for the departure of French troops**

## US partisan standoff over debt ceiling poses risk of default, higher inflation

WASHINGTON

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen appeared Friday on CNN to warn of international consequences if the federal government fails to raise the debt ceiling, with both the Democrat and Republican parties in a standoff.

After her department's "extraordinary measures" are exhausted, the United States could experience a downgrading of its debt as a result

of Congress failing to raise the debt ceiling, Yellen told CNN.

Earlier this week, U.S. debt rose to over 31.4 trillion U.S. dollars, the limit set by Congress over a year ago, prompting the Treasury Department to take "extraordinary measures" to continue financing the federal government.

In a letter to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Yellen said there would be "considerable uncertainty" should

Congress fail to pass legislation to increase the debt ceiling, namely the maximum amount the U.S. government can borrow.

However, the standoff between the two parties has sparked concerns over a possible debt default. Republicans, who now control the House by a slim margin and want any deal on raising the debt limit to be tied to spending cuts, are pushing

Democrats to negotiate over the debt

limit. Democrats refuse to budge, setting up an impasse between the two bitterly divided sides. If the federal government fails to make payments, "our borrowing costs would increase, and every American would see that their borrowing costs would increase as well," Yellen told CNN.

A failure to make payments that are due "would undoubtedly cause a recession in the U.S. economy and could cause a global financial crisis,"

she added. "The U.S. clearly has a public spending problem," as seen in "the steady rise in its public debt to GDP ratio to its highest level in the post-war period and in the large size of its unfunded social security obligations," Desmond Lachman, senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua.

Xinhua

## Experts highlight challenges in fighting COVID-19 at WEF

GENEVA

PUBLIC health experts and officials attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2023 have cautioned against some major challenges in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, as Omicron variants are still spreading rampantly worldwide.

They emphasized the impact of long COVID, vaccine inequality and pandemic-related misinformation at the meeting held at Davos, Switzerland. While the COVID situation has been better than that in the early stages, Michelle Williams, dean of the faculty at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, warned at the WEF that the "bottom line is this pandemic is far from over."

Williams said that there are still 526 deaths per day from COVID-19 across the United States, up from about 400 per day in October last year. "What's really disappointing is nine out of 10 of those deaths could be averted," if vaccines and boosters would have been taken, and other behavioral aspects, such as ventilation, mask-wearing, and appropriate social distancing practised, Williams said.

"So for me as a public health person, knowing that we could avert nine out of 10 of those deaths reminds me of the fact that we have to avoid prematurely talking about this pandemic being over," she said.

The expert also cited social-economic implications that "long COVID" would inflict upon society in the future. "In the U.S. alone, over 174,000 COVID infants will have a life course impacted by this pandemic," she said.

"And it's not only going to be impacting individuals and families, but the economic impact of long COVID ... is that it's going to cost us 3.7 trillion (U.S.) dollars. That's going to have financial impacts." While COVAX was launched in 2020 to accelerate the



Passengers wearing face masks are seen at Brasilia's Juscelino Kubitschek international airport, Brazil, Nov. 26, 2022. File photo

development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has long been complaining about rich countries stockpiling the majority of multiple vaccine supplies.

Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, said at the WEF that for three years in half of the lower-income countries, 53 percent of the population have got their primary vaccination. Globally, the coverage rate is 64 percent.

"We realize that the disparities were still there," Berkley said. Addressing a panel discussion at the WEF, Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Program, said that "there is no way out of this pandemic right now without vaccines as the central strategic pillar."

"Being able to use those vaccines equitably is not only a fair and important humanitarian objective, it's the best way for us all

to get out of the pandemic phase that we're currently in right now," Ryan said.

To ensure vaccine equity, Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a global vaccine partnership, called on countries and manufacturers at the WEF to prioritize vaccine supply to the global program COVAX and to support the local production of tests, vaccines and treatments around the world.

Hatchett also asked pharmaceutical companies to stand in solidarity with developing countries by sharing licences, know-how and technology to find a way out of the pandemic.

Even with enough vaccines and preparedness, response to similar public health crises in the future could still be compromised, if there is a lack of solid trust between the public, governments and academia.

Meanwhile, the rampant spread of misinformation on social media would also make things worse. Williams said a di-

verse society needs to have multiple layers of communicators and different styles of communicating.

The expert said governments should understand the people and the communities they are serving, reckon with the reasons for mistrust, and then work collaboratively and respectfully in addressing the appropriate message and messenger to promote change. "That's where a better understanding and behavioral sciences are going to help us," said Williams.

Berkley pinpointed "intentional misinformation" as one of the challenges, while citing the bad COVID situation in the United States as an example. "It's about the political climate and misinformation ... That's really unfortunate," Berkley said.

"And even other external experts, who might have been able to help, were then also demonized." The WHO has labeled the pandemic-related misinformation as an "infodemic," which refers to "too much information including false or misleading information in digital and physical environments during a disease outbreak."

It has called for an infodemic management by listening to community concerns and questions, promoting understanding of risk and health expert advice, building resilience to misinformation, and engaging and empowering communities to take positive action.

**So for me as a public health person, knowing that we could avert nine out of 10 of those deaths reminds me of the fact that we have to avoid**

## Sunak fined by police for failing to wear seat belt

LONDON

BRITISH police fined Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday for failing to wear a seat belt while he filmed a social media clip in the back seat of a moving car, a potentially embarrassing blow as he tries to revive his party's fortunes.

Sunak, who apologized on Thursday for a "brief error of judgement", had uploaded the video to Instagram during a trip to north west England. It was widely shared by other users who noticed that he had not buckled up.

Local police had said later that day they would investigate, and confirmed late on Friday that an offense had taken place.

It is the second penalty Sunak has received from police after last year they found he broke COVID-19 lockdown rules, along with then-prime minister Boris Johnson.

Sunak becomes the second prime minister after Johnson to have broken the law in such a manner.

The fine represents an additional distraction for Sunak, whose Conservative Party trails far behind the opposition Labour Party in the opinion polls, ahead of an election

due by January 2025 at the latest.

"The prime minister fully accepts this was a mistake and has apologized. He will of course comply with the fixed penalty," a spokesman from Sunak's Downing Street office said in a statement.

Police in the northern English county of Lancashire said in a statement that a 42-year-old man from London had been served a penalty notice.

Sunak's video comprised an update on the government's "levelling up" plans to reduce regional disparities.

In Britain a person can be fined up to 500 pounds (\$620) if they fail to wear a seatbelt, unless there is an exemption, such as for emergency services, in taxi or when a driver is reversing.

"Thank you Lancashire Police for all you do in road safety campaigning all year round. Also, reminding us no one is above the law," Cat Smith, a Labour lawmaker, said on Twitter.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reacts during his visit to Royal Air Force RAF Coningsby, near Lincoln, eastern England. File photo

# Kibo Palace pledges more support for Kili Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

THE management of the Kibo Palace Hotels has pledged to continue to sponsor the annual Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon due to its importance in promoting the economy of the nation and sports.

The promise was made by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kibo Palace Hotels, Vincent Laswai, during the Kilimanjaro launching version of the event that took place in Moshi over the weekend.

"Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon has and continues to play a big role in promoting sports, especially identifying and later on promoting new talents in the sports sector, as well as the economy, especially in the tourism sector," he said.

He added: "We are the main witnesses of this improvement in the tourism sector and this is so because we host many visitors who come to take part in this event, now termed as a sports tourism event."

"This event has played a big role in bringing awareness as far as the marathon event is concerned in both Kilimanjaro and



The Chairman of Kibo Palace Hotels, Vincent Laswai, speaking when he hosted this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon Moshi launch over the weekend.

the country as a whole."

"It also gives opportunity to Tanzanian marathoners to compete with those who have great experience in the international arenas as far as the long races in athletics are concerned."

He said as one of the official suppliers of the event, the Kibo Palace Hotels is proud to be as-

sociated with the now world-recognized annual event.

According to Laswai, the showdown has played a big role in marketing Tanzania inside and outside the country and therefore increasing the number of tourists visiting the region and the country in general.

"We will continue to cooperate with the organizers, the main sponsors of the event, and other sponsors in making sure that this event continues to appear in the international sports calendar for the betterment of sports, tourism promotion, and the economic well-being of our country," he noted.

Kibo Palace operates in Moshi as Kibo Palace Hotel, Kibo Palace Home, and Kibo Palace Hotel in Arusha.

The 21st edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon is expected to take place on February 26, at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) grounds, bringing together more than 12,000 participants from more than 50 countries worldwide.

The marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Ltd, is

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager is the race's main sponsor through sponsorship of the main race stretching 42km, and Tigo sponsoring the Tigo Half-Marathon, the 21km race.

Other sponsors include Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Sugar, Total Energies, official suppliers GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, and CMC Automobiles.

## Coach Nasreddine Nabi showcases exceptional tactical approach - 2

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

THE analyst pointed out: "To accomplish this, Nabi's exceptional statistics stand as supporting evidence, whereby, within 19 matches played by Yanga, there has been no red card shown to any of the side's footballers."

He added: "About 4875 fouls have been committed by all 16 teams participating in 2022/23 NBC Premier League, with Yanga players committing 238 fouls and making their side the one with fewest fouls committed."

Nabi joined Yanga on April 20, 2021, inking an 18-month contract, and the club's leadership later resorted to retaining the gaffer at the end of last year due to his impressive work ethic.

### Use of great, entertaining techniques

When coaching soccer, a coach must remember that it is a game, so players need to have fun.

For that matter, Nabi can help his players be at their best by creating a productive and entertaining training environment.

A tactician should moreover have several ways of developing the skills and talent of players.

Yanga's footballer, therefore, can strive for excellence, engage in consistent intensive training, have the desire to train and compete, and gain personal strength through respect for teammates.

### Shaping the environment

Another exceptional quality that Nabi possesses is the skill of shaping the environment by selecting footballers for the first eleven with what it takes to make the side's fans happy.

A football coach must, either consciously or unconsciously, know how to design and control a soccer environment.

He/she should strive to invest considerable time and effort in engineering a conducive environment that nurtures respect, pride, courage, confidence, and other attributes that are important to the coach.

### Having coaching philosophy

A coaching philosophy entails hav-

ing personal coaching objectives and coaching style.

Some common coaching objectives include being one of the top teams, making soccer fun, showing considerable individual and team improvements, improving the club's win/loss record, and winning the league title.

The success of a soccer coach should be measured in various ways besides ranking or win/loss record. Some important measures of success for a coach include enthusiasm.

### Motivating and Communicating

Soccer players need to feel worthy, positive about themselves, and competent.

According to a local football analyst, a gaffer must help soccer players meet their needs entertainingly by structuring the sport's experience so that it excites and challenges players.

Motivating players makes them develop a strong desire to demonstrate their competence and master skills.

### Stimulate game conditions

In the sport of soccer, quick and accurate decision-making is paramount. Establishing situations and comprehending the pitch to make appropriate decisions separates average players from good players.

For that matter, a coach has to create practice situations focusing on skills and tactics that are applicable in a game.

Practicing in a game-like setting helps players recognize when specific tactics or skills are necessary.

Also, practicing in a game setting allows players to learn how to adapt to the changing playing area using the right skills.

The game settings should approximate competition demands. While at it, a coach varies exercises using various size areas of play and altering the number of touches a player is allowed. This way, a coach can closely simulate real game situations.

A soccer coach's role is to prepare and develop soccer players for competition, therefore, a coach should be ready to either adapt or create drills that match the unique demands of a team.

Drills provide a great way of addressing technical flaws in soccer players.

## Town Classic Band set to host bonanza



Town Classic Band's spokesman, Mwemba Burton 'Mwijaku' (R), briefs the press on a music bonanza, to be organized by the Dar es Salaam-based troupe, in the city last weekend. Others are the troupe's manager Andrew Sekidia (2nd R), vocalist 'Dogo Rama' (2nd L), and rapper Totoo Kalala. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NEWLY formed dance music band, Town Classic Band, is expected to start hosting a bonanza in Dar es Salaam at the end of this month.

The band's manager, Andrew Sekidia, disclosed to reporters last week that the bonanza will be held at the Msasani Beach Club located at Kawe in the city every Sunday.

Sekidia stated that his troupe wants to, among others, restore

the status of the hall.

"It's been many years since Msasani Beach Club has hosted dance music entertainment, so we want to bring back the bonanza so that the fans can have fun," Sekidia revealed.

He explained that the band is also determined to restore the status of dance music, adding that hosting the bonanza is one of the ways to restore the genre's status.

The spokesman for Town Classic Band, Mwemba Burton

'Mwijaku', said that after six months the music genre will regain its edge and successfully challenge new generation music, which is lately holding sway.

"I'm sure of that because there is no dispute about it, Taarab will equally be affected because we know all methods we can use to promote dance music," the spokesman disclosed.

He said that the band will turn out to be a prominent

troupe, given it has gifted musicians.

The spokesman pointed out: "For those who don't believe what I'm saying, you should come to the bonanza that will start on January 29 and see how Town Classic Band musicians work."

"It is my promise that we are going to dominate 'Bongo Flava' and restore dance music through Town Classic Band performance," he said.



## Ministry pledges to protect historical sites

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

DEPUTY Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Pauline Gekul last Wednesday launched a program for the identification of cultural heritage sites as well as African redemption areas in Tanzania.

Pauline (pictured) said the key objective of the program is to protect and make the areas widely known as historical symbols in Africa.

Speaking at Kongwa District in Dodoma immediately after visiting Kongwa Africa freedom fighters' camp, she said that Tanzania was at the forefront of helping other African countries gain freedom by allocating part of the country's lands for settlement and training freedom fighters.

"We embarked on renovating these areas without destroying history, our country's founding father Mwalimu Julius Nyerere had positive insights in helping others by believing that one can-

not be free while his neighbour is still colonized," the Deputy Minister said.

She added: "We are required to respect this concept via inheriting generations. Such a move will help in boosting cultural tourism."

The Deputy Minister further added that her ministry will continue to allocate more funds to the project and insisted Kongwa District Council's authority should maintain the area's infrastructure.

She said once the project of

renovating all historical sites found in various parts of Tanzania is completed, they would be handed over to the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources.

Kongwa District Commissioner Remidius Emmanuel pledged to work on directives issued by the Deputy Minister, noting that his district will, during the 2023/24 fiscal year budget, set aside funds to construct roads heading to the historical site.

The District Commissioner further added that if historical sites

would be used for tourist activities, the initiative would boost Kongwa residents' economy.

Kongwa Identification Beacons' program coordinator Boniface Kadili said that the program will involve other freedom fighters camps located at Dakawa and Mazimbu in Morogoro, Tunduru in Ruvuma, Lindi, and others.

The camps helped the southern African countries of Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia to fight for their independence.



Yanga's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

# Juventus reeling after transfer trial disaster

By Terence DALEY

JUVENTUS are in deep turmoil after being hit with a massive points deduction for what the Italian Football Federation ruled was transfer trickery on the part of the country's biggest football club.

Docked 15 points in Serie A, their sporting director Federico Cherubini banned for 16 months and facing a potential criminal trial into alleged accounting offences, Juve's season will now be dominated by off-field events.

## Why were Juventus docked points?

-- Juve were found guilty of managing capital gains from transfers to artificially benefit their balance sheet.

It was a charge of which they and other clubs including Serie A leaders Napoli were cleared by the FIGC tribunal last year after it was ruled it was impossible to pin down the objective value of a footballer.

However prosecutors at the country's football federation (FIGC) convinced the governing body's tribunal to reopen the sporting trial on the basis of evidence from a separate criminal investigation carried out in Turin.

The FIGC won't publish for another 10 days the tribunal's reasoning for a points deduction which was even harsher than the nine requested by the prosecution.

But Italian media widely report that the documents from the criminal probe convinced the tribunal that there was systematic use of transfers to massage the club's accounts.

## More courtroom drama looms

-- Juve will appeal the FIGC's decision at the country's highest sporting tribunal -- at the Italian Olympic Committee -- who within the next two months will either uphold or throw out the sanctions handed down by the FIGC.

On March 27 a preliminary hearing will decide whether the club, which is quoted on the Italian stock market, and its former leadership will face criminal prosecution for a variety of accounting offences over the three seasons between 2018 and 2021.

Reportedly in their early stages are two more FIGC investigations into Juve's financial activity, one of which is into their alleged relationships with other clubs in gaming capital gains.

The other probe is into claims Juve lied about their players giving up salary payments during the Covid-19 pandemic, with criminal prosecutors saying the club privately assured players they would only miss out on a portion of what was publicly communicated.

Italian media report that Juve owe Cristiano Ronaldo nearly 20 million euros as part of that agreement.

European football's governing body UEFA are also investigating whether Juventus misled them in order to resolve breaches of Financial Fair Play rules with a "settlement agreement" in August last year.

## Everything changes

-- Coach Massimiliano Allegri may have put a brave face on during Saturday's press conference ahead of their match with Atalanta, but his claim that "nothing changes" rings hollow when looking at the Serie A table.



FILE - Juventus' head coach Massimiliano Allegri. Juventus was hit with a massive 15-point penalty for false accounting Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 following an appeal hearing at the Italian soccer federation. (Agencies)

Before Friday's ruling Juve sat third in Italy's top flight and until

last weekend's five-goal destruction at leaders Napoli were considered potential title contenders.

The points penalty is not yet

formally reflected in the league table but Juve were, as of Saturday night, de facto 28 points off the Scudetto pace and 12 away from the Champions League positions.

Juve could qualify for Europe's top club competition through the Europa League but are also potentially facing the threat of exclusion from European competition if UEFA find Juve guilty in their probe.

## A bleak future?

-- Without Champions League football Juve could find it hard to keep players like Adrien Rabiot and Angel Di Maria whose contracts expire in the summer, and with their sporting director out of action renewals and transfers will be that much more difficult to manage.

However Juve can count on the backing of colossal parent company EXOR controlled by the powerful Agnelli family, who have already approved 700 million euros of capital increases in recent years to help a club whose most recent accounts were nearly 240 million euros in the red.

An entire new board was appointed on Wednesday after former chairman Andrea Agnelli -- who had presided over nine league title triumphs -- and the rest of the previous leadership stepped down in November.

The new board is led by Gianluca Ferrero, who is trusted by EXOR chairman John Elkann and has been charged with helping sort out Juve's accounts while maintaining competitiveness on the field.

How successful Ferrero is will depend on how the club fares in a potential myriad of legal battles over the next few turbulent months.

AFP

## Klopp grateful for small step after Liverpool-Chelsea draw

MANCHESTER, England

DESPITE reaching 1,000 games in management, Jurgen Klopp must feel like he is at the beginning of a new journey at Liverpool.

An uninspiring 0-0 draw with Chelsea in the English Premier League on Saturday was in stark contrast to the glorious performances his teams have produced during his trophy-laden time at Anfield.

His 250th game in charge of Liverpool laid bare the challenge he faces to get his struggling team back in contention for the biggest prizes.

It was only last year that the Merseyside club mounted a stirring bid for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies. Now Liverpool sits eighth in the league -- Chelsea is 10th -- and belongs there after three games without a win. Liverpool is in a fight just to secure a place in the top four and next season's Champions League.

"Arsene Wenger lost his 1,000th game 6-0 (Arsenal vs. Chelsea, 2014), so I am really happy that didn't happen," Klopp said.

"For me, it is clear, in this situation you have to be ready for little steps . . . and this was a little step today, that's how it is. I expect progress and I think from the last league game (a 3-0 loss against Brighton) it was progress, definitely, and that's important."

There are several factors behind Liverpool's sudden decline. The impact of Sadio Mane's move to Bayern Munich has been significant -- and compounded by a host of injuries up front, with Luis Diaz, Diogo Jota and Roberto Firmino all out.

Mane's replacement, Darwin Nunez, has been inconsistent in his first season in English soccer and January signing Cody Gakpo will also need time to adapt. Virgil van Dijk is another high-profile injury absentee, while Klopp's aging midfield looks in need of an overhaul, with England's Jude Bellingham widely regarded as a dream recruit.

This is a season of transition, with the FA Cup and Champions League remaining as Liverpool's best chances of silverware after being overtaken by Manchester United and Newcastle in the league. Those teams look capable of finishing in the top four and maybe more.

## MUDRYK'S INSTANT IMPRESSION

On as a 55th-minute substitute, new Chelsea signing Mykhailo Mudryk injected quality into a game that looked desperately short of match-winners.

The winger's move from Shakhtar Donetsk could be worth up to \$108 million but there was little sign of that price tag weighing him down as he sparked panic in Liverpool's defense with his dribbling and burst of pace.

AP

## Arrest shatters Dani Alves' image as soccer's witty winner

BARCELONA, Spain

DANI Alves has spent his first night in pre-trial jail for alleged sexual assault in Spain, an incident that has left his wife distraught and shocked the soccer world.

If he is found guilty, it will also destroy the already severely damaged reputation of one of soccer's most popular players.

The Brazilian star, who denies any wrongdoing, has many more days ahead of him at the prison near Barcelona. Unless he wins an appeal to reverse the judge's decision to deny him bail, he will remain weeks, even months, behind bars until a trial is set.

The 39-year-old Alves was arrested on Friday by Spanish police after they spent days carrying out a preliminary investigation into the accusation from a woman claiming he sexually assaulted her in a Barcelona nightclub last month.

A judge agreed with state prosecutors after hearing the testimonies of Alves, his accuser and a witness that he should remain jailed, without the right to bail.

Barcelona coach Xavi, who played with Alves for seven trophy-laden seasons at Camp Nou, said he was stunned and saddened.

When Xavi returned to Barcelona as the coach midway through last season, he gave his approval to the club bringing back Alves for a second stint to provide his struggling side with some leadership.

"It is difficult to comment on his situation," Xavi admitted on Saturday when asked at a regular news conference for Barcelona's next match.

"I am surprised and stunned. I am in shock. The justice system will



Reporters take pictures of a police van, allegedly carrying soccer player Dani Alves, outside the Barcelona courthouse, Spain, Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. Brazilian soccer player Dani Alves has been arrested after being accused of sexually assaulting a woman in Barcelona. Police say the alleged act took place on Dec. 31 at a night club in Barcelona. (AP Photo)

decide what it must, we can't get into that. I feel very bad for him, because I know him."

Under Spain's sexual consent law passed last year, sexual assault takes in a wide array of sex crimes from on-line abuse and groping to rape, each with different possible punishments. The worst case of rape including violence can receive a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Neither the police nor the court would disclose any details of Alves' case, and the Spanish press has included differing accounts of the alleged events, ranging from Alves supposedly groping the woman to him allegedly raping her in a club bathroom.

Before his arrest Alves denied any wrongdoing. He acknowledged he had gone dancing at the high-end club but said he did not know the woman and insisted that he always "respects the personal space" of others.

Alves is married to Spanish model Joana Sanz. She publicly defended him before his arrest. With her husband

in pre-trial prison, she expressed the pain produced by the incident that's come shortly after her mother died. She also asked for the media to respect her privacy.

"My mother passed away a week ago. I have barely started to cope, so I can't have you (the media) tormenting me with the situation of my husband," she wrote on Instagram. "I have lost the only two pillars of my life."

Alves is synonymous with winning and an example of how an athlete can stay at an elite level despite pushing 40 years

old. A rocket-fast right back in his youth with a vicious long strike, he morphed as he slowed with the years into a passer who could excel in the midfield.

He has won 42 titles, including three Champions Leagues with Barcelona and two Copa Americas with Brazil. He played his third World Cup, the only major title to elude him, last month.

Alves has also been one of soccer's most charismatic figures. He loved to ham it up for any television camera and joke with teammates. His flair for the turn of

phrase, along with his crystal-green eyes, devilish grin and weakness for colorful fashion off the field made the diminutive Alves stand out even in the character-filled sport.

A consummate showman, he deployed his wit to devastating effect when he was the victim of a racist act while playing for Barcelona at Villarreal in 2014. When a spectator hurled a banana at his feet on the sideline, he nonchalantly scooped it up, peeled it and took a bite before proceeding to take a corner kick. His move went

viral and became rallying point against racism in soccer.

Now his image as one of soccer's wisest minds is at risk of being shattered.

Mexican club Pumas took only hours to terminate the contract Alves signed in July, on hearing of his arrest in Spain. Pumas president Leopoldo Silva said his club could not be linked to a player whose acts could damage its mission to hold up its athletes as "role models in Mexico and throughout the world."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



## SPORT

Juventus reeling after transfer trial disaster

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## Fourth meets third as Singida Big Stars takes on Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT is a tie pitting fourth against third in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League in the afternoon, as ambitious Singida Big Stars welcomes Azam FC to the Liti Stadium in Singida.

Hans van der Pluijm-coached Singida Big Stars comes into the game on a three-game winning run in the league, having dispatched Kagera Sugar, Geita Gold FC, and Dodoma Jiji FC.

The trend shows Azam FC has been inconsistent of late and it has won two of the outfit's last five league games. The wins have come over Tanzania Prisons and Mbeya City FC at home. Four wins in Singida Big Stars' last five league matches have put the home side in a promising position to cement a top-four finish in their debut top-flight season.

The Singida-based side is now 12 points clear of fifth-place Geita Gold FC in the race for the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup ticket.

It should moreover be mentioned Singida Big Stars have managed a fantastic home record with seven wins, two draws, and one defeat in 10 league outings at Liti Stadium.

The side further has one of the best defenses in the competition. Only Simba SC and Yanga have conceded fewer goals than Singida Big Stars in the league - and that too by a narrow margin.

They have almost the full roster available and we can expect an exciting and inspiring performance from their main stars including former Azam winger Enock Atta Agyei. The key to goals for Singida Big Stars lies with the Brazilian attacking midfielder who has found the back of the net seven times in the league this season.

Singida Big Stars will be in high spirits knowing this is an opportunity for them to push for an entry into the top three. Victory will put them on level points with Azam FC with just nine games to go.

Azam FC needs to play to win this fixture to keep in some sort of proximity to Simba SC and Yanga and more importantly avoid being dragged into the uncertainty of a continental ticket in a fourth versus third battle with Singida Big Stars.

A loss here for Azam FC could do irrevocable damage to their dreams of ending in the CAF inter-club competitions positions.

The visitors have plenty of weapons capable of exploiting Singida Big Stars' back line.

The likes of Prince Dube, Idris Mbombo, and Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu' are still part of a side that boasts the third-best attacking record in the league with 36 goals scored across 20 league games.

Ghanaian goalkeeper Abdulai Iddrisu who was the only mini-transfer window signing for Azam FC could make his NBC Premier League debut.

Azam FC won the last NBC Premier League meeting between these sides, grabbing a 1-0 win when they met last October.

Singida Big Stars however got a measure of revenge in the 2023 Mapinduzi Cup tournament two weeks ago, with new signing Congolese striker Francis Kazadi on target four times in a 4-1 semi-final rout of Azam FC.



Azam FC coach, Kally Ongala

# Rampant Yanga looking for Ruvu Shooting scalp in NBC PL tie



Yanga's assistant coach, Cedric Kaze, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam last weekend on the club's 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie against Ruvu Shooting, scheduled for today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC will look to continue the club's rampant march towards defending the NBC Premier League title when the outfit takes on Ruvu Shooting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening.

The Jangwani Street outfit, alias Yanga, is currently six points clear at the top of the table after seeing off Ifhefu SC with a 1-0 win last Monday.

It was Nasreddine Nabi-coached side's seventh win on the spin in the league and the squad looks unstoppable in its quest to add another title to its cabinet.

When one looks at the bigger picture, Yanga has only lost one of their 20 league games this term - cementing their status as the top side in the division.

They can open up a nine-point gap over Simba SC with victory in front of their ardent fans.

The defending champions have no either fresh injury or suspension concerns to re-

port from the win over Ifhefu SC.

Coach Nabi may even be able to welcome the trio of winger Bernard Morrison, attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki and defender Yannick Bangala back but none of them is likely to start.

The hosts could very well

field the same starting XI which took part in their last game, but Farid Mussa was less impactful in that game and could find his spot under threat from Dickson Ambundo or Chrispin Ngushi.

Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting has been struggling and has failed to win

any of the squad's last 15 league games this season.

After they were held to a goalless draw by Coastal Union in Tanga on Sunday, the Coast Region side slid to the bottom of the table.

They are now seven points from safety and need to start winning their games to avoid being cut off

and ease pressure on head coach Mbwana Makata who is yet to win a game since he replaced Boniface Mkwasa.

Ruvu Shooting is still the lowest scorer in the NBC Premier League this season with just 10 goals to their name in 20 games.

They have signed former Kagera Sugar and Ndanda FC striker Atupele Green to help midfielder Abalkassim Hamis who has five goals.

However, the departure of winger Rashid Juma to Ifhefu SC is a big blow as he provided the creative spark from the wings for Ruvu Shooting.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Ruvu Shooting have met in 23 league matches since 2011/10.

The Jangwani Street club has claimed 18 wins compared to one for Ruvu Shooting, while just four games have been drawn.

When the teams met at the same venue earlier this season, in October 2022, Yanga claimed a 2-1 away win thanks to goals netted by Bakari Mwamnyeto and Feisal Salum.

Although Ruvu Shooting heads into today's game as underdogs, they will be hoping to match their feat of August 2019 when they secured a 1-0 victory at Uhuru Stadium in the city.

It turned out to be the side's only win against Yanga in over a decade of this one-sided rivalry.

## Youths urged to learn creative arts

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

TANZANIA's youths have been urged to learn creative arts to develop a design, creativity, and critical thinking skills that are important for the future workforce.

Thadeo Matheo, a Chinese teacher at Zanaki Secondary School, said that arts literacy helps youths develop a particular set of skills that are vital for self-development.

Matheo issued his views at the celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Cultural Counsellor of China's Embassy in Tanzania last weekend.

He pointed out that youths should know more about culture and community through learning creative arts because each art form has its unique skills concepts and capacity to inspire and enrich lives.

He revealed that creative arts provide the logical conduit through which these capacities and related skills in both the social emotion domains can be developed.

"Through the making of their artworks, youths are exposed



Members of a Dar es Salaam traditional dance troupe put their skills to show in the Tingatinga Painting & Ebony Carving Exhibition, which took place at China Cultural Centre in Tanzania located in Dar es Salaam on November 1 last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHINA CULTURAL CENTER IN TANZANIA

to a variety of issues which instigate critical dialogue and discussion which benefit their skills in the long run because the mindset and vision of the artist is the most important tool in his artistic box as he needs a vision for every piece created," he noted.

He further said that arts and

sports are tools for economic development and hence talented youths should develop their talents and learn more so they can use their talents to earn money and support their livelihood.

Lilian Kimati, a Dar es Salaam-based singer noted: "I just want to tell the youths

with talent in any arts- drama, music, art express, encore, and visual -to strive and will find a breakthrough and be able to earn money while doing what they love."

"Currently, arts and sports are the biggest jobs in the world and we must make sure that we use them to get jobs,

build friendships and use it as a tool to build motivation to achieve broad goals to develop the personal and national economy," she noted.

Suo Peng, Minister Counsellor China's Embassy in Tanzania, said the Chinese New Year is celebrated because it marks the end of winter therefore all families come together to celebrate and wish each other well.

She stated: "Chinese New Year is the festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar in China."

The official pointed out: "The festival is commonly referred to as the Spring Festival marking the end of winter and the beginning of the spring season, observances traditionally take place from new year's eve, the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year."

The first day of the Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between January 21 and February 20 and this year the moon is set to appear on January 22.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

