



ENERGY



EWURA ON ISSUING OF CNG PRICE CAPS VEHICLES PAGE 3

FINANCE



TCDC TO TRAIN MEMBERS ON RECORD PREPARATION PAGE 5

HEALTH



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR END TO AIDS IN CHILDREN PAGE 6

AGRICULTURE



LACK OF SKILLS FOR YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE PAGE 7



President Samia Suluhu Hassan turns on the tap to launch the Shongo-Mbalizi clean water project at Mbalizi in Mbeya Region yesterday. Right is Water minister Jumaa Aweso. Photo: State House

Fuel prices: Govt aware of the pain, says Samia

By Henry Mwangonde

MEASURES aimed at cushioning the people from effects of the rising cost of living due to fuel prices rises in the world market will be intensified, President Samia Suluhu Hassan declared yesterday.

Addressing a rally in Mbeya on the first day of a four day tour, the president said the government was aware of the hardships that people are going through, intimating that the situation was global.

The government was taking various measures to contain it, including issuance of a 100bn/- subsidy every month, she said, linking the high prices of essential commodities including food with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, touching off a global supply and logistics impediment.

Early in the week, the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) announced new cap prices for fuel, with petrol selling in Dar es Salaam at 3,410/- per litre while in Kyerwa (Kagera region) the cap is pegged at 3,647/-. A litre of diesel is sold at 3,322/- cap price and 3,560/- for kerosene.

The increasing fuel prices pushed up food prices in various markets due to transportation costs with traders developing fears of the stability of their businesses.

In another development, President Samia has directed regional secretariats to liaise with local authorities in combating vandalism on water supply infrastructure.

She issued this directive yesterday when opening the Shongo-Mbalizi water project at Mbalizi town in Mbeya region, urging public support to protect and secure such outlays,

facilitating the availability of the vital social need. He pointedly asked residents not to take lightly if they see or suspect anyone of vandalizing water infrastructure. "Take the issue to authorities," she emphasised, noting that the water facility is important for the current and later generations.

Implementation of the project is part of the promises made by the ruling party in its 2020 election manifesto, with Water permanent secretary Anthony Sanga saying the project is billed at 3.3bn/-, as a 45km long piping infrastructure.

The project is designed to pump 8m to 12m litres of water per day, with current demand standing at 8m litres, he stated. Water availability has increased from 50 percent to 95percent, largely stamping out water woes at Mbalizi.

Mbeya Rural MP Oran Njeza hailed the government for implementing the project, as a relief to residents of Mbalizi, especially women fetching water by walking to rather distant sources.

The president laid the foundation stone for a maternity ward at the Mbeya Referral Hospital, to alleviate challenges facing expectant mothers in the city and the neighbourhood.



He pointedly asked residents not to take lightly if they see or suspect anyone of vandalizing water infrastructure...

Minister: SGR trials to begin next month

By Henry Mwangonde

TRIALS for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro start next month, Works and Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa has confirmed.

He told a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the government was bent on a timely beginning of the trials, also seeking to ensure that local engineers are in a position to run the newly built facility.

Particular regard is being directed at local women engineers, to be in line in technical capacity, thus eligible for jobs and responsibilities as the facility moves to its operational stage.

The 7.2trn/- SGR project executed by Yapi



The construction of the 3.2km Kigongo -Busisi bridge in Mwanza and a widened Wami bridge in Tanga region are of particular significance

Merkez Co. of Turkey will upon completion link Tanzania with Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Its construction consists of five phases covering 1,219 kilometers, with the Dar es Salaam - Morogoro section covering 300km, the Morogoro- Makutupora section a much longer 422km, followed by the Makutupora -Tabora section taking up 294km. The final sections are Tabora - Isaka at 130km and Isaka to Mwanza, another 249km, capped by the Tabora to Kigoma section stretched along 41kms.

The ministry's priorities for the year 2022/2023 involve aligning national development plans to help Tanzanians move out of poverty, including the widening of road networks countrywide as this facilitates the development of other sectors.

The construction of the 3.2km Kigongo -Busisi bridge in Mwanza and a widened Wami bridge in Tanga region are of particular significance, he said, with other projects being the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) road network in

TURN TO PAGE 2

AU, COMESA in joint election observing mission to Kenya

ADDIS ABABA

A JOINT election observation mission to the upcoming General Election in Kenya has been launched by the African Union (AU) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The mission is led by former Sierra Leone president Ernest Bai Koroma, joined by Seychelles ex-Health and Social Development minister Ambassador Marie-Pierre Lloyd, who is

a member of the COMESA committee of elders.

The short-term mission will be deployed to various electoral areas of the country on Sunday, August 7 ahead of the poll on Tuesday, August 9.

The mission will assess the poll conduct as part of the AU-COMESA broad mandates to promote democracy and democratic elections in Africa, in line with an overall vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated Africa.

Speaking at the launch of the mission, ex-president Koroma said that the joint mission will conduct an independent, objective and impartial assessment of the electoral process in accordance with international standards and principles enshrined in AU statutes.

"As short-term observers you have a demanding task ahead of you and I hope that this three-day briefing programme will enrich your understanding of the context of the elections," he told the mission members and secretariat.

"The mission will demonstrate the two organizations' joint efforts to promote peaceful,

TURN TO PAGE 2



Zanzibar seeks more oil and gas investors

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR still needs more investors in the oil and gas sector, Zanzibar's Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah (pictured) has declared.

Closing the fourth Tanzania Energy Congress in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he called on investors from across the world to seek out viable opportunities in Zanzibar.

Several major firms attended the congress, where the Zanzibar authorities sought to open

the doors for potential investors in oil and gas, affirming that Zanzibar is ready to initiate discussions with any company interested in the Isles potentials, for mutual benefit.

"We want Zanzibar to continue growing and its people to benefit from our natural resources," he said, taking note of the conference as widening the room for investors to scale up investment opportunities.

"I am sure that investors who participated in this conference have been informed about opportunities available in Zanzibar," he said, urging that the firms are encouraged to bring up oil extraction matters or exploring other usable projects in the interests of both parties.

He commended the Union Ministry of Energy for liaising with stakeholders to organise the conference to a success, as key stakeholders locally and outside participated, including representatives of 80 large companies.

"This congress will help spur investors to seek opportunities here in various fields in the energy sector, stimulating economic growth, he stated, urging that the organisers organise such an event in Zanzibar to provide a wider opportunity for the Isles to market its potential.

He urged journalists to uphold patriotism

TURN TO PAGE 2



Minister: SGR trials to begin next month

FROM PAGE 1

Dar es Salaam.

This will reduce congestion by diminishing the bus turnover in the city, while the ring road in Dodoma shall reduce city centre congestion. Porto expansion countrywide is expected for the ports of Tanga, Dar es Salaam and the lakeside port of Mwanza, he said.

Building more houses for government officials and renovation of airports in various regions are other priorities, he said, underlining that projects being implemented are

geared at realising value for money, doing the best with the funds allocated.

Expansion of port gates 8 to 11 in Dar es Salaam goes in tandem with expansion of gates one and two of Tanga port, while caring for existing roads will be done by having more weigh bridges across the country. This will check overloading which harms the road network.

A total of 1500 kilometers of tarmac roads is being constructed across the country, along with bridges adding that the budget for this year involves construction of the 165 kilometer SGR from Tabora to Isaka

UNECA, Betacubec launch project to support African women tech startups

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in partnership with Betacube has announced the launch of the first Tech African Women programme, inviting female-led idea stage start-ups from Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia to submit their applications.

Dubbed Tech African Women (TAW), the program that is launched with the objective of empowering female founders to leverage their skills in order to build strong tech start-ups from scratch, accelerate the transformation of project ideas into validated business models and to develop alliances between different African ecosystems.

According to a statement issued by ECA, the program will run from August to December 2022 and is composed of three main phases which include intensive 3-day training boot camps and pitching competitions to be held in Tunisia, Senegal, Ethiopia and Tanzania in partnership with local ecosystem players.

The winning team of each boot camp will win a cash prize of 2000\$.

"The will also be a two-month online incubation program for the best two start-ups from each country that will allow them to reach market and

investment readiness," it noted.

A final Ceremony in Ethiopia in Addis Ababa at ECA co centre where eight start-ups will be invited to pitch to win the final prize of the program (cash grant of 7000\$ for the best start-up) TAW targets female-led & idea-stage tech start-ups and offers teams an exclusive opportunity to acquire new entrepreneurial skills, establish partnership with their African peers, increase regional business visibility and access funds.

It supports ideas addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by developing the capacity of female entrepreneurs who desire to understand how to play a role in the continent's development and want to deep dive into building impact-driven start-ups.

Throughout the duration of the incubation program, teams will have access to a pool of tech developers and designers who will develop their MVPs free of charge and work closely with top experts in Marketing and Finance in addition to the participation in tailored webinars provided by international trainers.

Participants entering the program have to be female nationals of Tunisia, Tanzania, Senegal or Ethiopia, have an idea of a tech start-up that is addressing at least one of the SDGs.

AU, COMESA in joint election observing mission to Kenya

FROM PAGE 1

free, fair, transparent and credible elections that will strengthen Kenya's democratic process," he declared.

Ambassador Lloyd said the launch demonstrates the importance of the August 9 elections, recognized by COMESA and the AU plus the broader international community, noticed in the record number of former presidents grouped in the observer missions.

The mission took shape in yesterday's ceremony, followed by a three-day orientation exercise for the contingent.

The AU and COMESA began joint

engagements in Kenya's electoral process in May, with the deployment of a high-level pre-election assessment mission to scale up the preparedness and environment in which the elections will take place.

A joint election experts' mission began in June and a long-term election observation mission followed last month, with the final joint mission comprising 90 observers.

They are drawn from governments, member states, the Pan African Parliament, civil society organizations, academia and election management bodies in Africa, amongst others, the mission leader affirmed.

Zanzibar seeks more oil and gas investors

FROM PAGE 1

when implementing their duties by prioritising the national interest, to foster the country's development.

One result of the congress was the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) signing an agreement with Masdar, a UAE renewable energy firm, to develop renewable energy projects in the country.

Energy minister January Makamba said the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was the result of the tour conducted by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to the UAE early this year.

"The signing of this MoU today is a significant testimony of Tanzania's commitment to clean energy," he said, pointing at feasible projects in the push

to capacity generation of renewable energy for adaptable growth needs and employment creation.

The scope of projects under the agreement will be carried out in phases, aiming at generating 2000mw of renewable power countrywide, he said.

Abdullah Zayed, the Masdar head of business and investment development, said that implementation of the projects will facilitate the total capacity to reach 5000mw by 2025.

"Masdar has been a catalyst for renewable energy and sustainable development in a number of countries, and we look forward to working with TANESCO to leverage our mutual expertise to deliver clean energy for the people of Tanzania," the UAE executive intoned.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi swears in Juma Makungu Juma as Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Lands and Human Settlements Development at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Two major joint energy ventures established during Dar congress

By Guardian Reporter

TWO major energy joint ventures were established between international and local companies during the just ended 4th Tanzania Energy Congress (TEC) held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre on August 3 and 4, this year.

According to Abdulsamad Abdulrahim, representative of the local partnering organisers, one of the established joint venture partnerships involved between Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (Tanesco) and Masdar, the United Arab Emirates government owned global leader in renewable energy and sustainable urban development.

Masdar Clean Energy is a leading developer and operator of utility-scale renewable energy projects, community grid projects, and energy services consultancy.

However, the terms of the partnership between Tanesco and Masdar were not revealed.

The second partnership, according to Abdulrahim involved the Association of Tanzania Oil & Gas Services Providers (ATGOS) and Petroleum Technology

Association of Nigeria (PETAN), an association of Nigerian Indigenous Technical Oilfield Service Company in the upstream and downstream.

The association was formed to bring together Nigerian Oil & Gas entrepreneurs to create a forum for the exchange of ideas with the major operators and policy makers.

"The event created opportunities for Tanzania to sell itself to the world," he said.

According to Abdulrahim, the event

attracted a record attendance of 5,000, combined over the four years it has been held with representatives from Oman, Kenya, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Malawi, Brunei, Uganda, Canada, Australia, Singapore, UK, Comoros, Italy, China, Norway, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

He said over 600 small, medium and micro local enterprises were able to

showcase their products and services to leaders and angel investors.

"To promote broad inclusiveness in the congress, we provided free passes to under-presented groups such as women, micro, SMEs and people with disabilities," he said. "For the first time we included goods and services companies, entertainment from Zanzibar Islands of Pemba ad Unguja, but also start-ups companies from Tanzania Start-up Association working on projects that match the sector and priority."

During the event, Total Energies recognized as International Company of the Year 2022, CSI Energies Group as Tanzanian Company of the year while Reign Consultancy Limited recognized as Local Content Champion.

The congress was held amid Tanzania swiftly becoming an enabler of new business opportunities for the energy industry in East Africa.

This year the Congress focused on key updates in Tanzania's energy sector spanning the EACOP pipeline, upstream offshore gas developments, LNG project negotiations and a number of renewable energy project proposals.



...For the first time we included goods and services companies, entertainment from Zanzibar Islands of Pemba ad Unguja, but also start-ups companies from Tanzania Start-up Association working on projects that match the sector and priority



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a first-hand account of progress in the construction of Iglanson health centre in Ikungi District, Singida Region, yesterday. Others (foreground) are Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (R), Ikungi district commissioner Jerry Muro (2nd-R) and Ikungi district executive director Justice Kijazi. Photo: PMO



Tanzania Police Traffic Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a roadworthiness inspection of school buses. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

EWURA determined to issue new CNG price caps for vehicles from next month

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has announced plans to set cap prices to regulate Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) prices for vehicles with effect from next month as part of its efforts to protect consumers the EWURA Director General Eng Modetus Lumato has revealed.

This follows escalation of fuel prices to record high levels in the country's history prompting options for motorists to weigh options of switching to CNG because of its cost effectiveness.

Fuel prices in Tanzania have continued to escalate despite Government's 100bn/- subsidy and according to new fuel prices that were

effective on August 3, 2022, the retail price for petrol rose by 190/- in Dar es Salaam to 3,410/- per liter while the prices of diesel also rose by 179/- to 3,322/- per liter.

Speaking during the Tanzania Energy Conference held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Eng Lumato said the authority move to regulate CNG prices follows an increased number of consumers.

"The CNG caps had never been issued before because there were very few CNG consumers so it was not necessary to set up the price. Since the oil prices have risen to record high levels, many people are now opting for alternative fuel options including CNG for vehicles," Eng Lumato said.

He said the energy regulator has

already met with all the energy sector stakeholders and is now finalizing plans to issue CNG cap prices with effect from September.

He noted the country's move to regulate CNG prices will give potential investors some confidence since the regulations protect both investor and customer interests. "We expect to see more CNG projects coming up after issuing these regulations and instruments," he added.

Eng Lumato noted that EWURA in partnership with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Company (TPDC) is now embarking on setting up CNG filling stations for vehicles across the country.

"We are planning to increase the number of CNG filling stations and

TPDC has already offered permits to some private companies to set up CNG filling stations. Some companies have already approached EWURA expressing interest to construct CNG filling stations," he added.

He said the country at the moment has only three CNG filling stations, two in Dar es Salaam and one in Mtwara adding that the number of CNG vehicles is increasing tremendously in recent months.

He said Ewura would also set up various new conversion workshops to facilitate the switch from use of fuel to CNG adding that the Government will be solely responsible for those workshops.

"These workshops need monitoring. We will not allow anyone to establish such workshops on the streets because they need special specifications. We will be working with the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) which has a mandate to construct these workshops," he added.

UNHCR hands over 16 motor vehicles valued at 1.1bn/- to the government to support operations in refugee camps

By Getrude Mbago

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday handed over 16 motor vehicles worth \$500,000 (1.1bn/-) to the government to support operations in refugee camps and host communities.

Received by the Deputy minister for Home Affairs Jumanne Sagini, the donation included three ambulances which will be deployed in Kigoma region to serve residents in Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko districts.

Other vehicles will be handed over to Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministries to support daily operations at refugees and asylum seekers in the country.

Sagini commended UNHCR for its continued support and cooperation with Tanzania to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers continue to live peacefully accessing the required basic needs.

"I am however calling for UNHCR and international community to improve repatriation systems and work closely with the government to ensure that refugees from countries that have regained peace go back to their homelands,

According to him, Burundi has already regained peace, so supporting it economically will also enable it to improve service provision and support safe and comfortable stay for the returning Burundians.

He stressed that the reason for the Burundian refugee crisis was political instability, but the situation has now stabilised and there is enough security to enable its citizens to live peacefully.

Sagini also said that the government of Tanzania will continue to keep its door open to genuine and credible asylum seekers and refugees in need of international protection and asylum.

He further called the public to ensure that they participate fully in the Population and Housing Census scheduled for August 23 as it was an important exercise for the country's development.

He said the country needs important statistics so as to enable it to plan and implement its development strategies effectively.

UNHCR country representative Mahoua Parums said Tanzania started receiving refugees many years back even before independence and has remained a peaceful hub to thousands of refugees from various countries.

She said UNHCR and the International community appreciate the government and people of Tanzania for providing safe harbour for decades of populations forced to

flee their countries.

"We thank the government of Tanzania for standing together with UNHCR and other international communities in providing refugee protection, assistance and seeking together durable solutions for refugees, as a manifestation of international solidarity and burden sharing, we are donating 16 vehicles to further strengthen service provision," she said.

She noted that Tanzania hosts almost 230,000 refugees in the Nyarugusu and Nduta camps where without the country's support it would be very difficult for UNHCR to work smoothly to serve them.

She said in December 2018, Member States of the UN General Assembly made the historic decision to adopt the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). The Compact calls for the needs of both refugees and their host communities to be taken into consideration to ensure that the hospitality is matched with development investment.

"In line with the GCR's aspirations and spirit, we applaud the solidarity of the government and the people of Tanzania with refugees. We recognize all the efforts and sacrifices required to sustain the institution of asylum.

In 2008 the process of application for naturalisation started and in 2014, the world witnessed a historic landmark of over 162,000 refugees granted naturalisation status by the Government of Tanzania with refugees receiving their certificates graced by the then president Jakaya Kikwete

"This was the first of its kind not only in Africa but also in the world to have a large number like this granted status. As UNHCR, we do not take lightly the great hospitality given to our persons of concern," she noted.

The naturalised citizens have integrated very well into the community and are living a very successful life. They have opened up businesses, contributed to the economy of the country and are peacefully integrated and supported by the government of Tanzania."

Director for refugee services in the Home Affairs Ministry Sudi Mwakibasi said UNHCR was an important partner for Tanzania saying that the new handed over vehicles will greatly facilitate smooth implantation of various initiatives in serving the refugees and all the asylum seekers in the country.

In line with the GCR's aspirations and spirit, we applaud the solidarity of the government and the people of Tanzania with refugee



Tanzania Information and Communication Technologies Commission director general Dr Nkundwe Mwasasa addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on strategies lined up for the implementation of the commission's activities in financial year 2022/2023. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Tanzanians urged to tap ICT market

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIANS have been urged to tap the international information and technology (ICT) market which seemingly require more innovations and technology.

This comes at a time when the government is advocating for innovation and research in information and communication technologies in efforts to realize a competitive digital economy.

The statement was made here yesterday by the Director General of the Information and Technology (ICT-Commission), Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, noting that that the policy gives opportunities for investment in the country.

He said youth have been solicited to come up with local designed software and hardware which could be sold within and outside the country.

Dr Maswaga advised to come up with the hardware and software in learning, teaching and translation of Kiswahili which is highly on demand and sell them on subscription, tourism and transport so that Tanzania stays in attaining Digital Tanzania.

He said with the postcodes addresses in place, there are great chances to trade, emphasizing on the need to capitalize on the more than 60-million ICT local market base.

He added that the government is committed to coordinate and promote the innovations so that they go beyond the borders in competing with other

countries in a digital economy share.

Dr Maswaga said they carry a number of massive awareness campaigns to ensure that every Tanzania has the foundation skills in digital so that they do not end up being users of the imported technologies but players in the industry.

"As Tanzanians, we need to sell our innovations and services across East Africa, Southern Africa, Africa and the world where there are almost 768-billion users and over \$ 3.4/tr to trade" said De Maswaga.

The ICT sector, he said, is to increase its contribution to the GDP by three per cent come 2025.

Moreover, he said, ICT is the leading sector in terms of employment as majority of the services including

mobile money, banking services, e-ticketing, online transport services like bolt among others need online infrastructure access.

For e-commerce, the public have been advised to access the infrastructure and network of the Tanzania Post Corporation (TPC) for online business as it will ease them access to loans since their transactions will be known in the informal economy.

Through the national fibre optic cable, they will cover all areas citing the 2G technologies in every country corner whereas the 3G and 4G coverage will be upgraded under the Digital Tanzania project.

In the 2022/23 financial year, he said, they will set up zonal innovation hubs in Mbeya, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Dodoma regions to support the innovators in ICT so that the tap the opportunities within and outside the country.

PM directs Ikungi authorities to complete construction of health centre before end of this month

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed authorities in Ikungi district, Singida region to ensure that construction of the Iglansoni health centre in West Singida constituency is completed before the end of this month.

He issued the instructions yesterday when addressing residents at Iglansoni ward as part of his tour to inspect the implementation of various development projects in the region.

He wanted the leadership to supervise completion of the centre which he laid its foundation stone.

"I want this centre to commence operations at the end of this month, citizens need to start accessing health services here and get relief from travelling long distances to seek for the services in Singida town," he said.

He directed Ikungi district executive director Justice Kijazi to ensure that the centre is equipped with enough workers including surgery specialists as well as essential equipment to facilitate smooth provision of services.

"The building has reached 98 per cent of construction, so service provision needs to commence immediately, there is no need of leaving our people to travel over 100km to reach Singida town while we have this centre here," he added.

The government earlier dished out 500m/- for the construction of the centre and it will issue 250m/- more for men and women wards, mortuary and

construction of servant houses.

Responding to a request by Singida West MP, Elibariki Kingu on the importance of giving the constituency a council so as to bring closer to the people essential services, the Prime Minister also wanted the leaders to sit down and follow all the procedures needed in the process to see if the area needs a council.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is the one with power to allow this whenever she sees its significance.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's office, Regional Administration and Local Government, David Silinde said the government has issued billions of money for the construction of 234 health centres in the country.

He said for the Singida region, a total of 13.3bn/- were issued for the construction of 667 classrooms in primary and secondary schools.

Earlier, Singida DED Kijazi said the Iglansoni health centre will be serving over 13000 residents of Iglansoni and Mnyange villages.

"The project has been late due to some challenges including long distance to get the construction equipment as well as shortage of water which is one of the major challenges here, we are now doing well and the services will commence soon," he said.

Jerry Muro, Ikungi district commissioner said the government has issued funds for the construction of four health centres with the district hospital getting a boost of 800m/-

Events at Nane Nane (Farmers' Week) exhibitions



Raymond Urassa (L), head of NBC Bank's SMEs and Agriculture department, briefs National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (3rd-L) on Thursday on how the bank serves agricultural stakeholders in the country. This was at the NBC pavilion at the on-going Nane Nane exhibitions in Mbeya city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Dr Sigisbert Mmasi (R), a communications and marketing officer with the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organisation (TEMDO), explains how a sunflower oil refining machine works. He was briefing people visiting the agency's pavilion at Nane Nane exhibitions in Arusha city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinda Shizza



Seed Co Tanzania field officer Onesmo Poteza (R) briefs a visitor to the Kondoa Council pavilion at Nane Nane exhibitions at Dodoma city's Nzuguni grounds on Thursday on the varieties of crop seeds they develop. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Mwanza regional commissioner Adam Malima (holding carrots) inspects a demonstration farm planted with carrots at western zone Nane Nane exhibitions in progress in Mwanza city yesterday. He stressed the need for enhanced productivity and quality. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob



Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki (2nd-L) pictured yesterday handing over a 43m/- tractor to Manyoni District farmer Idrisa Athumani (2nd-R), who had just bought it from Pass Leasing Company at the ongoing Nane Nane exhibitions at Nzuguni in Dodoma Region. Looking on are Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (L), Pass Leasing executive director Killo Luswewa (C) and Agricom's Kibagwa Branch manager, Peter Temu. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) has a word with NMB Bank Plc head of agri-business Isaac Masusu (L) when she visited the bank's pavilion at the Nane Nane exhibitions in Mbeya city on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute researcher Armachius James (L) briefs a visitor at the TARI pavilion at the Nane Nane exhibitions at Nzuguni grounds in Dodoma Region on Thursday on wine quality standards. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Waziri Kizingiti (R), a senior parliamentary officer, briefs a visitor yesterday on the official cloaks worn by the National Assembly Speaker, Deputy Speaker, House Clerk, Chairpersons and Secretaries. This was at the Nane Nane exhibitions at Nzuguni grounds in Dodoma. Photo courtesy of National Assembly



Omar Juma (L), headteacher of Dar es Salaam's Hazina Primary School, presents a gift to Standard Seven student Marieclaire Deoglas at the school's premises yesterday for emerging the second best performer in mock exams held recently. The school emerged the best in Kinondoni District. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Tanzanian flower, fruit farmers set to land new international markets

By Felister Peter

TANZANIAN farmers engaging in horticultural and vegetable cultivation are set to benefit with the regional and international markets as the country has officially been included in a list of nations that can export products abroad through the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

Under OACPS, countries including Tanzania will benefit selling their products to European countries through the 'Fit for Market Plus' programme which aims at enhancing the capacity of farmers in the vegetable and horticultural value chains.

This 5-year, €25 million 'Fit for Market Plus' programme is financed by the European Union (EU) and the OACPS.

A statement released yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation stated that farmers will also be assisted to produce agricultural products that meets international standards as well as the market demand in Europe.

The programme, according to the ministry is implemented by COLEACP—a non-profit inter-professional association, representing and defending the collective interests of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) producers, exporters and EU importers of fruits, vegetables, flowers and plants.

The support follows the EU's—Farm to Fork Strategy which aims at controlling the quality of agricultural products entering the markets. Qualities are checked from farms to the last consumer.

The ministry called upon stakeholders engaging in vegetable and horticultural value chain to wisely grab the opportunity by sending their applications.

The stakeholders include companies and groups that produce vegetables and fruits, institutions dealing with provision of professional training, authorities and research institutions.

Availability of the opportunity is part of efforts by the government and the Tanzania Embassy in Belgium of strengthening economic diplomacy.

The Fit for Market Plus support is tailored to facilitate the transition of African, Caribbean and Pacific horticulture towards more sustainable food systems, addressing the priority areas identified in the Farm to Fork strategy of the European Green Deal.

The programme is to ensure that stakeholders have the business skills and tools to pursue and improve their operations through enhanced capacity to manage change and facilitate access to finance.

It also aims at leveraging market opportunities resulting from Covid-19 disruptions, and monitor conditions and requirements for market access and competitiveness as well as to enhance the capacity of ACP competent authorities to support the agri-food sector.



Availability of the opportunity is part of efforts by the government and the Tanzania Embassy in Belgium of strengthening economic diplomacy

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

SCCULT joins forces with TCDC on training members on financial record preparation

THE Savings and Credit Cooperative Union League of Tanzania (SCCULT) in collaboration with the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) is training members on financial record preparation to avert fines which they risk to incur for failure to submit as required by the law.

Speaking when officially opening training to Saccos and cooperative union executives from regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Tanga Deputy Registrar responsible for regulation Collins Nyakunga said the training aims at equipping them with skills to prepare financial statements.

TCDC is mandated on behalf of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to oversee all Saccos under the Microfinance Act, (10) 2018 which also requires cooperative unions and Saccos to issue financial records. The fines range from 500,000/- to 5m/-.

"We coordinate on how on prepare the statements which are required every month, quarterly and annually, but also we are supposed to prepare a report on the performance of all Saccos and Cooperatives," he said.

Speaking on the matter, Managing Director for SCCULT Hassan Mnyone

said the matter was legally binding saying the members risk being fined for failure to do so.

"We have been forced to train them especially on how they should fill in the forms to meet the requirements as stipulated in the law," he said.

He added that "The regulator of the sector wants to get monthly, quarterly and annual statements especially from Saccos with license grade A and grade B but we have seen the importance of reaching out to managers of these institutions."

The official said the training comes

at a time when there are challenges on the implementation of the law after managers and members complained that the forms had difficulties in filling them.

He said it was due to the complaints that the organisation saw the importance of having the training which will go down to workers in the sector.

Manager for Karansi Saccos located in Siha in Kilimajaro Ayub Laizer said the main problem was lack of knowledge on how to prepare the statements.



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO OWNERS OF ELUTION PLANTS LOCATED IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) was established under the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and is mandated to oversee the implementation of the Acts and its Regulations. The main objective is to ensure the environment and human health are protected from any form of pollution.

The Council has recently taken notice of an increasing presence of elution plants located and being operated within or in the neighborhood of residential areas, which is not compatible with approved land use plans and also is against the requirements of the Environmental Management Act, 2004. These Elution plants often emits hazardous fumes and toxic waste waters contaminated with chemical discharges when in operation, thereby polluting the environment and endangering human health.

Based on the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004 Section 111 (1) and (2) and also Section 113 (1) and (2)(a)(b) of the Act, The Council is directing all Owners of the Elution Plants that are located and operated in residential areas to stop operating with immediate effect. The Council directs owners of these plants to relocate them away from residential areas within one-month effective 5th August, 2022. These Elution Plants should be relocated to areas that are compatible with the approved land use plans in their respective Local Government Authority while observing all the requirements under the Environmental Management Act, 2004. After 4th September, 2022, The Council will conduct a countrywide inspection campaign and take appropriate actions including heavy penalties and closure of all facilities in defaults. The Council is strongly advising all Elution Plant owners to voluntarily comply and where necessary, consult the relevant Local Government Authorities for guidance or Zonal Managers of the Council in your respective areas.

Issued by:
Eng. Dr. Samuel G. Mafwenga
DIRECTOR GENERAL



Two foreign companies to invest jointly in country's logistics infrastructure, solutions

By Guardian Reporter

AS the government strives to attract investors in various economic sectors, two international firms that engage with trade facilitation and logistic infrastructures have signed agreements to jointly invest in the country.

The foreign companies will invest in logistics infrastructure and solutions which include rail, maritime services, port operations, digital services, an industrial zone and the establishment of maritime academies in Tanzania.

The companies are AD Ports Group from Abu Dhabi which deal with international logistics and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) which conduct its activities in India where it operates more than 12 ports.

A media statement released in Dar es Salaam yesterday quoted the Director and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, Capt.

Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi saying they are going to improve and promote an end-to-end maritime and logistics ecosystem which will make Tanzania a hub for the African region.

Al Shamisi said the reached agreement with APSEZ will not only make their companies grow and expand internationally, but also benefit Tanzania as it will become a trading hub in the African region.

"We are setting to make Tanzania a trading hub for Africa; we are all going to benefit with the investment because with our international capabilities we are going to ensure fast and efficient delivery of commodities to the markets," said Al Shamisi, leader of AD Ports Group which is registered at the Abu Dhabi stock exchange (ADX: ADPORTS). "Our strategic investment in Tanzania in infrastructure and solutions will enable international companies to enter African markets. In line with the direction of the UAE's

leadership, we are positioning Abu Dhabi as a global leader in logistics and industry," he added.

CEO of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Karan Adani, said: "We are pleased to be partnering with AD Ports Group in the development of key quality infrastructure in Tanzania especially in the ports and maritime sector, which will improve and bring about positive change in the communities, standing by our commitment to growth with goodness. We continue to support local employment, as well as general economic growth in Tanzania and East African countries that will benefit from our investments through the collaboration with AD Ports Group."

AD Ports Group, the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry, which was established in 2006, serving as the region's premier facilitator of logistics, industry, and trade, as well as a bridge linking Abu Dhabi to the world.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso (C, gesturing) briefs journalists shortly after completing an inspect tour of water projects in Iringa District earlier this week. Right is Iringa district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moy. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Invitation for Pre-qualification

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TANESCO SACCOS BUILDING AT KIJITONYAMA, KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY – DAR ES SALAAM

TENDER No. TAN/2021-2022/W/01

- The **TANESCO SACCOS LIMITED** has set aside funds for the **Construction of TANESCO SACCOS Building on Plot No.326, Block 43, Kijitonyama, Kinondoni, Dar Es Salaam** during the financial year **2021/2022**. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the **Proposed Construction of TANESCO SACCOS Building to be Built at Kijitonyama, Kinondoni Municipality – Dar es Salaam**.
- The **TANESCO SACCOS Limited** intends to pre-qualify sub-contractors and/or firms for **Proposed Construction of TANESCO SACCOS Building to be Built at Kijitonyama, Kinondoni Municipality – Dar es Salaam**. It is expected that invitations to tender will be made in **October, 2022**.
- The **TANESCO SACCOS Limited** now invites sealed Applications from eligible Applicants/Sub-contractors for **Proposed Construction of TANESCO SACCOS Building to be Built at Kijitonyama, Kinondoni Municipality – Dar es Salaam**.
- This prequalification involves the following Lots:-
Lot 1-Mechanical Contractor Class III and above specialized in Air Conditioning and Mechanical ventilation;
Lot 2 - Mechanical Contractor Class III and above specialized in Plumbing and Fire Fighting works;
Lot 3 - Security and ICT Contractor Class III and above;
Lot 4 - Electrical Contractor Class III and above; and
Lot 5 - Lift Contractor Class III and above.
- Interested Applicants are free to apply for any Lot above provided that you have registered by CRB in the categories above.
- Pre-qualification will be conducted through the procedures specified in Regulation 119 of the Public Procurement Regulations- Government Notice 446 of 2013, and is open to all applicants as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested Applicants registered by CRB in the following categories may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification documents at the **TANESCO SACCOS Offices at Shekilango Special Processing Zone from 9.00 am to 15.00 PM** on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
 - Mechanical contractor class III and above specialized in Air Conditioning and Mechanical ventilation;
 - Mechanical contractor class III and above specialized in Plumbing and Fire Fighting works;
 - Security and ICT Contractor class III and above;
 - Electrical Contractor Class III and above; and
 - Lift Contractor Class III and above.
- A complete set of prequalification documents in English may be purchased by interested Applicants upon the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 9 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TZS: 150,000/= per Lot** or equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Payment should either be by Cash, Banker's Draft, or Banker's Cheque, payable to

BANK: CRDB BANK
BRANCH: LUMUMBA BRANCH
ACCOUNT No: 01J1007423700
ACCOUNT NAME: TANESCO SACOSS Limited
- All Applications One original plus Two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked **"TENDER No. TAN/2021-2022/W/01 FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TANESCO SACCOS BUILDING AT KIJITONYAMA, KINONDONI MUNICIPALITY – DAR ES SALAAM – Lot 1, 2, 3 4 or 5 (Not to be opened before 14:00 Hours on 29th August, 2022)** must be delivered physically to the address **TANESCO SACCOS LIMITED, Ubungo Business Park, Office No 8, P O Box 9024, Dar es Salaam**, at or before **14.00 HOURS on 02nd September, 2022**. Applications will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of applicants' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the **TANESCO SACCOS LIMITED, Ubungo Business Park, Office No 8**.
- Late applications, portion of applications, electronic applications, and applications not received, applications not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- Note: If you had applied in the earlier Advert, you may not apply again if you deem your application have not changed.

**GENERAL MANAGER
TANESCO SACOSS LIMITED**

216980102

Global alliance to end AIDS in children by 2030 is launched

By Guardian Reporter

FIFTY two percent of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind adults where three quarters (76%) are receiving antiretrovirals, according to the data from UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022.

Concerned by the stalling of progress for children, and the widening gap between children and adults, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and partners have brought together a global alliance to ensure that no child living with HIV is denied treatment by the end of the decade and to prevent new infant HIV infections.

The new 'Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children' by 2030 was announced by leading figures at the international AIDS conference taking place in Montreal, Canada.

In addition to the United Nations agencies, the alliance includes civil society movements, including the Global Network of People living with HIV, national governments in the most affected countries, and international partners, including PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Twelve countries have joined the alliance in the first phase: Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Addressing the International AIDS conference, Limpho Nteko from Lesotho shared how she had

discovered she was HIV positive at age 21 while pregnant with her first child.

This led her on a journey where she now works for the pioneering women-led mothers2mothers programme.

"We must all sprint together to end AIDS in children by 2030. We need a healthy, informed generation of young people who feel free to talk about HIV, and to get the services and support they need to protect themselves and their children from HIV," said Nteko.

She said Mothers2mothers has achieved virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV for enrolled clients for eight consecutive



Through this alliance, we will channel that outrage into action. By bringing together new improved medicines, new political commitment, and the determined activism of communities, we can be the generation who end AIDS in children. We can win this – but we can only win together

years.

The alliance will run for the next eight years until 2030, aiming to fix one of the most glaring disparities in the AIDS response. Alliance members are united in the assessment that the challenge is surmountable through partnership.

"The wide gap in treatment coverage between children and adults are an outrage," said UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima.

"Through this alliance, we will channel that outrage into action. By bringing together new improved medicines, new political commitment, and the determined activism of communities, we can be the generation who end AIDS in children. We can win this - but we can only win together," she said.

"No child should be born with or grow up with HIV, and no child with HIV should go without treatment," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

He added: "The fact that only half of children with HIV receive antiretrovirals is a scandal, and a stain on our collective conscience. The Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children is an opportunity to renew our commitment to children and their families to unite, to speak and to act with purpose and in solidarity with all mothers, children and adolescents."

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said that despite progress to reduce vertical transmission, increase testing and treatment, and expand access to information, children around the world are still far less likely than adults to have access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services.

135 schools given tablets for bolstering of reproductive health education for students

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of 135 primary and secondary schools in Singida District council have been provided with tablets to be used in provision of reproductive health education to students.

The aim of such education is to protect children from new HIV infections, Singida District Executive Director, Ester Chaula said on Friday.

She was speaking during a function to distribute the tablets which were handed over to 270 trained teachers. Singida becomes the 20th district council to get the tablets out of 184 district councils countrywide.

Chaula said the government's decision to distribute the tablets is meant to control the spread of HIV under the 'TimizaMalengo' project which is implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

She however urged the teachers to use the tablets in teaching other subjects because of its storage capacity. She said teachers are likely to use to keep some teaching materials and look for more information on particular subjects through internet.

"The government plans to make

everything operated digitally; we want to use technology to improve provision of education at our schools. With the use of tablets students can also be able to learn through pictures," she added.

Singida District Commissioner, Eng Paskas Mragili said that distribution of the tablets is part of government strategies to shift from analogy to digital operations.

"The government will completely move to digital operations in future; plans are to operate digitally from grassroots to upper levels. Schools should get prepared to start applying Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching," said the district commissioner.

Mragili urged the school managements to make sure the tablets are used for targeted purposes to attract other schools to use the technology.

He said schools should consider purchasing more tablets to enable teaching of other subjects.

He said various researches have showed that most of the students do not have enough knowledge on reproductive health, hence the need to start teaching it in classes.

"I pray that in Singida we will be

among the councils that will do well in this programme to make young people healthy and achieve their dreams in their lives," he said.

The Head of the District stressed the issue of the maintenance of the school bags so that they can help other young people more and that making them the property of the school does not mean that the maintenance should be lax.

In addition, he thanked the government for not showing discrimination where they have been given to government and private schools in terms of health education; you cannot discriminate between students studying in private and government schools.

"It is my hope that Singida will be among the councils that will do better in this programme; we want to make our young people healthy so that they can achieve their education dreams," he said.

The DC stressed the need to proper keep the tablets so that they last longer and benefit many more students.

He said in recognizing the importance of reproductive education to students, the government has distributed the tablets to both public and private schools in the districts.



Government Chief Medical Officer Dr Aifello Sicalwe (C) addresses staff of Manyara Region's Haydom Referral Hospital on Thursday, chiefly on the need for them to serve the people more professionally and efficiently. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Govt constructs ten rainwater reservoirs in drought-hit areas

By Guardian Correspondent, Chemba

THE government has begun the implementation for the construction of 10 reservoirs for harvesting rainwater to cost 4.5bn/- in all drought areas as a measure to alleviate water shortage.

This was revealed on Wednesday by the minister for water, Jumaa Aweso after inspecting a reservoir being constructed at Kelema Village and the completed one at Paranga Village in Chemba District, Dodoma

Region.

Aweso said reservoirs to be built in Dodoma Region will be constructed in Ombiri, Jambi ya Nyasa, Patanga and Kelema villages in Chemba District whereas in Bahi District they will be built in Mpamantwa and Uhelela villages.

Aweso added that the government is building reservoirs in drought hit areas to enable residents therein to get safe and clean water supply as per President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive to relieve water buckets off

women's heads.

"The country's rains should become an opportunity and not disaster hence the water to be harvested will be used for drinking and farming activities," he said.

Director of water resources in the water ministry, Dr George Lugomela said in the coming financial year, 11 more big reservoirs will be built after they get the required funds totaling 6bn/-.

Dr Lugomela said the construction of these reservoirs is a motivation in

boosting water supply in rural areas especially those hit by drought.

He said after completion, the reservoirs will benefit 14,908 residents and 67,084 livestock in Chemba District, while in Bahi District 13,767 residents and 24,063 livestock will benefit.

The Ministry's Head of Water Reservoirs Security, Domina Msonge, said the reservoirs being built in Chemba District will be completed this year as the building of one reservoir takes three weeks to complete.



Traffic police officers have a word with the presumed driver of the bus (pictured) that was heading for Mwanza city from Kahama after intercepting it at Kitwanga in Shinyanga District on Thursday apparently for overloading. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Govt negotiates with financial institutions on issuance of loans to small-scale miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

The government has said that it has already negotiated with some banks and financial institutions in the country on possibilities of providing loans to small-scale miners, a move which is expected to lift them out of poverty.

We have already provided sufficient education to a group of small-scale miners with hearing impairment who are conducting their activities at the Nyakafuru area in Mbogwe District

Acting Director of the State Mining Company (STAMICO) Venance Mwase made the statement on Thursday at a ceremony to distribute equipment to artisanal gold miners conducting their mining activities in the district.

Mwase said that they have already negotiated with some financial institutions including CRDB, NMB and KCB bank, adding they have reached an agreement where STAMICO will be their guarantor in accessing the loans.

He said the mining company will be responsible for providing information

about the artisanal miners as well as their physical addresses. He said as part of preparations towards issuance of the loans, the mining company has started to educate miners on various issues related to mining.

He asked miners to start processes of formalizing their mining sites to qualify for the bank loans which will improve their activities and finally lift them out of poverty.

"We will continue to support small scale miners with hearing impairment which includes protecting them from

various health risks associated with mining activities," he said.

CRDB Branch Manager in Mbogwe, Simoni Mapesa said they have already entered into agreement with STAMICO on how to help the group of miners with hearing impairment.

He said the bank is ready to work with the institutions that collaborate with the miners, and that they are planning to start educating their staff on how best they can work with miners with hearing impairment.

"This sector needs reliable and sufficient information from experts to be able to know where exactly there are plenty minerals to be extracted. We have directed miners to visit our bank branches located at mining site to apply for the loans," said Mapesa.

SADC implementing intra-ACP climate services, other applications programme

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat is implementing the intra-African Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) programme across the Southern Africa region.

ClimSA is a six-year project which aims to improve production, access to and use of climate information, services and applications for decision-makers.

The project promotes sustainable development by preventing desertification, protecting ecological biodiversity and managing water resources sustainably in ACP nations.

In the SADC region, the programme is implemented by SADC secretariat through its Climate Services Centre (CSC), with WS Atkins International (Atkins) providing technical assistance.

The ClimSA programme aims to strengthen the climate service value chain through capacity building to support decision-makers at all levels and make effective use of climate information and services.

The programme also provide technical assistance, infrastructure, as well as widen and improve access to climate information and services.

As one of seven regional organisations, SADC Secretariat signed the contribution agreement for ClimSA with the EU in October 2019 and launched the programme in April 2021.

The total cost of the programme is \$8,748,000 and is funded by the 11th European Development Fund.

The ClimSA programme also features a focus country, in which some activities will be implemented at the national level. In the SADC region, Angola has been identified as the first Focus Country.

SADC held the ClimSA inception workshop with member states, the European Union (EU) delegation, technical partners and SADC secretariat stakeholders in September 2021, which formally commenced the implementation of ClimSA in the region.

Since the inception workshop, key events including conferences and training workshops have provided platforms for assessing the status of climate action in the SADC Region.

These events also connected international commitments with

regional, national and sub-national initiatives and identified ways to overcome barriers to ensure that Southern Africa can meet its development objectives in the context of a changing climate.

The ClimSA programme was started by the Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) in collaboration with the EU and is being carried out by regional organisations in seven different parts of the world.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) are the ClimSA's implementation partners.

Related to the project, is the annual Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) a key platform which generates a seasonal forecast for the SADC region and will convene for the 26th time in 2022.

SARCOF is led by SADC CSC in collaboration with Member States' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS).

SARCOF will be enhanced through the ClimSA programme by implementing an objective seasonal forecast methodology and improving user interface platforms, whereby stakeholders from sectors affected by climate interact with the providers of climate information.



SADC held the ClimSA inception workshop with member states, the European Union (EU) delegation, technical partners and SADC secretariat stakeholders in September 2021, which formally commenced the implementation of ClimSA in the region

Lack of skills and land hampers youth engagement in agriculture

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

LACK of education on agricultural issues and land acquisition challenges have been mentioned as among the factors hindering youth engagement in agriculture.

Youth from various areas of Moshi District have raised concerns over lack of skills on how to practice agri-business, thus failing to engage in the sector. They claimed that with the unemployment challenges, agriculture could be an option job for them, but they don't have the required knowledge.

They were speaking on Thursday during a campaign for youth mobilization on agriculture and agri-business caravan themed 'Faith Actors and Conscious-driven Youth Economic Empowerment'. The campaign was launched early this month in Babati District, Manyara Region.

The campaign is implemented by Norwegian Church Aid in collaboration with faith based partners of which in northern zone they are collaborate with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Northern Diocese (ELCT-ND). It aims to promote youth engagement in agriculture and agribusiness based on the lessons from the Climate Smart Economic Empowerment (CSEE).

Daniel Mpesa (34) a resident of Chekereni village, Mabogini ward Moshi-Rural called upon the government and other development stakeholders to invest more on providing youth with education on how can effectively practice agri-business.

"We are aware that agriculture is an opportunity, but the challenge is that most of us do not have knowledge on how to practice modern agriculture," Mpesa said.

Mpesa added: "There are many agricultural challenges, without having proper education on how to deal with it, we will fail and suffer losses".

Frank Nyaki (29) a resident of Chekereni village asked the government and stakeholders to bring more platforms at the village that provide education on how to practice agri-business.

Lazaro Naftael (25) from Chekereni village urged stakeholders to assist youth with capital to be able to start agri-business projects which include establishment farm gardens. He said with the funds it will be easily for them to take care of the farms and access the required inputs such as fertilizers.

Naftael asked the government, financial institutions and banks to come up with special agricultural loan for youth.

Kibisi Kirua said some of the youth fear to practice agri-business due to climate change because the weather is unpredictable.

Kirua thanked NCA and ELCT-ND for providing them with education on drip irrigation that uses less water and cannot be affected by climate change.

Through the Climate Smart Economic Empowerment Programme (CSEE), Norwegian Church Aid collaborates with faith-based organisations, to support and empower people in Tanzania to climb out of poverty while building resilience to climate change.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Food price rises far exceeding margins of new fuel price hike

REPORTS galore in city markets and upcountry that prices of food products were on an upward trend, at times doubling and even tripling, following a pronounced rise in fuel prices. A survey by this newspaper in big markets showed a nearly uniform trend of price rises explained from costs of transporting goods from farms in the regions to city markets. There are considerable variations in that aspect too.

What was a bit surprising was that even prices of products that usually drop during the harvest season remained high, as the low and upper price levels must now be reset from a 'new normal' in keeping with the price level ignited by sharp fuel price rises. All the same there were unclear price changes for instance green pepper being sold at 7000/-, from 4000/- earlier, despite that at times it used to sell at 2000/- There is no candid explanation for such hikes even if the rise in fuel price is cited, as it has increased at most by a third of existing prices, or indeed even lower.

Not so different is sardines were selling at 7000/- per kilo but now traders asking for 10,000/- a price that city residents have never before encountered. A bunch of bananas sold at 15,000/- is now being doubled to 30,000/- for reasons of the same one third increase in the price of petrol or diesel. Everywhere the story is nearly the same, despite that traders with some old stock of carrots for instance were selling at the same price earlier, from visits to street vegetable spots.

That was a big relief.

Chances are that this grain and vegetable price spiral will not last for too long, or will tend to stabilize rather than continually go up. There seems to be a panicky situation at the start or traders seeking to cash into the confusion, apart from self-centered worrying once a portion of purchase costs is hiked. While the rising fuel prices aren't doing much good, plenty of the price hikes is either panic or a keen sense of profit while there is a generally understood alibi for shooting up prices.

That is why a lot of this price spiral will climb down in a while because each trader must make a living, and people won't have twice the cash to spend on grain, fish or vegetables just because traders want them to do so. The wider problem is the way alarm spreads, that virtually each month prices will be doubling, when oil price rises no longer look like a contingency but a natural tendency. The subsidy that the public was told about appears to have failed to contain the price spiral, unless it is deemed to be a necessary adjustment to stop the need to increase the subsidy itself.

Local prices can remain as they are even with a marginal rise in global fuel prices, a situation applying to the new bus fares as they were hiked in the heat of the fuel price rises. Some opium makers argued for restoring the old fare as well but there was no premise for that, as city bus fares were in place since 2013 and were due to rise in the near future. Some aspects of the cost of living may still remain stable.



@MSAMBA

South Africa is trapped again: What kind of leaders can set country free?

By Chris Jones

THABO Mbeki served two terms as ANC president, from 1997 to 2007, and national president, from 1999 to 2008. South Africa enjoyed an average GDP growth rate of 4.2 per cent during his tenure, making him and finance minister Trevor Manuel the most successful economic combination in South Africa's young democracy. Yet the country's socio-economic problems, inherited from apartheid, persisted during his tenure.

Self-enrichment

Mbeki expressed concern about ANC politicians who did not serve the people of South Africa, but who were rather focused on self-enrichment. He also lamented the absence of a social compact - the collaboration between government, civil society organisations, communities, business and labour. And he pointed out the dire straits of local governments, especially those led by the ANC.

Mbeki lamented the high crime rate. He said South Africa was not well governed by the ANC, which has been in power since 1994. He warned that the country was ripe for its own Arab Spring - the uprisings that brought down the Tunisian government in 2011 and spread across the Arab world.

South Africa is indeed threatened by all these issues - especially by unemployment, inequality, poverty and a lack of cohesion. The Tunisian revolution was caused by high unemployment, inequality, food inflation, corruption, a lack of political freedoms and poor living conditions.

In my view, the country needs transformational leaders - who can inspire positive change in individuals and social systems - to fix its problems. Such leaders must be concerned about the country's problems and be involved in helping to fix them. They must help every member of society succeed. Only transformational leadership can help bring about South Africa's renewal.

The quest for renewal

Every South African who cares about the future of the country and its people will agree with Mbeki that, to avert disaster, something must be done urgently about the socio-economic problems he outlined.

However, people - including economists, political commentators, politicians, business people and policymakers - differ on what the



objectives and methods of such a renewal effort should be. For example, some believe that the country's wealth is based on natural resources, capital, prestigious jobs and job creation. To them, redistribution of wealth, affirmative action, job creation and higher wages are the answer to the country's ills.

Others argue that South Africa is a poor country. So, wealth redistribution will at best make everyone poor. Therefore, economic growth is essential to grow the "cake" to be redistributed. To that end, the economy must be freed from state control so that entrepreneurs and businesses are motivated to make good money, invest more and thereby create jobs to make the country prosperous.

Of course, both these views have merit, but there are also blind spots that can severely damage development. We no longer live in the industrial age of the 20th century when the struggle between capital and labour reached its peak as a zero-sum game.

Although there is still a battle between capital and labour, in today's economy, knowledge, skill development and pioneering innovation are the primary drivers of a country's prosperity.

Transformational leadership

This requires that all South Africans join hands and participate. And this construction work must be undertaken with great patience, adaptability, respect, humility and a lot of hope and courage. For this to happen, the country needs transformational leadership.

Transformational leadership is a process in which leaders and followers help each other to constantly advance to a higher level of morale and motivation.

The best form of transformational leadership was displayed by Nelson

Mandela, the late first president of a democratic South Africa. He envisioned the country as a "rainbow nation" and rallied almost the entire nation - black and white - behind the realisation of his vision. But it faded over the years.

The futurist Philip Spies, however, describes the new South Africa as a ship that started sailing in 1994 with very good hope and direction, but froze in a pack of ice 28 years later, bringing the country's development to a standstill. This is the product of, among other things, class, race and ethnic polarisation and alienation of communities and greed, elitist governance and corruption by privileged and favoured public servants and politicians.

Sadly, the current political leaders - and this applies to most political parties - are not very good "icebreakers". Too many politicians are self-serving and interested in self-enrichment. They are often far removed - literally and metaphorically - from the citizens.

But transformational, moral leadership is future-oriented. It changes attitudes in people and motivates them to do exceptional things.

Renewal - how to break the ice's grip on the ship - carries dangers for the transformational leader. There will always be losers in a renewal process who can easily become disruptors, as seen in the transition to democracy in the early 1990s with certain right-wing political parties.

James Brian Quinn, the American academic and author, points out that transformational leaders must pay even more attention to the interests of those who may lose during a renewal process than to the programmes of change themselves.

Short-term oriented

Many so-called professional politicians are short-term oriented. This easily makes them "enemies" of longer-term development, therefore of the future of a country. That's because they need to survive politically. But leaders who are only long-term oriented can easily lose sight of the immediate needs. So, citizens stop following them.

Transformational leaders are dedicated to long-term development - built on good background analysis - while also trying to solve the immediate problems of a country and its people.

For such leaders, continuous self-examination, sharp observation, service to people, and dialogue are crucial in putting a country on the trajectory of a knowledge economy and sustainable development.

Conclusion

If we measure the extent to which the country has skilled, capable and dedicated people who are building a vibrant, sustainable society, President Ramaphosa and the ANC sadly do not provide transformational leadership.

The country needs more than transformational leaders. It needs change management, a whole new design, which has the potential to lead to the purest expression of democracy for South Africa, with its vast differences in wealth, and diverse communities with their diverse interests. Yet, without transformational leadership, this is not possible.

Chris Jones is Chief researcher, Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, head of Unit for Moral Leadership, Stellenbosch University

Works ministry can't just restart on feasible Bagamoyo port contract

TOP government officials will have a hard task pinning good/bad labels on the latest developments in relation to the Bagamoyo port project after China Merchants Holdings (International) Co Ltd (CMHI) and the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) both withdrew. What the Ministry of Works and Transport is saying is that the government is looking for potential investors to take up the tender bid as it is. This outcome in discussions and the position expressed comes back to an old adage, which some militants will say it is colonial, that 'there's no hurry in Africa.'

What else would anyone say with regard to the project having an interim accord reached in 2013, roughly at the time that President Xi Jinping took office in China and Tanzania was the first country he visited in Africa, and among the first in the world? Even if there were some issues to sort out, would that take nine years and fail? The Omani chartered firm, as it is tied up with the country's government, had ample power to make decisions that are binding on the Omani authorities, and they still couldn't see how they could come down enough to meet our terms of contract.

Apart from the Chinese and the Omanis, the relevant authorities don't appear to have noticed or paying attention to French investors' interest expressed during a visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan back in February. There is a discrepancy between this rather traditional outlook and the often expressed stance of the sixth phase government, zealous to revive most stalled projects, chiefly the port and the liquefied natural gas project

now out of the woods. Another was an NHC housing estate in the northern outreaches of the city of Dar es Salaam - and likely, others.

But negotiation guidelines appear to be inadequate as yet, at least with regard to the port project, which definitely fits into the remark by President Samia, blaming top officials for 'dilly dallying' in negotiations until investors tire out and leave. It is in all regards a copybook example, a textbook case of that attitude, and it is deep in character. Earlier this year the ministry issued a public appeal for more investors to put in bids; is Tanzania as exceptionally important, thus more firms will turn up?

Let us face it, that traditionally the legislature and senior government officials blame foreign companies when there is a dispute in relation to this or that contract or tender, but a different tonality is taking hold during the sixth phase.

All the same the pattern seems to linger on as there was a possibility of an accord being reached with either the Chinese as original bidders or the Omanis as a late entrant, or even taking up the French offer into discussion. None of this is being pursued; just why?

It is ironic that this is happening in a country where founder President Julius Nyerere was saying in the aftermath of the first five year plan in 1964 that 'we must run while others walk,' as there is a poverty gap demanding that we do things speedily.

This is definitely not what we are doing, asking the world to bend to our behests, literally. As with the LNG accord, the port issue shouldn't be intractable.

JOHANNESBURG

Ramaphosa on knife edge as crises spur leadership race

SOUTH Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa is beset by crises that have cast doubt on his presidency and left him vulnerable to a leadership challenge as his party begins the process of selecting candidates for the next national election.

As clouds gather, analysts and party insiders say his best chance of survival is that many in the governing African National Congress see him as the least objectionable nominee - both to investors and voters - in the 2024 polls, which could see the party lose its parliamentary majority for the first time since white minority rule ended nearly three decades ago.

ANC members will choose their party leader, and hence presidential nominee, in December. But the battle lines are being drawn now, with power blocks coalescing around candidates at gatherings to elect provincial party officials, and at a national policy conference last weekend.

Challengers include former health minister Zweli Mkhize, Tourism Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Duduzane Zuma, son of the former president Jacob Zuma.

"It's severely dented, but (Ramaphosa) still retains more trust than the other alternative political leaders," Susan Booysen, director of research at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, said. "The alternatives would have to show they've got credibility."

The ANC has never been so unpopular.

Struggling state power company Eskom has imposed its worst power cuts in more than two years. Poor service delivery saw the ANC's support in municipal polls in November drop below 50% for the first time.

A looting spree a year ago and mass shootings in July highlighted police failures and yawning wealth inequalities.

And a \$4 million heist at Ramaphosa's private farm in June raised ques-



Ruling African National Congress and South Africa President Ramaphosa addresses the 6th National Policy Conference in Johannesburg on July 29, 2022. (AP PHOTO)

tions about his vast wealth - awkward for a leader who won his ticket on a promise to clean up endemic graft.

Four ANC insiders said Ramaphosa's rivals are to varying degrees allied with

his predecessor Jacob Zuma's faction, whose victory would be seen as a setback by investors in Africa's most industrialized economy. A judicial corruption inquiry pointed to systemic

graft during Zuma's tenure in 2009-2018; he denies wrongdoing.

Zuma's faction recently captured the party leadership in the ANC strongholds of Mpumalanga and Kwa-

zulu-Natal, shrinking Ramaphosa's provincial power base.

Some ANC members also favour Deputy President David Mabuza, who hasn't said he'll run but would automatically take over if Ramaphosa is forced out early.

Gathering clouds

Ramaphosa acted decisively against COVID-19 in 2020 - imposing some of the world's toughest restrictions and expanding social welfare to prevent hunger - but has prevaricated on other contentious policy issues. It took his government over two years to start implementing plans to buy more power from private producers and cut reliance on Eskom, a process fraught with delays.

"He's caught between paranoia and paralysis. There's that indecisiveness, lurching from thing to thing," Ebrahim Fakir of South Africa's Aural Socio-Economic Research Institute said.

Police are probing the origin of millions of dollars worth of foreign banknotes stolen from Ramaphosa's private farm for tax or exchange control irregularities. He says the funds are from game sales and has welcomed the investigation.

"Ramaphosa is in a very weak position because of this foreign currency found in his house," said Moeletsi Mbeki, deputy chairman of the South African Institute of International Affairs and a brother of ex-president Thabo Mbeki. "He has to account for why (it) was ... not in the bank."

At the policy conference, Ramaphosa faced down Zuma allies

arguing that the party should suspend a rule that any officials charged with crimes must step down while they are being investigated.

The "step-aside" rule is preventing the ANC's suspended secretary general Ace Magashule from challenging Ramaphosa after being charged with corruption. But it could come to haunt the president if he himself is charged.

Ramaphosa's challengers

Any one of his likely challengers would prompt fears from investors about "taking South Africa back to a more difficult place," Razia Khan, Standard Chartered's head of research for Africa and the Middle East, said.

Mkhize was suspended a year ago over allegations his department irregularly awarded COVID-19-related contracts to former associates. He did not respond to a request for comment, but denies wrongdoing.

Mabuza has struggled to shrug off allegations - which he denies - of irregular tenders for a 2010 World Cup stadium and links to political killings. His spokeswoman did not comment.

Sisulu supported Zuma throughout the graft inquiry. He "is a valued and respected leader of the ANC," her spokesman Steve Motale said.

Duduzane Zuma - known for his designer suits, partying on speed boats in Dubai and crashing his Porsche into a minibus taxi in 2014 - is being investigated alongside his father for alleged corruption.

"I've showed up every time and pleaded not-guilty," he told Reuters. "I'm young at heart. If I want to jump on a jet ski or quad bike or a private plane, that shouldn't be an issue. I've worked hard."

If the ANC loses its parliamentary majority, it could force the party into an uneasy coalition. Several conference delegates told Reuters they still see Ramaphosa as their best bet.

"I don't see any other person who can rival him," Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi told Reuters.

Some analysts agree.

"Removing Ramaphosa would be a suicide mission. He is what has slowed down their decline," author and political analyst Ralph Matheka said. "He's the most electable, and ... can help the party to survive."

Kenya presidential wildcard vows to erase debt with 'ganja solution'

NAIROBI

SEXAGENARIAN reggae aficionado and presidential candidate George Wajackoyah is convinced he has the right medicine for the ills troubling Kenya's voters: a dose of marijuana and some hyena testicles.

East Africa's wealthiest country is holding elections on Aug 9. A tight race between the two leading presidential candidates - veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga and Deputy President William Ruto - has thrust a spotlight on Wajackoyah's small but committed band of followers, who could force a runoff if neither side gets more than 50 percent of the vote.

Voter registration among young people has fallen sharply, with many saying conventional politicians have failed to tackle rampant corruption, runaway inflation or joblessness.

Wajackoyah's bid for the presidency has caught the imagination of younger voters. The grave-digger-turned-adjunct-law-professor is trailing a distant third in the polls at around 2 percent but he could tip the balance if he endorses one candidate, or takes enough votes from another.

His no-frills campaign promises to wipe out Kenya's debt of roughly \$70 billion by establishing a medical cannabis industry and exporting animal parts, including hyena testicles.

"I've created a new tribe, known as the ganja tribe," he said, explaining his popularity. "These (politicians), they have helicopters, they have money, they have painted cars. I don't even have a single poster."

The Kenyan media's infatuation with colourful Wajackoyah, also a well-known figure from Nairobi's club scene, has prompted speculation that he is backed by a bigger campaign to try to peel away some



Roots party presidential candidate George Wajackoyah gestures to his supporters during a campaign rally in Ruai, Nairobi on July 27, 2022, ahead of Kenya's August 2022 general election. AFP

of the youth vote - a prospect he airily dismisses.

Many candidates have offered him cash for support, he said, but he has turned them all down. Instead, he said he dreams of lighting up in the president's office.

"We shall go to state house and smoke it around to remove the colonial impurities," 62-year-old Wajackoyah said in his wood-paneled office, sporting a du-rag bandanna and listening to a Hare Krishna

prayer.

He checked his phone to recall the other points on his manifesto, which veer from federalizing government and renegotiating the country's debts to hanging the corrup.

"We've come in with the ganja solution," he said.

By his latest count, Wajackoyah said he has picked up 14 law degrees and certificates from England, where fled as a refugee, the

United States, where he met his wife, and back in Kenya where he runs a law firm specialising in migration.

Getting elected in Kenya is an expensive business, costing an estimated \$31,000 to sit on a county assembly, up to \$390,000 to sit in the senate, based on a study by the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi.

Wajackoyah is bucking the trend by running on a shoestring

budget, with supporters creating their own posters featuring his snow-white beard and the slogan "Wajackoyah the 5th," in reference to his bid to be the nation's fifth president.

"If I showed you the amount of money I have, you would laugh," Wajackoyah said.

With no donors or war-chest to draw on, his rallies consist of him arriving at markets unannounced, popping his head through the sun-

roof of his car to blaring reggae music, and making his pitch to startled onlookers.

On Wednesday, with six days to go until the election, Wajackoyah's small convoy rolled into Gatundu, around 30 km north of the capital Nairobi. A smiling crowd of around 400 quickly gathered, waving smart phones and jostling for selfies.

"Every election cycle everybody just comes here with their propaganda," said Jeff Mwangi, a labourer. "If this man can do what he's actually saying... we will go very far as a country."

Agencies

By Peter Fabricius

Madagascar president's spat with South Africa about more than gold smuggling

MADAGASCAR president Andry Rajoelina is evidently not very fond of South Africa. And vice versa. When he toppled Marc Ravalomanana in 2009, his predecessor fled to South Africa. The country was instrumental in ensuring Madagascar's suspension from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for his unconstitutional change of government.

When SADC pressured both men not to run in the 2013 elections because of their toxic personal rivalry – leaving it to Hery Rajaonarimampianina to emerge as president – South Africa was at the helm of the SADC initiative. In March 2019 Rajoelina, perhaps in retaliation, irked Pretoria by skipping SADC's Western Sahara solidarity conference in South Africa to attend Morocco's rival meeting instead.

Does this prickly history explain Rajoelina's reckless decision to sever air links with South Africa since April? Or is it all about gold?

In April, Madagascar lifted its two-year Covid-19-induced ban on international travel allowing commercial flights to resume from Turkey, La Réunion, Mayotte, Mauritius, Ethiopia and France. But not South Africa, which harmed Airlink – the only commercial airline flying the direct South Africa-Madagascar route. It also hit business people and tourists who have had to take costly roundabout journeys.

Airlink and Pretoria were mystified by the decision, wondering if it was because of South Africa's association with Ravalomanana. Or perhaps a deal gone sour between Rajoelina's political party and a South African company to buy aircraft?

Or was it because of 73.5kg of unwrought gold bullion found in the hand luggage of three Malagasy nationals? The passengers had tried flying from Madagascar through Johannesburg and via Addis Ababa to Dubai in December 2020. South African authorities arrested the men for attempted smuggling of contraband and confiscated the gold and some \$20,000 in cash.



Madagascar's president Andry Rajoelina (L) and South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Last month Madagascar's Council of Ministers confirmed the gold and dollars were behind the flight ban. After its 13 July meeting, a statement said: 'The President of the Republic, however, insisted that all measures to combat the smuggling of national resources must be strengthened. That is why the air routes connecting Madagascar to South Africa have not been opened yet; as it is still awaiting the signing of an agreement or "Memorandum of Un-

derstanding" (MOU) to ensure the prevention of the smuggling of national wealth.'

It added that Rajoelina had also reaffirmed Madagascar's demand for the return of the 73.5kg gold 'illegally exported to South Africa' and the extradition of the three Malagasy couriers. The gold's origin remains a mystery.

After the arrests, the Parpia Gold and Jewels Trading company – licensed in Dubai – claimed to be the gold's legal

owner. It said the precious metal was bought in Mali and the couriers were lawfully transporting it from Mali via Madagascar, South Africa and Addis Ababa to Dubai. But the story didn't add up. For one thing, Parpia could only account for 3kg of gold bought in Mali. So the couriers, and the loot, remained in custody.

Meanwhile, Rajoelina sent his foreign minister to meet President Cyril Ramaphosa and plead for the gold's

return and the extradition of the three couriers. Since then, Madagascar's extradition attempts have apparently been suspended pending attempts to elicit a favourable decision from Pretoria.

The wider context of this strange saga is that South Africa is a key transit point for bullion smugglers channeling the precious metal to and from Dubai. In 2021 Daily Maverick reported that a smuggling syndicate possibly

operating from Madagascar had been using South Africa as a conduit to reach Dubai – one of the world's most prolific players in the gold industry.

The report quoted Marcena Hunter, a Senior Analyst at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, saying that in terms of illicit gold networks, "South Africa is a major cog for the southern Africa region. Illegal mining in the country is rife and most of Zimbabwe's gold is still thought to go through South Africa." According to Hunter, most of the gold smuggled out of Africa ends up in Dubai's souks where few questions are asked about its origins.

Daily Maverick also quoted the Minerals Council South Africa saying that the government was losing millions in royalties and taxes on the booming illegal mining industry. "In December, Interpol flagged illegal gold mining as a source of financing for terrorist groups in parts of Africa, which means the products of these activities – gold that often ends up in other parts of the world – could indirectly contribute to terrorism," Daily Maverick said.

In the case covered here, the confiscated gold bars and greenbacks are now probably worth just over \$4-million. Not to be sneezed at, but enough to cut air links with South Africa? Madagascar's overreaction and the Rajoelina administration's obsession with the case suggest the diplomatic spat is less about Madagascar's national interest and more about the personal interests of high-up people in Antananarivo.

After the gold was seized in Johannesburg, 12 people were arrested in Madagascar, including senior officials. Bureaucrats insisted that the smugglers had smartly evaded customs on departure, but the media demonstrated convincingly that their aircraft had been searched. So bribery is suspected.

One observer even speculates that Rajoelina slapped the ban on Airlink because someone in South Africa didn't keep their end of the bargain and was cut out of the Madagascar supply chain. Hunter told ISS Today that this wouldn't have much impact on illicit gold flows from Madagascar, as these could still reach Dubai via Ethiopia.

For a customs official to take a bribe to pass a consignment of gold may be routine. But it is the intense interest at the top – perhaps the very top – that raises real questions. **DM**

China's Tibet reaps fruitful results in glacier protection

By Xu Yuyao

MOUNT Qomolangma, also known as Mount Everest in the West, is the world's highest peak and one of the most famous snow-capped mountains. Thanks to enhanced efforts of ecological protection, Mount Qomolangma and its surrounding areas have seen better environmental conditions in recent years.

Recently, preliminary results were published on China's second scientific research survey on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau launched in May this year. According to the scientific research team, glaciers distributed on the plateau and surrounding mountains cover about 100,000 square kilometers, and snowfields about 300,000 square kilometers. The ice reserves in the area amounted to about 8,850 cubic kilometers, equivalent to about 8 trillion cubic meters of water.

Glaciers and snowfields are a vital part of the ecology on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. As a source or many rivers, they nurture the river system on the plateau and have a profound impact on the surrounding ecology.

Yao Tandong, leader of the scientific research team and academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told People's Daily that the total coverage of six lakes on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau expanded by 20.2 percent between 1976 and 2010, including the Siling Lake and the Namtso. In particular, lakes replenished by glaciers saw a more obvious increase in water levels than those that are not replenished by glaciers.

He noted that the Siling Lake, once the second largest lake in China's Tibet autonomous region, has now replaced the Namtso as the largest one.

Scientific researchers found the vegetation coverage in the Qomolangma National Nature Reserve



Photo shows the Laigu Glaciers in Baxoi county, Qamdo, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. Fie photo

has been on the rise, especially since 2010. The improvement in core zones and buffer zones is higher than that in experimental zones and peripheral areas, they

said. Global warming is a major reason causing the melting of glaciers, but human activities also contribute to such a phenomenon. There-

fore, it's not enough to only reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. Human activities must be curbed in glacier areas, too.

The Purog Kangri glaciers in

the Changtang National Nature Reserve, at 6,000-6,800 meters above sea level, cover an area of more than 400 square kilometers. It is the world's largest glacier in low- and mid-latitude regions. Since 2018, the Changtang National Nature Reserve has suspended all tourism services, and as a result, grasslands near the glaciers are gradually recovering.

In addition, mountain climbing is also put under strict control in Tibet. According to a statement jointly released by the General Administration of Sport and the sports bureau of Tibet, climbers targeting peaks above 5,000 meters in Tibet autonomous region now have to apply for a permit at least a month in advance of their planned ascent.

Climbers are also being asked to abide by related laws and regulations to protect mountain environments. Organizers or climbers participating in illegal climbing will face administrative penalties,

the statement said.

Technologies are contributing to the protection of glaciers, too. In 2020, a 30-meter-tall monitoring tower was erected on the KoKhyung Gangri glaciers in the northern part of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet autonomous region. The monitoring will reveal the features and mechanisms of glaciers' changes under different climates, and how meltwater runoff replenishes and contributes to the runoff from mountainous watersheds.

This time, the scientific research team established an automatic meteorological monitoring station and other monitoring devices near the monitoring tower.

Thanks to constant technological progress, scientists nowadays are able to carry out disaster warnings in a more efficient manner, thus better protecting the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

People's Daily

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

DC orders illegal gold miners at Bumbuli to immediately stop

By Correspondent George Sembony, Lushoto

LUSHOTO District Commissioner Kalisti Lazaro has directed people who are illegally engaging in gold mining at Bumbuli division in Lushoto District, Tanga Region to immediately stop before stern measures are taken against them.

Addressing a rally at Vuga village, Lazaro said the illegal mining activities poses health risks to the residents as the miners pollute water sources during the gold refining process.

He was concerned that chemicals used in the refining processes go direct to water sources that are used by both humans and animals.

Lazaro said: "The village government should stop receiving taxes paid by gold miners since their operations are illegal. We should all unite to ensure such activities are completely banned for the benefits of our people. Our water sources are not safe; residents are in danger of getting diseases as they are using contaminated water."

He warned village leaders from taking levies from miners at the expense of the villagers. He said the district government is responsible for construction of classrooms and other development projects, hence no need for miners to be engaged in the projects. "The government continues to construct classrooms and improve the learning environment at our schools. We have so far built 57 classrooms, of which 54 are in Bumbuli District," he stated.

He said the government will not hesitate to take measures against anyone involved in mining activities at prohibited areas including Mponde, Funta and Vuga wards.

Speaking at the rally, Special Seats legislator, Husna Sekiboko expressed disappointment over the on-going pollution of water sources urging those conducting illegal mining activities to stop.

She said there are possibilities of people to suffer from cancer, a case which is now facing residents in regions adjacent to Lake Victoria. She said there are many profitable activities which villagers can engage in such as agriculture and fish farming.

Manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Lushoto District, Erwin Sizinga said the government has provided funds for implementation of a major



water project.

Manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Lushoto district, Erwin Sizinga said the water used by people from the sources

wasn't suitable for human consumption.

"The Minister for Water provided funds for the construction of a water project but I took a sample of water

whose colour was yellow. I stayed with it for two weeks but the color did not change. It is obvious that it is not suitable for human consumption," he said.

Kisheva village executive officer

Saumu Shengovi, said that they have already ordered the small-scale miners to fill the holes and leave the areas immediately. One resident of the area said that village officials are cowards and hypocrites because some of those are involved in the mining business

African economic blocs to meet in Kigali to explore AfCFTA opportunities

KIGALI

BUSINESS executives from different African trading blocs are set to meet in Kigali next week, to draw strategies through which they can tap into opportunities offered under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The two-day meeting, according to the CEO of East African Business Council (EABC) John Bosco Kalisa, will bring together traders from the East African Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC).

"As a follow up to the recommendations and action plan from the Accra meeting, the East African Business Council will meet in Kigali along

with SADC and COMESA to jointly position themselves in the efforts towards preparing the private sector to benefit from the AfCFTA," Kalisa said.

He added the meeting will also deliberate on the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) engagement framework with the African Business Council and active involvement in its operations and effective inclusion in its structures.

A joint RECs private sectors' umbrella body had developed a report to be submitted to the first coordination meeting of the Heads of Regional Economic Communities on the implementation of AfCFTA.

The meeting provided an opportunity for business councils to engage and present the joint position paper on the execu-



tion road map for the private sector and how the private sector should be considered in the AfCFTA implementation process.

Recently, while presiding over the swearing-in of new cabinet ministers,

President Paul Kagame encouraged the business community to tap into the enormous opportunities that Rwanda is bound to derive from the continental platform.

The blocs' meeting is to

develop a joint position paper on matters detailing the private sector involvement in the implementation of the AfCFTA, develop joint capacity building initiatives for the RECs Business Council members

to enhance participation in the AfCFTA initiatives, as well as development of an action plan for collaboration between the councils.

Rwanda was recently picked among countries set to start trading under

the AfCFTA framework in a pilot phase that also involves six other countries.

The seven countries were selected from 36 countries that had expressed interest in trading under the pilot phase. Each of the appli-

cants had submitted its tariff schedule.

Kalisa said traders will be reviewing the recommendation and outcomes from the AfCFTA meeting held on September 18-20, 2021 in Ghana.

Researchers embrace artificial intelligence to tackle banana disease in Burundi

By Special Correspondent

A GROUP of scientists involved in finding solutions to minimize the impact of a devastating banana virus in Burundi have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool for monitoring the disease.

United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) research shows that the Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD), caused by the Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV), is endemic in many banana-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The virus was first reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the 1950s and has become invasive and spread into 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The disease has been reported in Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia. The latest findings, however, show that BBTD is currently a major threat to banana cultivation and a threat to over 100 million people for whom the banana is a staple food.

The AI development team, led jointly by Dr Guy Blomme and his colleague Dr Michael Gomez Selvaraj from the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT (ABC), tested the detection of banana plants and their major diseases through aerial images and machine learning methods.

This project aimed to develop an AI-based banana disease and pest detection system using a Deep Convolutional Neural Network (DCNN) to support banana farmers.

While farmers struggle to defend their crops from pests, scientists from ABC have created an easy-to-use tool to detect banana pests and diseases.

The tool, which has proven to provide a 90 percent success in detection in some countries, such as the DRC and Uganda, is an important step towards creating a satellite-powered, globally connected network to control disease and pest outbreaks, say the researchers.

During the testing phase, in collaboration with a team from the national agricultural

research organization of Burundi - ISABU, two sites where the banana bunchy top disease is endemic in Cibitoke Province were compared with an area free of the disease in Gitega Province (Central).

Cibitoke Province is BBTD endemic and lies in a frontier zone bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Performance and validation metrics were also computed to measure the accuracy of different models in automated disease detection methods by applying state-of-the-art deep learning techniques to detect visible banana disease and pest symptoms on different parts of the plant.

Researchers set out the rea-

sons detecting disease in bananas is so vital.

"In East and Central Africa, it is a substantial dietary component, accounting for over 50% of daily total food intake in parts of Uganda and Rwanda."

Bananas are also the dominant crop in Burundi. The surface area under cultivation is estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 ha, representing 20 to 30% of the agricultural land.

Data from Burundi's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock indicate food security and nutrition continue to worsen, with 21 percent of the population food insecure. They say this could be exacerbated by various plant diseases such as BBTD.

While banana is crucial to people's food security and live-

lihoods, experts also argue that BBTD could potentially have a devastating economic and social impact on the continent.

"Based on the fact that when BBTD comes in, it is initially a very cryptic disease and does not display spectacular symptoms," Bonaventure Omondi, a CGIAR researcher who collaborated on this project and who works on related banana diseases and seed systems projects, told IPS in an interview. While it was crucial to stop the disease early, it was also challenging, which is why the AI solution was vital.

"Minimizing the effects of disease threats and keeping a matrix mixed landscaped of banana and non-banana canopy is a key step in managing a large

number of diseases and pests," Omondi said.

As an example of how this emerging technology works, researchers focus on data sets depicted on banana crops with disease symptoms and established algorithms to help identify plantations where the disease is present.

Prosper Ntirampeba, a banana grower from Cibitoke Province in north-western Burundi, told IPS that he harvested fewer bunches of bananas in the latest season because of BBTD that spread through his farmlands.

"We have been forced to uproot infected plants since this disease reached our main production area. This resulted in a huge extra cost burden," he

Researchers embrace artificial intelligence in effort to tackle banana disease in Burundi

KIGALI

A group of scientists involved in finding solutions to minimize the impact of a devastating banana virus in Burundi have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool for monitoring the disease.

United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) research shows that the Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD), caused by the Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV), is endemic in many banana-producing countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The virus was first reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the 1950s and has become invasive and spread into 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The disease has been reported in Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia. The latest findings, however, show that BBTD is currently a major threat to banana cultivation and a threat to over 100 million people for whom the banana is a staple food.

The AI development team, led jointly by Dr Guy Blomme and his colleague Dr Michael Gomez Selvaraj from the Alliance of Bioersity and CIAT (ABC), tested the detection of banana plants and their major diseases through aerial images and machine learning methods.

This project aimed to develop an AI-based banana disease and pest detection system using a Deep Convolutional Neu-



Alliance of Bioersity and CIAT (ABC) are using artificial intelligence to help eradicate Banana Bunchy Top Disease (BBTD). The disease threatens the livelihoods of farmers and impacts food security.

ral Network (DCNN) to support banana farmers.

While farmers struggle to defend their crops from pests, scientists from ABC have created an easy-to-use tool to detect banana pests and diseases.

The tool, which has proven to provide a 90 percent success in detection in some countries, such as the DRC and Uganda, is an important step towards creating a satellite-powered, globally connected network to control disease and pest outbreaks, say the researchers.

During the testing phase, in collaboration with a team from the national agricultural research organization of Burundi - ISABU, two sites where the banana bunchy top disease is endemic in Cibitoke Province were compared with an area free of the disease in Gitega Province (Central). Cibitoke Province is BBTD endemic and lies in a frontier zone bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Performance and validation metrics were also computed to measure the accuracy of different models in automated disease detection methods by applying state-of-the-art deep learning techniques to detect visible banana disease and pest symptoms on different parts of the plant.

Researchers set out the reasons detecting disease in bananas is so vital. "In East and Central Africa, it is a substantial dietary component, accounting for over 50% of daily total food intake in parts of Uganda and Rwanda."

Bananas are also the dominant crop in Burundi. The surface area under cultivation is estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 ha, representing 20 to 30% of the agricultural land.

Data from Burundi's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock indicate food security and nutrition continue to worsen, with 21 percent of the population food insecure. They say this could be exacerbated by various plant diseases such as BBTD.

While banana is crucial to people's food security and livelihoods, experts also argue that BBTD could potentially have a devastating economic and social impact on the continent.

"Based on the fact that when BBTD comes in, it is initially a very cryptic disease and does not display spectacular symptoms," Bonaventure Omondi, a CGIAR researcher who collaborated on this project and who works on related banana diseases and seed systems projects, told IPS in an interview. While it was crucial to stop the disease early, it was also challenging, which is why the AI solution was vital.

Agriculture experts say that the East African Highlands is the zone of secondary diversity of a type of bananas called the AAA-EA types. These bananas are genetically close to the dessert banana types but have been selected for use as beer, cooking, and dessert bananas.

Banana cultivation in Burundi is grouped into three different categories. Banana for beer/wine in which juice is extracted and fermented accounts for around 77 percent of the national production by volume. Fourteen percent of bananas are grown for cooking, and finally, about five percent are dessert bananas which are ripened and directly consumed.

With recent advances in machine learning, researchers were convinced that new disease diagnosis based on automated image recognition was technically feasible.

"Minimizing the effects of disease threats and keeping a matrix mixed landscaped of banana and non-banana canopy is a key step in managing a large number of diseases and pests," Omondi said.

As an example of how this emerging technology works, researchers focus on data sets depicting on banana crops with disease symptoms and established algorithms to help identify plantations where the disease is present.

Prosper Ntirampeba, a banana grower from Cibitoke Province in north-western Burundi, told IPS that he harvested fewer bunches of bananas in the latest season because of BBTD that spread through his farmlands. "We have been forced to uproot infected plants since this disease reached our main production area. This resulted in a huge extra cost burden," he said.

In another case, with the detection of BBTD, agricultural officials under instruction from researchers advised farmers to remove all infected 'mats' where several hectares of diseased plants had been destroyed. This is the key to eliminating the disease in Busoni, a remote rural village in Northern Burundi.

Although some farmers often resist uprooting their banana plants, Ntirampeba said it was vital to eliminating the disease. "The disease is likely threatening livelihoods of most farmers who are dependent on the crop," he told IPS.

Currently, other novel disease surveillance methods are also being developed by ABC researchers in Burundi, including drone-based surveillance to determine local disease risk and delimit recovery areas.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 337 00--

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

3 LETTERS: PET, APE, CUM
 4 LETTERS: FLOW, OVER, EVEN, REAL, OVER ROME, MOOS, POUR
 5 LETTERS: LARGE, NOVEL, OMBRE, SPORT METER
 6 LETTERS: EAGLES, LEAN TO, MTWARA MODERN, REJECT
 7 LETTERS: MOROCCO
 8 LETTERS: ACCOUNTS
 10 LETTERS: FREE MARKET

1 fail to impress
 5 a memorandum
 7 accumulate over time
 8 a corner
 10 heaven
 11 known about by many people
 13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
 15 out of the way
 17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
 19 one as a quantity
 20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water

WORD-FIT

F	R	E	E	L	O	A	D	E	R
I	A			B	U				
N	E	S	T	M	E	A	N	T	
E	P	C	A	S	E	L			
M	E	K	O	N	G				
N				R					
A	G	E	D	E	M	B	E	D	
U	I			I					
L	I	B	E	R	A	L	S		
A	N	O	N						
Y	Y	E	M	E	N	I			

CROSSWORD

J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	M
L	O	M	E	S	E	R	V	E	
Y	A	D	A	P	T	O			
G	E	R				P	U	T	
F	R	A	N	C	E				
E				A					
K	N	O	W	D	A	I	R	Y	
A	H			R					
A	D	D	I	C	T	E	D	K	
S	E	A	T						
K		M	E	N	I	A	L		

CLUES: Across

1 fail to impress
 5 a memorandum
 7 accumulate over time
 8 a corner
 10 heaven
 11 known about by many people
 13 the refuse of grapes that have been pressed for winemaking
 15 out of the way
 17 Kuala Lumpur is her capital city
 19 one as a quantity
 20 a small stone made smooth and round by the action of water

Down:

1 Muslims bound together
 2 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
 3 a house
 4 Zambia's capital
 6 on to
 7 Largest state in U.S.A
 9 vehicle equipped for living in
 12 the holding of an office
 14 a slatted wooden case used for transporting goods
 16 an accomplice of a hawk
 17 Mother
 18 labium

ral Network (DCNN) to support banana farmers.

While farmers struggle to defend their crops from pests, scientists from ABC have created an easy-to-use tool to detect banana pests and diseases.

The tool, which has proven to provide a 90 percent success in detection in some countries, such as the DRC and Uganda, is an important step towards creating a satellite-powered, globally connected network to control disease and pest outbreaks, say the researchers.

During the testing phase, in collaboration with a team from the national agricultural research organization of Burundi - ISABU, two sites where the banana bunchy top disease is endemic in Cibitoke Province were compared with an area free of the disease in Gitega Province (Central). Cibitoke Province is BBTD endemic and lies in a frontier zone bordering Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Performance and validation metrics were also computed to measure the accuracy of different models in automated disease detection methods by applying state-of-the-art deep learning techniques to detect visible banana disease and pest symptoms on different parts of the plant.

Researchers set out the reasons detecting disease in bananas is so vital. "In East and Central Africa, it is a substantial dietary component, accounting for over 50% of daily total food intake in parts of Uganda and Rwanda."

Bananas are also the dominant crop in Burundi. The surface area under cultivation is estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 ha, representing 20 to 30% of the agricultural land.

Data from Burundi's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock indicate food security and nutrition continue to worsen, with 21 percent of the population food insecure. They say this could be exacerbated by various plant diseases such as BBTD.

While banana is crucial to people's food security and livelihoods, experts also argue that BBTD could potentially have a devastating economic and social impact on the continent.

"Based on the fact that when BBTD comes in, it is initially a very cryptic disease and does not display spectacular symptoms," Bonaventure Omondi, a CGIAR researcher who collaborated on this project and who works on related banana diseases and seed systems projects, told IPS in an interview. While it was crucial to stop the disease early, it was also challenging, which is why the AI solution was vital.

Agriculture experts say that the East African Highlands is the zone of secondary diversity of a type of bananas called the AAA-EA types. These bananas are genetically close to the dessert banana types but have been selected for use as beer, cooking, and dessert bananas.

Banana cultivation in Burundi is grouped into three different categories. Banana for beer/wine in which juice is extracted and fermented accounts for around 77 percent of the national production by volume. Fourteen percent of bananas are grown for cooking, and finally, about five percent are dessert bananas which are ripened and directly consumed.

With recent advances in machine learning, researchers were convinced that new disease diagnosis based on automated image recognition was technically feasible.

"Minimizing the effects of disease threats and keeping a matrix mixed landscaped of banana and non-banana canopy is a key step in managing a large number of diseases and pests," Omondi said.

As an example of how this emerging technology works, researchers focus on data sets depicting on banana crops with disease symptoms and established algorithms to help identify plantations where the disease is present.

Prosper Ntirampeba, a banana grower from Cibitoke Province in north-western Burundi, told IPS that he harvested fewer bunches of bananas in the latest season because of BBTD that spread through his farmlands. "We have been forced to uproot infected plants since this disease reached our main production area. This resulted in a huge extra cost burden," he said.

In another case, with the detection of BBTD, agricultural officials under instruction from researchers advised farmers to remove all infected 'mats' where several hectares of diseased plants had been destroyed. This is the key to eliminating the disease in Busoni, a remote rural village in Northern Burundi.

Although some farmers often resist uprooting their banana plants, Ntirampeba said it was vital to eliminating the disease. "The disease is likely threatening livelihoods of most farmers who are dependent on the crop," he told IPS.

Currently, other novel disease surveillance methods are also being developed by ABC researchers in Burundi, including drone-based surveillance to determine local disease risk and delimit recovery areas.

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.10 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.10 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.10 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM MATANGAZO 09.10 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 18.00 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.30 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

Government to start revisiting agriculture financing systems

By Mnakw Mbani

THE government, through ministry of agriculture is expected to revisit agriculture financing systems, to come up with proper one that will help to improve lending to agricultural activities, mainly on the production stage.

Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe told The Guardian yesterday that the ministry has already formed a special committee, which will be tasked to revisit the whole sector financing by banks and financial institutions.

"The committee, which will be inaugurated by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, will be responsible for designing proper agriculture financing products, including procedures, terms and conditions," he said in a telephone interview.

Minister Bashe, who spoke from Mbeya,

where he is attending an ongoing agriculture Fair (Nane Nane) was responding to The Guardian on the recent banks and Bank of Tanzania (BoT) computations data which painted that an annual growth of agriculture lending reached 42 percent during the year ending June this year from a contraction of 10.7 percent in June 2021.

The minister said despite of the rosy growth data, lending to agricultural activities, which create employment to the majority of Tanzanians is very minimal, challenging that the monetary policies for not supporting a farmer to the maximum.

"It is lucky that for the first time in history, total lending to agricultural activities has hit 2trn/-, out of 25trn/- total banks' lending to the economy, or 8.3 percent share during the year ending June this year, from 7 percent in 2021, and this was

the result of the recent President Samia's political will to extend agriculture financing," he said. He said the major impact has been seen to the unlocked higher lending rates to the sector, but the amount going to finance the sector, especially on production stage is still low, to create major impact to the sector, which contribute a third of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"There is no direct correlation between growing banks' lending and the transformation of a farmer," he said, noting that currently, most benefiting activities have been crops trading and not the whole agricultur-

al value chain. Bashe who is fighting hard to ensure the sector transformation in Tanzania, said agricultural production system is facing financing shortages, as majority of farmers are not accessing loans for land preparation, acquiring machinery, buying seeds, purchasing fertilisers and pesticides as well as other farming requirement.

He also challenged the new accounting standards adopted by banks, the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS-9), saying was a barrier to extend financing to agriculture, as farmers need more time to start repaying loans, in contrary with its

requirements.

He said through IFRS-9, if a farmer fails to repay one installment, an acquired loan become impairment losses; and to clean that in a bank's income statement, a farmer needs to repay at least four installments, which he says needs four farming seasons.

The recent banks and Bank of Tanzania data showed lending to the sector recorded a sharp annual growth of 42 percent during the year ending June, 2022 from a contraction of 10.7 percent recorded during the year ended in June 2021.

"It is not a matter of growth rate, but what

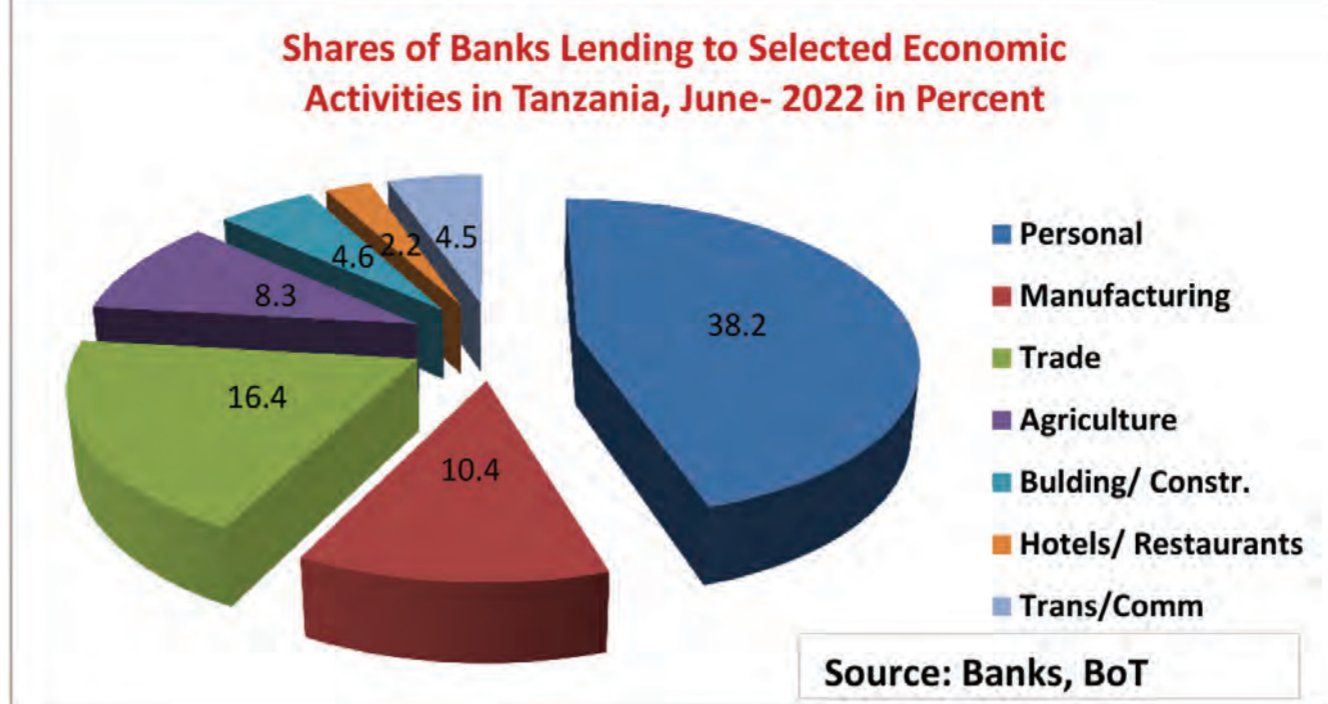
we should ask ourselves is that how much is going to agriculture," he responded.

The annual growth of credits to agriculture was nearly three times higher than the growth recorded during the year ending May at 14.7 percent, according to BoT and banks data. The growth was higher than mining and quarrying activities which grew by 36.5 percent in June this year from a contraction of 4.6 percent in June last year, dominant personal lending which grew by 27.5 percent against a growth of 17.9 percent respectively.

Other sectors recorded sharp growth during the period reviewed were trade which grew by 25 percent from a contraction of 0.7 percent respectively and manufacturing which grew by 23.5 percent from a contraction of 4.4 percent respectively.

BoT data shows personal lending which involves Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) accounts for 38.2 percent of all banks' lending portfolio, followed by trade with 16.4 percent and manufacturing is third with 10.4 percent.

This shows that despite of contributing to a third of the economy and more than 65 percent of employment, agricultural activities still receive small share of lending from the banking system, which also hinder its growth.



Global stocks are being shunned again, Bank of America says

NEW YORK

INVESTORS have resumed shunning global stocks in favor of bonds, according to Bank of America Corp. strategists, who say the time is right to step back from US equities after the strong rally in July.

Global equity funds had outflows of \$2.6 billion in the week through Aug. 3, according to a note from the

bank, after last week seeing their first additions in six weeks.

US stocks had redemptions of \$1.1 billion, and while \$4.1 billion left cash, global bonds had additions of about \$12 billion, the most since November, BofA said, citing EPR Global data.

Strategist Michael Hartnett, who has said the recent rebound in stocks was more a bear market rally than a

sustained run higher, reiterated that investors should "fade" the S&P 500 Index from a level of 4,200 points -- just 1.2% above its latest close.

He maintains that the bottom for the benchmark is below 3,600, or 13% below current levels.

US stocks have struggled to maintain their momentum in August after rallying in July on the back of a better-than-feared earnings season and bets

that the Federal Reserve will slow the pace of interest-rate hikes. The technology-heavy Nasdaq 100 is nearly 20% above its June low, but strategists have said stocks are likely to fall again until profit estimates see much stronger downgrades.

HSBC Bank Plc strategist Max Kettner, a staunch bear on US stocks this year, was the latest to warn about a sharp end to the rally when say-

ing on Thursday that he'd changed his stance on equities to "maximum underweight". JPMorgan's Marko Kolanovic is now one of the few top strategists forecasting a rebound for US stocks in the second half.

Bank of America's Hartnett said that while investor sentiment remains bearish, shorts have been covered. The strategist expects the S&P 500 to trade in a range of 3,800 to 4,200 until

the next Federal Reserve decision on Sept. 21, he wrote in the note.

The bank's European strategists, meanwhile, have cut their view on regional equities to negative, saying their macro projections point to 10% downside for stocks by the end of the year. European equity funds had outflows of \$3 billion in the week, their 25th straight week of redemptions, the data on fund flows showed.

Value of manufactured goods exports up to nearly 3.3trn/-

By Guardian Reporter

THE value of manufactured goods has nearly doubled over the last two years, which indicates aggressive move towards industrialization in a period when the global supply chain continued to be disrupted by the Ukraine-Russia war.

Bank of Tanzania and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) data shows the value of exported manufactured goods amounted \$1.4 billion (nearly 3.3trn/-) during the year ending June this year from \$800 million (nearly 1.8trn/-) recorded during the year ended in June 2020.

When compared to 2021, the value of manufactured goods increased by \$400 million as data shows during the year ending in June last year the value of exported manufactured goods amounted \$1.08bn/-.

The amount of exported manufactured goods during the year ending June this year was more than half of exported gold which amounted \$2.6 billion, against \$3.02bn of exported gold during the year ended in June last year.

The amount was also close to twice the amount of



The rise was largely in exports of manufactured goods particularly iron and steel and textiles. PHOTO/FILE

exported traditional exports during the period as data show amounted \$737 million in June 2022 from \$995.9 million recorded during the year ended in June 2020.

Data shows the value of manufactured goods exports was also more than combined value of exported horticulture products, cereals and other non-traditional goods.

The BoT and TRA data shows exports of goods and services amounted to \$11,098.6 million during the year ending June 2022 from \$8,848.4 million in the corresponding

period of 2021, driven by non-traditional exports and services receipts.

The exports of goods increased by 11.7 percent to \$7,202.7 million with non-traditional exports rising by 27.6 percent, according to data.

The rise was largely in the exports of manufactured goods particularly iron and steel, textiles, horticultural products, fish and fish products as well as cereals in particular maize and rice.

Gold exports which accounted for 37.4 percent of goods exports were \$2,695.7 million, down from \$3,028.8 million.

Exports of traditional goods amounted to \$737.8 million compared to \$578.4 million. Exports of all traditional crops increased save for cashew nuts on account of price rises in the global markets.

On a monthly basis, traditional exports doubled to \$30.9 million from \$14.1 million in June 2021, while non-traditional exports were \$607.1 million in June 2022 compared to \$522.4 million in June 2021.

Services receipts amounted to \$3,895.9 million in the year ending June 2022 compared with \$2,402 million in the corresponding period of 2021, driven by both travel (mainly tourism) and transport receipts.

Travel receipts increased to \$1,707.9 million from \$871.6 million, consistent with the rise in tourist arrivals by 76 percent to 1,123,607.

The rise in travel receipts signals recovery in the tourism sector, though it is threatened by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

JATU board appoints Simbano as acting chief executive officer

By Guardian Reporter

JATU Public Limited Company which is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, has announced the appointment of Mohamed Issa Simbano as Acting Chief Executive Officer, effective from August 1, while the search for a substantive CEO is ongoing.

The appointment of Simbano was approved during extra ordinary meeting held on July 25, this year, as part of the company's restructuring of the management and business model, according a statement issued by Dr. Zaipuna Obed Yonah, the company board chairman.

The chairman, who issued a statement yesterday from Sumbawanga, noted that the appointment of Simbano came after the departure of Peter Isare Gasaya.

"Since 2016, Gasaya has been the founder and CEO of the company, and we thank him for his efforts, passion and commitment during his six years of leadership of our company," he said. "We wish him all the best in his new role, as will be further announced by the company."

Simbano has been the compa-

ny secretary and general manager since 2016.

"We believe Mr. Simbano's experience and knowledge of the company, and its operations will take our company through this interim period," the chairman said.

"Further, the board is using this opportunity to call for competent candidates to apply for the senior positions as announced by the company through the public notice published on 27th July."

He added that the company will inform stakeholders about the outcome of the restructuring in due course once the recruitment process is completed.

JATU PLC is a Tanzanian company involved with Agriculture, industries and markets was registered on 20th October, 2016. Its share price at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) closed at 300/- Thursday this week.

The company purchases farmer's produces and process various food products to its industries including maize flour milling factory and sunflower cooking oil factory, both located in Kibaigwa, Dodoma, rice processing factory in Kilombero Morogoro and a beans packing factory located at Kilindi in Tanga.



Mohamed Issa Simbano

Russia undercuts Saudi oil in India as competition heats up

RIYADH

A fierce battle is brewing in India where Russia has undercut the price of oil from its OPEC+ ally Saudi Arabia, paving the way for Moscow to expand market share in one of the biggest crude importers.

Russian barrels were cheaper than Saudi crude during April through June, with the discount widening to almost \$19 a barrel in May, according to Bloomberg calculations based on Indian government data. Russia surpassed the kingdom as the second-biggest supplier to India in June, ranked just behind Iraq.

India and China have become willing consumers of Russian crude as most other buyers shunned its barrels following the invasion of Ukraine.

The South Asian nation imports 85% of its oil needs, and cheap supplies provide some economic relief as the country faces elevated inflation and a record trade gap. The nation's crude import bill swelled to \$47.5 billion in the second quarter after a surge in global prices coincided with rebounding fuel demand, according to government data.

That compares with \$25.1 billion in the same period last year, when prices and volumes were lower. Oil has tumbled recently on concerns over an economic slowdown, offering some respite to consumers.

"Indian refiners are going to try and get their hands on the cheapest crude possible that works with their refinery and product configurations," said Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights in Singapore. "Russian crude fits that bill for now. The Saudis and Iraqis are not entirely losing out because they are directing more supply to Europe."

While the discount of Russian oil to Saudi crude narrowed in June, barrels were still around \$13 cheaper, averaging about \$102.

That compares with a premium of just over \$13 in March, although most of India's monthly supply would have been fixed prior to the invasion in late February. The kingdom was the second-biggest supplier to India in 2021, while Russia was the ninth largest.

Oil suffers huge weekly loss as concerns over demand intensify

TEXAS

OIL headed for the biggest weekly decline since early April on increasing evidence that a global economic slowdown is destroying demand, with prices near the lowest level in six months.

West Texas Intermediate was little changed below \$89 a barrel on Friday, and was 10 pct lower for the week. US gasoline consumption has softened while crude stockpiles have increased.

Supply from Libya has picked up, helping shrink key oil futures time-spreads and ease the tightness in the market.

The pullback has been broad-based. Gasoline futures are also down 10 pct this week, a potential sign of further relief at the pump. Physical oil differentials have narrowed and Brent's prompt spread – that gap between the nearest two contracts that gauges the health of supply – was \$1.79 a barrel in backwardation, down from more than \$6 a week ago.

After surging in the first five months of the year, crude's rally has been thrown into reverse, with losses deepening this month after declines in June and July.

The selloff, which has wiped out gains triggered by Russia's invasion

of Ukraine, will ease the inflationary pressures coursing through the global economy that have spurred central banks including the US Federal Reserve to hike rates.

This week's drop "has started to cause panic in many who were previously dedicated oil bulls," said Keshav Lohiya, founder of consultant Oilytics. "Some market participants have started to price in the possibility of contango entering the market with the recent selloff, despite a relatively strong healthy physical market."

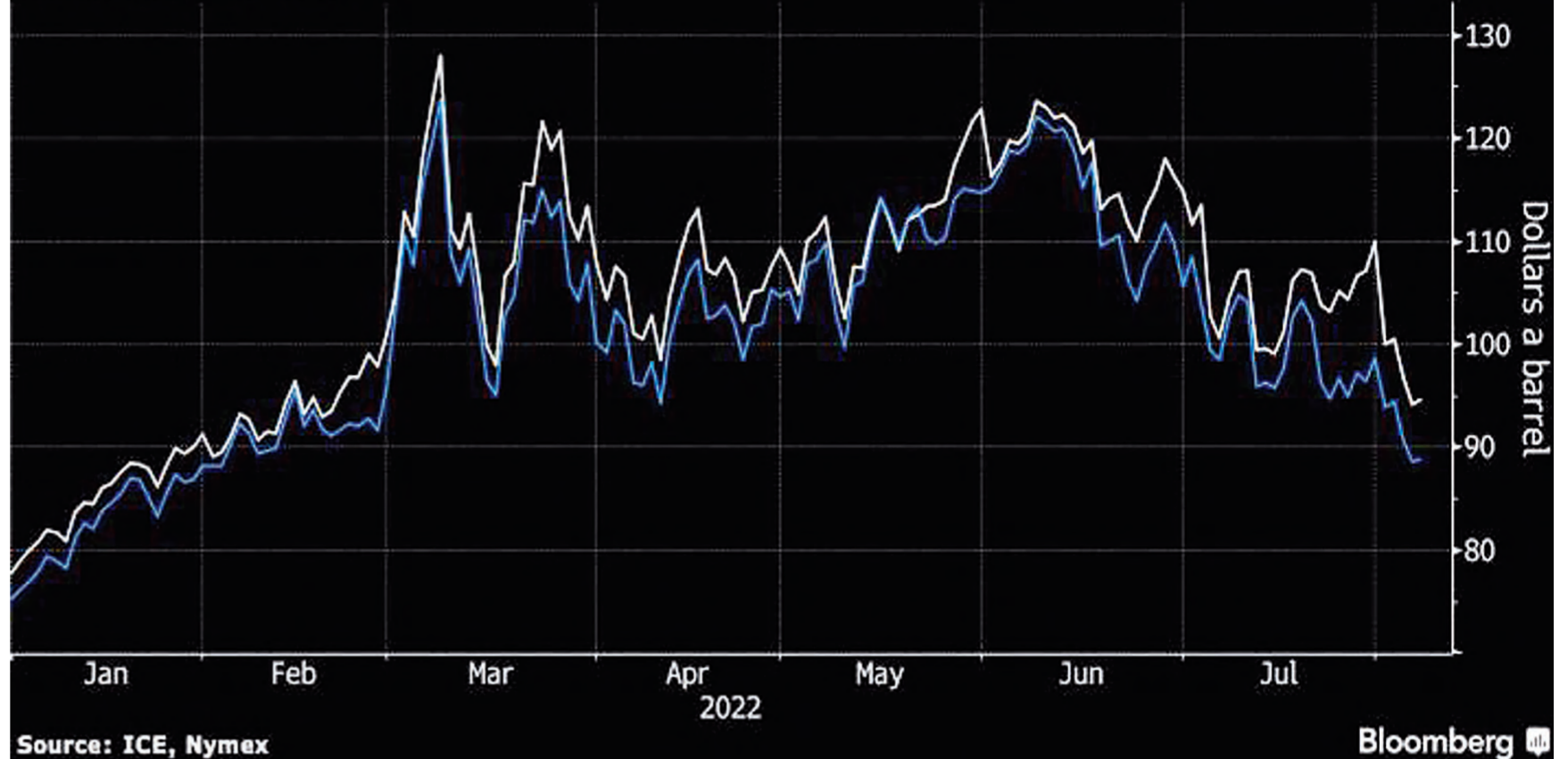
Still, there were some signs of bullishness with Saudi Arabia this week boosting its prices, and OPEC+ warning of scant spare capacity. Saudi Aramco increased its Arab Light grade for next month's shipments to Asian refineries to a record \$9.80 a barrel above the Middle Eastern benchmark. Traders and refiners had expected an even bigger jump.

The shift to much tighter monetary policy has stoked concern among investors that growth will slow, imperiling the outlook for energy usage.

The Bank of England warned that the UK is heading for more than a year of recession as it raised borrowing costs, while in the US, a procession of Federal Reserve speakers pledged to

Losing Ground Crude has lost all the gains since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine

■ Brent Futures ■ WTI Futures



continue an aggressive fight to cool inflation. China has also shown signs of weakness, clouding the out-

look for crude consumption in the top importer. Recent data showed factory activity shrank, while China Beige Book International warned the economy was deteriorating.

Nicol seeks to diversify its investment portfolios

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NICOL Investment Company Plc, which is listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange, is targeting to diversify its investment portfolios to boost revenue, in a bid to bring more value to its shareholders.

The company Chief executive Officer Erasto Ngamilaga (pictured) revealed this recently to The Guardian when he was commenting on the company achievements during the year ending December 2021.

Ngamilaga said the company is currently making assessments to venture into other sectors of the economy, targeting oil & gas, real estate, mining, by establishing various investment funds to increase revenue and profitability.

Currently, NICOL investments portfolio range from equity markets, government debt securities- both treasury bills and bonds and manufacturing.

"We are ongoing with our efforts to diversify our investment to increase our revenue, while meeting our shareholders expectations," he said.

The CEO said the company will continue to invest and ensure that revenues that come from dividends and treasury bills and bonds are re-invested in other profitable projects.

According to the company's audited financial statements for 2021, net profit grew by 144 percent to 4bn/- last year from 1.5bn/- in 2021.

The company share price at the DSE grew steadily from previous 200/- per share during the end of 2020 to 340/- on Thursday this week's close.

"When the company listed shares at the DSE in 2018, there were various challenges, but as of now, they have overcome all challenges and shareholders are continuing to enjoy the fruits of their investments through good dividends," he said.

Erasto mentioned some of the company's achievement as the company managed to conduct its Annual General Meetings (AGMs), consecutively from 2018 and shareholders have been enjoying their dividends



consecutively.

He said the achievement is a result of revenues they get from dividends and yields earnings from investments in government debt markets.

"The achievements are due to great efforts by our management from 2018 to date. These successes have been possible after diversification of our investment in different profitable areas," he said.

Erasto said recently they conducted special Annual General Meeting (AGM) whereby shareholders endorsed the new directors of the board.

"We have successfully managed to fill the vacant directors' positions, according to the shareholders resolutions in our 7th AGM. It is the expectations of shareholders that the appointed directors will increase efficiency and contribute immensely in the development of the company," he said.

WFP, MasterCard set 35 billion/- to support climate-smart agriculture

By Francis Kajubi

THE World Food Programme (WFP) and MasterCard Foundation (MCF) have allocated 34.97 billion/- (\$15 million) to support the implementation of the government-led 'Building a better tomorrow-BBT' initiative, targeting to equip smart climate agriculture practices to 400,000 farmers.

Neema Sitta, Programme Policy officer, with the WFP sub-office in Dodoma city, told The Guardian in a phone interview on Thursday this week from Mbeya where the UN Agency participate the ongoing ten-day agricultural exhibition that the initiative started in 2022 and will last in 2027.

Sitta said initiative is targeting to attract youth engagement in agriculture especially in Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mwanza and Mara.

WFP says is targeting to train 84,000 farmers in Dodoma and 56,000 farmers in Singida, connect them with banks to access loans to buy inputs, provide them with tractors and power tillers, as well as connect them with aggregators and reliable markets.

WFP will also support youth engagement through establishment and rehabilitation of community irrigation schemes to support production of horticultural products and value addition.

"We'll change their lives through agri-

cultural transformation, especially equipping them with climate smart agriculture and post-harvest management," said Sitta.

The project also targets at facilitating youth to effectively practice irrigation farming by helping them afford necessary technologies and developing irrigation infrastructures, especially horticulture.

She said supports to BBT project targets sorghum, sunflower, beans and horticulture farmers aiming at enhancing the food security system in Tanzania.

According to her, WFP is taking part in this year's exhibition to showcase its support to the 10/30 agenda, which aims at agricultural sector growth at 10 percent by 2030.



Neema Sitta

Licensing glitch locks out 24 betting firms

NAIROBI

SOME 24 betting firms have been locked out of operations in the current year ending next June for failing to pay a licence fee of Sh100,000 and provide a bank guarantee.

Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) Chief executive Pe-

ter Mbugi said on Thursday out of 59 firms cleared to operate, only 35 have paid the fee and provided a Sh250,000 bank guarantee.

Failure to pay for the fee and provide the bank guarantee points to the waning returns from an industry that is currently dominated by a few firms, making the venture zero-sum for the majority of the

betting companies.

"We have licensed 35 firms as of today, we had 59 applications but the rest are yet to pay for the licence and provide the bank guarantee," Mr Mbugi said.

"Licensed operators are increasing but most of them are doing zero-sum business. The market is no longer expanding."

Some of the firms that have been licensed to operate in the year to next June include Betika, Sportika, Dafabet, Betafriq and Bangbet.

The number of betting firms has been on the rise, defying government clampdown in the form of increased taxation and tighter regulation.

Some 118 firms were licensed to operate in the year that ended last

June from 100 in January even as the average amount spent by punters continues to decline in the wake of the increased taxes.

The average amount spent to bet per punter declined to Sh939 last year from Sh2,559 in 2019 while the percentage of gamblers who rely on betting to pay daily bills fell by half to 11.2 percent in the period under

review.

Gaming is popular among the youth with some funding their betting addiction through digital loans. The jobless have also turned to the craze in the hope of financial returns.

The government re-introduced a 75 percent tax on betting stakes in a bid to make the venture less attractive.

The tax is in addition to the 20 percent charged on every winning bet that betting firms withhold on behalf of the Kenya Revenue Authority.

Betting firms are taxed on the gross gaming revenue – turnover minus winnings paid out – at a rate of 15 percent. They also pay corporate tax on profits at a rate of 30 percent.

NSE-listed firms raise dividend pay to Sh130 billion

NAIROBI

DIVIDEND payout by all of companies listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has risen to a record Sh130.3 billion in their latest respective financial years on the back of earnings recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 scourge.

This represented a 53.5 percent jump from the total payout of Sh84.9 billion a year earlier - which marked a large decline that jolted years of a steady increase in cash distributions.

East African Breweries Plc (EABL), Absa Bank Kenya, and Equity Group are among companies that resumed dividend payouts while others such as Car & General and Carbacid Investments enhanced their payouts, helping to set the new payout record.

The latest full-year payouts indicate that the entire market - currently valued at Sh2.18 trillion - has a dividend yield of about six percent.

The cash return ratio has been weighed down by scores of firms that have not paid dividends for years including Eveready East Africa, Kenya Airways, Britam Holdings, WPP Scangroup, and TransCentury.

The dividend analysis excludes foreign firms cross-listed on the NSE and, which have a small base of local shareholders.

Most of the publicly traded companies have December as their yearend but there are a few that close their books in September, March, June and July.

An analysis by Business Daily shows that Safaricom, Equity Group, KCB Group, EABL, Standard Chartered Bank Kenya and Absa Bank Kenya were the firms with the largest dividend distributions.

The record payout is boosting returns for stock market investors including individuals and institutions.



Nairobi Securities Exchange trading floor. FILE PHOTO | NMG

Data was sampled from the last five years annual reports, which showed that Safaricom had the highest payout in all the last years. The telco raised its payout to Sh55.6 billion in the

year ended March compared to Sh54.89 billion a year earlier. The country's most profitable firm accounts for nearly half of all the cash distributed by publicly

traded companies. The telco has maintained a policy of disbursing 80 percent of its net income to shareholders. Equity, which skipped dividends in two years of

the pandemic, returned to fork out a record Sh11.3 billion in the year ended December. The bank developed a new policy of paying out between 30 percent and 50 percent of its net earnings.

KCB paid a dividend of Sh9.6 billion for the same period, with the amount still lower than the peak payout of Sh11.2 billion in 2019.

The country's second-largest bank had cut its dividend to a low of Sh3.2 billion in 2020 as it also sought to ride out the crisis while pursuing acquisitions in the region.

KCB previously paid out about half of its net income but has dropped below that level as it makes acquisitions in the region, with the latest being the proposed purchase of an 85 percent stake in DRC's Trust Merchant Bank for Sh15 billion.

EABL resumed paying dividends in the year ended June with an Sh8.6 billion payout after reporting strong growth in sales and profit, a performance linked to economic recovery and lifting of Covid-related restrictions that had hurt sales of alcohol products in bars and other establishments.

Stanchart lifted its payout 80.9 percent to a new record of Sh7.1 billion in the year ended December while Absa resumed payment of dividends in the same period at Sh5.9 billion.

Study unveils implications of AfCFTA on Kenyan products

NAIROBI

KENYAN manufacturers have called on Government to address gaps that will hinder them from benefiting from the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This was during the launch of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), study findings on the Implications of AfCFTA on Kenyan Products.

Speaking during the event, KAM Ag CEO Tobias Alando observed that whereas the trade agreement provides the best opportunity to realize our regional, national and business goals, Kenya is yet to put in place mechanisms to ensure the country takes full advantage of the benefits it presents.

"Kenya's export market in Africa is expected to increase with the full implementation of AfCFTA. However, if un-addressed, challenges such as dwindling country competitiveness, lack of product competitiveness, supply chain constraints, un-conducive business environment as well as institutional and infrastructural constraints shall hinder local manufacturers from reaping the benefits that come with AfCFTA."

Mr Alando gave recommendations to enable Kenyan manufacturers to thrive under the trade agreement, saying,

"At the firm level, Kenya's business community needs to develop export strategies for various trade agreements including EAC, COMESA and AfCFTA; implement business development programs to penetrate and expand to new markets and develop capacity to be able to meet the demands of the African markets. At the national level, we urge Government to prioritize the conclusion of pending areas in the negotiations; work on competitiveness drivers to ensure Kenya takes advantage of the African market and fully implement the National AfCFTA Strategy."

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Deputy Commissioner, Marketing and Communications Ms. Grace Wandera, expressed optimism that the country will be better positioned to trade under AfCFTA.

"At KRA, we are putting in place initiatives to ease trade. We have automated our services, which shall reduce the time spent clearing cargo and bring down costs incurred by traders. Additionally, we remain cognizant of the benefits that come with AfCFTA, such as job creation, movement of goods and skills transfer.

As such, this will require tariff harmonization, capacity building on requirements to trade under the regime, simplification and automation of processes. We have also set up call centers at all border points to support traders and ensure efficient service delivery."

AfCFTA Negotiator at the State Department for Trade, Mr. Josiah Rotich observed that the implementation of AfCFTA is on track. "To date, 54 African Union member States have signed the AfCFTA Agreement, whereas 49 Member States have ratified the Agreement.

These Member States are eligible to trade under AfCFTA preferential trade arrangement which came into effect from 1st January 2021. 46 Member States, including the four Customs Union (Central African Economic and Monetary Community - CEMAC, Southern African Customs Union - SACU, EAC and ECOWAS), have submitted their tariff offers, out of which 30 have been verified."

The KAM study on the implementation of the AfCFTA sought to inform local manufacturers on the implications and expected impact of the EAC-AfCFTA tariff liberalization on Kenya's manufacturing sector.

It also seeks to inform the industry on the country's trade potential with other regional Economic Communities (RECs) and potential competitors.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE		CAPITAL					
TUESDAY 2 Aug	5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Aya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Rgofi Maalum 13:40 Shikabamba 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shikabamba 14:15 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 14:40 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Brela 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSFF 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTv	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Abu Yako 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Rgofi Maalum 22:30 Soap: Uzalo 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTv	THURSDAY 4 Aug 5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha michozo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha kishindo 9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 13:10 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 14:20 Kipindi maalum rpt: NSFF 14:40 Mapishi rpt Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Jagina 18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela 19:00 Usafiri Wako 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTv	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ 14:30 DWTv rpt: Kesho leo 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kisimom 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Uchumi wetu 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTv	SATURDAY 6 Aug 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 9:30 Shamba lulu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:55 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo 12:40 Usafiri Wako rpt 13:10 Korean: Jumong rpt 13:50 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt 14:00 Habari 14:30 Igizo: Rebecca 17:00 Shambam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean: Jumong 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka 21:15 Igizo: Rebecca 21:40 Art and Lifestyle 22:10 ITV TOP 10 22:50 Hawawumi lakini wamo 23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTv	SUNDAY 7 Aug 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 9:30 Bongo Movie rpt 11:00 Tamasha la Michezo 11:30 Mawangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikimoto 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matuko ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 21:30 Mjuzi Zaidi 22:15 Bongo movie: 23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera	News Capchat rpt Al Jazeera Frid 05 Aug 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 10:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 11:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio) 12:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind 13:00 The Monday Agenda rpt 13:30 Meza Huru 14:00 Rev 15:00 EcoAfrica 16:30 Abu Yako 17:00 Local Pgm: Business Edition 18:00 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30 19:00 Capital Prime News 20:45 Malumbano ya hoja rpt Al Jazeera Sat 06 Aug 08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Rev rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n' about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Hwarang 14:30 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15 EcoAfrica 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 18:15 Mizengwe 19:00 The Decor 19:30 Korean Drama: Hwarang 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Music: Club 101 rpt 23:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind Al Jazeera Sun 07 Aug 08:00 Aljazeera 09:00 In good shape 09:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Hwarang 12:00 12:30 Jagina rpt 13:00 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:30 In good shape rpt 14:00 Series rpt: Lies that Bind 15:15 Abu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:30 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 18:45 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 19:30 Korean Drama: Hwarang 21:00 20:00 Dw News Africa 21:30 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

After Griner gets jail, Russia ready to discuss swap with US

RUSSIA and the United States said yesterday they were ready to discuss a prisoner swap, a day after a Russian court sentenced basketball star Brittney Griner to nine years in prison for a drug offense.

The case against Griner, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star, plunged her into a geopolitical maelstrom after the conflict in Ukraine began on Feb 24.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden had previously agreed on a diplomatic channel that should be used to discuss potential prisoner exchanges.

"We are ready to discuss this topic, but within the framework of the channel that was agreed upon by presidents Putin and Biden," Lavrov said during a visit to Cambodia.

"If the Americans decide to once again resort to public diplomacy... that is their business and I would even say that it is

their problem."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was prepared to engage with Moscow through diplomatic channels established to handle the issue and Griner's conviction had further compounded the injustice that had been done to her.

Speaking also in Cambodia, Blinken said the sentence, "puts a spotlight on our very significant concerns about Russia's legal system and the Russian government's use of wrongful detentions to advance its own agenda, using individuals as political pawns."

The Kremlin had previously warned the United States against turning to "megaphone diplomacy" in the case of Griner, saying it could only derail efforts to secure a potential swap.

Griner's sentence - which Biden called "unacceptable" - could pave the way for a prisoner swap that would include the 31-year-old athlete and a prolific Russian arms dealer serving a 25-year prison term in the United States.



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a court room after her last words, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia on Thursday. AP

The United States has already made what Blinken called a "substantial offer" to secure the release of Americans detained in Russia, including Griner and former Marine Paul Whelan.

'A serious proposal'

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said after Griner's sentencing that the United States had made Russia a serious proposal. "We urge them to accept it," he said. "They should have accepted it weeks ago when we first made it."

Kirby did not provide further detail on the US proposal. Washington has offered to exchange Russian arms trafficker Bout for Griner and Whelan, sources familiar with the situation have told Reuters.

Russia had tried to add convicted murderer Vadim Krasikov, imprisoned in Germany, to the proposed swap, a source familiar with the proceedings also told Reuters.

Russia and the United States staged a prisoner swap in April, trading former Marine Trevor Reed for Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko, who was serving a 20-year sentence in the United States.

Griner was arrested on Feb 17 at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport with vape cartridges containing hashish oil in her luggage. The United States argued she was wrongly detained and being

used as a political bargaining chip by Moscow. Russian officials dismissed the US claims, saying Griner had broken Russian law and should be judged accordingly.

Griner, who had been prescribed medical cannabis in the United States to relieve pain from chronic injuries, said she had made an honest mistake by inadvertently packing her vape cartridges as she rushed to make her flight.

She pled guilty to the charges against her but insisted that she did not intend to break Russian law.

Cannabis is illegal in Russia for both medicinal and recreational purposes.

Russia plays key role in fight against terrorism – diplomat

BEIJING

RUSSIA is an important driving force in the global community's fight against terrorism, the vicious slander of the United States will not change this, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a briefing yesterday, commenting on calls in the US Congress Senate to declare Russia a state sponsor of terrorism.

"Russia is an important force in the international community's fight against terrorism, and it plays an active and constructive role in countering the terrorism threat," the diplomat said. "Malicious falsehood by the United States will not change that in any way," she added.

Everyone knows that the United States has always arbitrarily labeled other countries, Hua Chunying continued. According to the diplomat, the US is also used to lecturing others and implementing various kinds of unfounded accusations to pressure, deter and harass other countries.

On July 27, the US Senate passed a resolution calling on the Department of State to recognize Russia a state sponsor of terrorism, motivating it by the developments in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and Ukraine.

The list of sponsors of terrorism could include states which, according to the US, "have repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism". On July 28, a group of congressmen from both parties announced plans to refer a similar document to the consideration of the House of Representatives.

Commenting on the information, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Russia was ready for any development of the situation with the United States. According to her, if Washington decides to sever diplomatic relations, Moscow will survive it.



China ready to work with NZ to advance strategic partnership

PHNOM PENH

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Thursday that China is ready to work with New Zealand to push forward their comprehensive strategic partnership to yield more fruits.

At a meeting with New Zealand Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta on the sidelines of meetings of foreign ministers on East Asia cooperation, Wang expressed Beijing's appreciation of New Zealand for pursuing a pragmatic policy toward China.

China is willing to work with New Zealand to respect each other's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as core interests and major concerns, in order to advance China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership to achieve more results, he said.

Wang elaborated on China's solemn position on the Taiwan question, stressing it is the US side that stoked provocation, undermined peace and created crises in the first place.

China's response in this regard is reasonable and legitimate, he said, stressing that China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, uphold international law, and maintain regional peace and stability.

New Zealand continues to adhere to the one-China policy, respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and advocates upholding the basic norms of international relations, jointly addressing global challenges, and working together to maintain regional peace and stability, said Mahuta.

New Zealand has noticed that China's exchanges with South Pacific Island countries are nothing new, Mahuta, expressing her hope that China will continue strength-

ening cooperation with the island countries through the Pacific Islands Forum.

New Zealand and China have different views on some issues, but both sides can maintain candid communication, she added.

Pointing out that the exchanges between China and South Pacific Island countries have lasted for half a century, Wang said China always respects the sovereignty and needs of the island countries, and adheres to the principle of "island countries-led and island countries-owned".

China, Cambodia to further partnership

During his talks with Wang Yi here on Wednesday, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn said the US has recently violated China's sovereignty, reneged on its own promise and heightened the tension across the Taiwan Straits, which exposed Washington's failure to match its words with actions as well as its hegemonic nature.

Cambodia firmly adheres to the one-China policy and backs China's justified position on its internal affairs including Taiwan, Xinjiang and Tibet, he said, adding that Cambodia supports China in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests, and in responding resolutely to provocative US actions.

Sokhonn expressed gratitude to China for its long-time firm support for Cambodia in pursuing a development path suited to its own national condition, and in facilitating economic construction and improving people's livelihood.

Wang stressed that the rights and wrongs concerning the current intense situation across the Taiwan Strait is crystal clear that it is the US side sabotaged the stability across



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi holds a video meeting with New Zealand's Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta, June 22, 2021. File photo

the Taiwan Strait.

China, Thailand laud bilateral cooperation

While meeting with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, Wang Yi said China appreciates Thailand's active participation in the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and will continue to support Thailand in hosting this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Thanking China for always responding to Thailand's needs at the earliest time possible, he said Thailand is very concerned about the current situation in Myanmar. Don expressed his hope that China will continue to provide support and assistance for the settlement of the Myanmar issue.

Wang said he believes that the ASEAN has the ability and wisdom to stick to the ASEAN leadership and the ASEAN way to push for a "soft landing" of the Myanmar issue through dialogue and consultation on the premise of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, while pre-

venting improper interference by forces outside the region and avoiding further complicating the situation.

China will continue to play a constructive role in its own way, he added.

'China, Laos to build unbreakable community'

During his meeting with Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith in Phnom Penh, Wang lauded the strong momentum of development of China-Laos relations and the fruitful results of practical cooperation between the two countries.

Thanking China for its long-standing support and assistance to Laos' economic and social development, Saleumxay said the two countries have worked together to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieved remarkable results in practical cooperation.

He said the recent US provocative moves on the Taiwan question broke its own commitments, violated the basic norms governing international relations, and infringed upon China's sovereignty

and territorial integrity.

The Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs has immediately issued a statement, making it clear that the Lao side adheres to the one-China principle and reiterating that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory, Saleumxay added.

Laos opposes any attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan," and will continue to stand firmly with China and support China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

Wang said the US, for its self-serving interests, has used every means without a bottom line, ignored basic norms governing international relations, and blatantly violated China's sovereignty.

China, Türkiye to promote cooperation

During his meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Wang said major countries should have taken the lead in abiding by the UN Charter in the face of the current international landscape featuring a sharp increase in instability, uncertainty and disturbance.

But the US is doing the opposite, blatantly challenging China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and disrupting the peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, said the Chinese minister.

Cavusoglu said his country firmly adheres to the one-China policy not only on the Taiwan question but also on issues concerning Xinjiang, adding that the Turkish side was glad to see United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet visit Xinjiang, and hopes to keep contact with China over affairs related to the visit to Xinjiang by a Turkish delegation, he said. *Xinhua*

UN experts urge South Sudan to adopt zero-tolerance policy on conflict-related sexual violence

JUBA

EXPERTS of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan on Thursday called on the transitional unity government to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on crimes of conflict-related sexual violence.

Andrew Clapham, a member of the team of experts, said that the zero-tolerance policy when adopted will not only see foot soldiers prosecuted in courts but also senior government officials and military commanders.

"There should be a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual and gender-based violence, and such a commitment could be concretely demonstrated by standing down or even prosecuting senior government and military officials associated with such crimes," Clapham told journalists in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

The remarks came after the experts concluded their tenth visit to the country where they visited survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Yei County in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Unity states.

The team met with government officials, representatives of civil society, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) as well as members of the diplomatic community to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the commission's latest report on conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls in South Sudan.

Clapham said that this policy takes note of the low status of women in society, their limited participation in public institutions, and the pervasive environment for sexual and gender-based violence.

Yasmin Sooka, the chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, noted that conflict-related sexual violence has recently become so systematic and extensive in the country. "We met with many of the survivors and we interviewed them of course, many of the people were incredibly pleased to see that there is some form of accountability but as they said it is just not enough," Sooka said.

"We need to see more accountability and we don't only need to see the foot soldiers prosecuted, what we want to see is that the leadership of the different armed forces hold commanders accountable because that is the only way that sexual violence in this country will stop." *Xinhua*



There should be a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual and gender-based violence, and such a commitment could be concretely demonstrated by standing down

World in need of new global security governance for peaceful situations

THE 2022 Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) recently wrapped up in Madrid. As the world's largest military alliance, the NATO has woven a U.S.-centered global military network together with U.S. military allies in Asia Pacific and around 750 U.S. military bases in 80 countries and regions.

Facts prove that the U.S. military alliance system has already become a tool of the U.S. to maintain its global hegemony. This system is against the trend of the times and the aspiration of people, and seriously threatens world peace and security.

Humankind aspires to peace and

security. However, U.S. military alliances have frequently launched wars. To seek private gains, the U.S. always neglects the purposes and principles of the UN, and the sovereignty and dignity of other countries, acting as a bully together with its allies.

Throughout the 246-year history of the U.S., there were only 16 years in which the country was not at war with others. The warlike country and its allies have repeatedly aroused anti-war protests around the world.

The world needs common development, but U.S. military alliances are forcing poverty and underdevelopment upon others. According to in-

complete statistics, the wars initiated and joined by the U.S.-led NATO have displaced over 10 million refugees since 2001.

Struggling to live on the ruins caused by the U.S., people in Iraq and Afghanistan are not only facing poor infrastructure, high unemployment and scarce public services, but also expanding influence of terrorist forces.

As most countries in the world are calling for win-win cooperation, U.S. military alliances are hyping division and confrontation. Countries should work as one to cope with global governance challenges, but U.S. military alliances are clinging to Cold War mental-

ity and zero-sum game.

Rather than being dissolved after the end of the Cold War, the NATO made five rounds of eastward expansions led by the U.S., which finally triggered the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Provoking confrontation between the two countries, the U.S. instigated the NATO to strengthen presence in the alliance's east part, accelerate northward expansion and enhance sanctions against Russia. It looks like the U.S. has raised the curtain for a new Cold War in Europe.

Besides, the U.S. is also tightening its alliances in Asia Pacific. It knocked together the so-called Quadrilateral

Security Dialogue and AUKUS, and invited its Asia Pacific allies for the first time to attend the NATO Summit, trying to build a military chain to contain China and make the peaceful situation in Asia Pacific tense. Besides, the U.S. has extended the reach of military alliances to the spheres of economy and technology, forging exclusive cliques to serve its scheme of major country competition.

The world is in dire need of new global security governance when it is facing complicated international situations and security challenges.

In April this year, China proposed the Global Security Initiative (GSI), calling

on the world to stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and to protect the indivisible security community where all mankind live, so as to pave the way for a new type of security that features dialogue, partnership and win-win instead of confrontation, alliance and a zero-sum approach.

The GSI responds to the strong voice made by the people around the world for peace and development and charts the course for global security governance. It will inject strong impetus into tackling security dilemma and building a community with a shared future for mankind. *People's Daily*

Lavrov says he sent letter to UN chief about US neglect of its duties

PHNOM PENH

RUSSIA has recently sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about the neglect by the United States of its responsibilities as host country of the organization's headquarters, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"The United States, as the host country of the headquarters, has a legal obligation to the UN and to all members to do everything so that any UN member country can normally, comfortably participate in the work of any bodies of the organization.

The United States, of course, is shirking this obligation. So I recently sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres], who in turn is obliged to make the host country behave decently," he told reporters yesterday.

At the same time, Lavrov, responding to a question about Russia's participation in the UN General Assembly in September, stressed that "Russia cannot be unrepresented at the UN, and Western countries are not allowed to decide these issues."

"As for the level of our presence there - whether it will be a delegation from Moscow or, as you said, our American colleagues will prohibit the arrival of our delegation in the spirit of their liberty - we'll see," the minister said.

The Russian top diplomat also recalled that the agreement that was reached between the UN and the US about the residence of the headquarters of the organization implies the right of the Secretary-General to initiate arbitration if Washington will violate its duties.

"At this stage, for some reason, the Secretary-General has been unable or unwilling to exercise this right for several years now," Lavrov pointed out. "We are reminding him that he has it [the right], and it should not just lie in his pocket, but actively used."

According to Lavrov, Russia began reminding the Secretary-General of this right when the Obama administration in the final weeks of its term in the White House illegally seized some diplomatic properties from Russia.

"Let's hope that after all, the United States realizes that even for its reputation in the international arena it is important to avoid the impression that it is afraid of discussions, that it is trying to cut off channels of discussion in disputes, discussions, negotiations of countries whose positions contradict American ones," Lavrov concluded.



UN chief envisages Pact for Future during General Assembly high-level week

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday expressed the hope that the Summit of the Future scheduled for the General Assembly high-level week in September will produce a Pact for the Future.

The summit is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate global action, recommit to fundamental principles, and further develop the frameworks of multilateralism so they are fit for the future, he said in a briefing to the General Assembly on the progress on his Our Common Agenda.

The outcome of a successful Summit of the Future will be an inter-governmentally negotiated Pact for the Future, he said.

"At the heart of this pact should be a commitment to reinvigorate the multilateral system and make it fit for the challenges of today and tomorrow. It must reaffirm our fundamental belief in the Charter of the United Nations.

And it should re-focus our efforts on meeting our existing commitments in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement; ad-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (C) speaks during a briefing to the General Assembly on the progress on Our Common Agenda at the UN headquarters in New York, on Thursday. Xinhua

ressing threats to international peace and security; and realizing our ambitions on human rights, international justice, and gender equality," said Guterres.

"The Pact for the Future must demonstrate to the world that while we face daunting challenges, we can overcome them with cooperation, compromise and global solidarity.

We must show that through an emphasis on our shared humanity and a strengthened multilateral sys-

tem, we can put the world on a better path," he added.

It is almost a year since he presented the report on Our Common Agenda. During that period of time, the need for the proposals in the report has only increased, said Guterres.

In addition to the triple planetary crisis of climate breakdown, air pollution and biodiversity loss, and the immense suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts are raging around the world.

Developing countries are being squeezed dry. Without resources to invest in recovery from the pandemic and deal with the impact of the Ukraine conflict, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals have been thrown further off course, he said.

The global economic forecast is perilous. Four countries have already defaulted on their debts; many others face the risk of default. Financing for development is drying up, or being diverted elsewhere. Meanwhile, overwhelming evidence of climate catastrophe is mounting by the day. Geopolitical competition has intensified.

The risk of nuclear confrontation is now more acute than it has been in decades, he noted.

"Our Common Agenda was intended as a wake-up call. One year on, we must ask ourselves: have we woken up?" he said.

While the problems facing the world are unprecedented, they are not insurmountable, he said. "Our Common Agenda attempts to correct our course, guided by the United Nations Charter, to build the safer, more resilient and inclusive world set out in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals."

Xinhua

ASEAN ministers vow to strengthen bloc's centrality

PHNOM PENH

FOREIGN ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have vowed to strengthen the bloc's centrality and credibility for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity in the region and in the world, according to an ASEAN foreign ministers' joint communique released yesterday.

In the joint communique issued after the 55th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting (55th AMM) held in Phnom Penh under the chairmanship of Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, the min-

isters said ASEAN centrality, credibility and relevance are essential to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and in the world.

"We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN centrality and unity in our engagement with ASEAN's external partners, including through ASEAN-led mechanisms ... in order to build mutual trust and confidence as well as reinforce an open, transparent, resilient, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture with ASEAN at the center," the communique read.

"We reaffirmed the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation and underscored the importance of ASEAN's partnerships with other external partners such as regional and international organizations to address global concerns, pursue shared goals and complementary initiatives, and promote sustainable development for the benefit of our people."

The ministers also reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the

peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes.

"We reaffirmed our belief that regionalism and multilateralism are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect," the communique said.

On the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministers remained concerned with the continued human cost and suffering as well as the profound socio-economic

impact of the pandemic, saying that the bloc's ongoing collective efforts are vital to respond to and recover swiftly from the pandemic.

"We underscored the importance of strengthening ASEAN's cooperation with its dialogue partners, external partners, and international organizations to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases as well as in preparing for other future public health emergencies," it said.

Xinhua

UN report: DPRK 'paves the way' for more nuclear tests

UNITED NATIONS

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea made preparations for a nuclear test during the first six months of this year, according to an excerpt of a confidential United Nations report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

"Work at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site paves the way for additional nuclear tests for the development of nuclear weapons," independent sanctions monitors reported to the UN Security Council North Korea sanctions committee. The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea.

"The DPRK continued to develop its capability for the production of fissile material at the Yongbyon site," the monitors wrote. Yongbyon is the DPRK's major nuclear facility, operating its first nuclear reactors.

The DPRK's UN mission in New York did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the UN report.

The country has for years been banned from conducting nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches by the UN Security Council, which has strengthened sanctions on Pyongyang over the years to try and cut off funding for those programs.

"The DPRK made preparations at its nuclear test site, although it did not test a nuclear device. In the first half of 2022, the country continued the acceleration (which began in September 2021) of its missile programs," the monitors said.

They said the DPRK launched 31 missiles combining ballistic and guidance technologies, including six intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests and two missiles that it explicitly described as ballistic weapons.

The DPRK continued imports of oil and exports of coal, evading sanctions, the monitors said.

International talks aimed at convincing the DPRK to give up its nuclear and ballistic missile programs have largely stalled since 2019.

Agencies



This photo distributed by the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea shows what it says is a test-fire of a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile, at an undisclosed location in the DPRK on March 24, 2022. AP

China, Indonesia to forge exemplary model of major developing countries seeking mutual benefit, win-win results

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Beijing on July 26. The two presidents had a comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views and reached a series of important common understandings on China-Indonesia relations and on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

They decided on the overall direction of jointly building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future. The two sides issued a Joint Press Statement on the Bilateral Meeting between President of the People's Republic of China and President of the Republic of Indonesia. They also signed an MOU on jointly promoting cooperation between the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative and the Global Maritime Fulcrum. It highlighted the irreplaceable strategic guidance role of the head-of-state diplomacy in the development of bilateral relations.

Widodo is the first foreign head of state China receives after the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, and China is the first stop of his visit to East Asia this time, which fully demonstrates the high importance attached by the two sides to the development of China-Indonesia relations.

China-Indonesia relationship has enjoyed robust growth under the joint guidance of the two presidents in recent years, demonstrating strong resilience and vitality.

During the visit, the two presidents decided on the overall direction of building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future, to set an example of mutual benefit and win-win results among major developing countries, a model of common development and a pioneer in South-South cooperation.

It conforms to the common aspiration and expectation of the Chinese and Indonesian peoples, and will improve the strategic significance and global influence of China-Indonesia ties. Under the guidance of jointly building a community with a shared future, the two sides will continue to deepen the new synergy of bilateral relations through the four-pillar coop-



The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway in Indonesia is the first overseas high-speed railway system using Chinese standards, technologies and equipment. It is a landmark project of China-Indonesia cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. (Photo courtesy of China Railway Design Corporation)

eration covering politics, economy, people-to-people exchanges and maritime projects, which will make new and greater contributions to the development of China-Indonesia ties.

China and Indonesia are at similar development stages, have entwined interests, follow similar philosophies and development paths, and share a closely connected future.

It was here in Indonesia in 2013 that the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative was first proposed by Xi during his state visit to Indonesia. Indonesia supports and is committed to the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI) put forward by Xi. China and Indonesia enjoy unique advantages in deepening practical cooperation in various fields.

During the visit, the two presidents expressed the hope to further deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation for more fruitful outcomes. They agreed to build flagship projects to implement the GDI at bilateral and regional levels and signed a series of cooperation documents.

China and Indonesia are focusing on development and cooperation as global economic recov-

ery is encumbered and the GDI faces severe challenges. They are striving for completing the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway on schedule with high standards and ensuring good implementation of such major cooperation projects as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Corridor and the "Two Countries, Twin Parks."

The two countries, pursuing closer public health cooperation, the continuous expansion of trade and investment, and in-depth integration of industrial and supply chains, will foster new drivers and areas of growth for China-Indonesia practical cooperation, and contribute more positive energy to global recovery.

A sound China-Indonesia relationship not only serves the shared long-term interests of the two countries, but also has positive, far-reaching impacts on the region and the entire world.

Nine years ago, Xi delivered a speech and for the first time proposed to build a China-ASEAN community with a shared future, charting the course for safeguarding regional peace and stability, as well as development and prosperity.

People's Daily

US declares monkeypox outbreak a public health emergency

THE United States has declared monkeypox a public health emergency, the health secretary said on Thursday, a move expected to free up additional funding and tools to fight the disease.

The US tally topped 6,600 on Wednesday, almost all of the cases among men who have sex with men.

"We're prepared to take our response to the next level in addressing this virus, and we urge every American to take monkeypox seriously," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said at a briefing.

The declaration will improve the availability of data on monkeypox infections that is needed for the response, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said, speaking alongside Becerra.

The US government has come under pressure for its handling of the outbreak.

The disease began spreading in Europe before moving to the United States, which now has the most cases in the world. Vaccines and treatments have been in short supply and the disease often left for historically underfunded sexual health clinics to manage.

The World Health Organization declared monkeypox a "public health emergency of international concern," its highest alert level. The WHO declaration last month sought to trigger a coordinated international response and unlock funding to collaborate on vaccines and treatments.

Governments are deploying vac-

cines and treatments that were first approved for smallpox but also work for monkeypox.

The US government has distributed 600,000 doses of Bavarian Nordic's Jynneos vaccine and deployed 14,000 of Siga Technologies' TPOXX treatment, officials said, though they did not disclose how many have been administered.

Walensky said the government aims to vaccinate more than 16 million high-risk individuals.

US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Robert Califf said the agency was considering freeing up more Jynneos vaccine doses by allowing doctors to draw 5 doses of vaccine from each vial instead of the current 1 dose by using a different subcutaneous method of inoculation.

US President Joe Biden this month appointed two federal officials to coordinate his administration's response to monkeypox, following declarations of emergencies by California, Illinois and New York.

First identified in monkeys in 1958, the disease has mild symptoms including fever, aches and pus-filled skin lesions, and people tend to recover from it within two to four weeks, the WHO says. It spreads through close physical contact and is rarely fatal.

Anthony Fauci, Biden's chief medical adviser, told Reuters on Thursday that it was critical to engage leaders from the gay community as part of efforts to rein in the outbreak, but cautioned against stigmatizing the lifestyle.



People wait in line to receive the monkeypox vaccine at the Balboa Sports Center in the Encino neighborhood of Los Angeles, California on July 27, 2022. AFP

SPORT



Yanga's central defender, Dickson Job.

Job, Mwamnyeto join Yanga's pre-season training camp

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA footballers selected to turn out for Tanzania's national squad, Taifa Stars, have joined their fellow players at the outfit's pre-season preparations at Avic Town in Kigamboni.

The Premier League winners are training ahead of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Champions League.

The players, Feisal Salum, Abdultwalib Msheri, Kibwana Shomari, Farid Mussa, Dickson Job, Bakari Mwamnyeto, and Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' garnered call-up for Taifa Stars' African Nations Championship Qualifiers' match against Somalia.

The players started training with other Yanga performers earlier last week, seeing to it the side has a full squad.

Defender Job said he was happy to join his fellow players for the first time after finishing the previous season, which saw the club enjoy much success via lifting Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League, Federation Cup, and the Community Shield.

He revealed that he witnessed great competition in the training following the registration of foreign players, so he expects to see their team become much better in the 2022/23 season.

Job noted: "I'm happy to be part of my team's camp, this is the first time after finishing the last season with great success, I have seen the competition has increased and this situation will continue to bring quality to our team."

The center-back disclosed: "Fighting for Yanga is the main goal, I don't expect there will be conflict among the footballers because of not having a place in the first team, our goal is to enable our team to become better and defend its titles next season."

Yanga's skipper Mwamnyeto acknowledged the presence of competition in the pre-season camp, stating each of the players is fighting to garner a place on the first team.

The skipper revealed: "It is true, the competition is there, it has increased unlike last season, I have seen it on my first day after joining my colleagues here,

we will have a very good team for the next season."

Yanga will confront Vipers SC of Uganda in an international friendly tie at the climax of a week of community activities done by the club, known as 'Wiki Ya Mwananchi', in Dar es Salaam today.

The Jangwani Street side had previously faced Dar es Salaam clubs, Friends Rangers, and Transit Camp FC in friendly games in Kigamboni.

August 13 will see Yanga defend the Community Shield by playing against Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In another development, Simba SC's newly signed attacker, Augustine Okrah has issued a warning to the outfit's opponents in NBC Premier League including the showdown's defending champions Yanga.

Okrah expressed his delight at being signed by the country's football giants, having featured for Ghana's Bechem United.

The attacker disclosed he is determined to do better than he did where he came from, his ability led him to get a call-up for the country's national team.

He said that when Simba followed him, he had a deal with Azam FC of Tanzania as well, but he and his agent changed their decision and sealed an agreement with Simba SC.

The performer revealed: "Simba is the team of my dreams, previously I wanted to play for a big club like the one I am in now."

"I am happy to be here and all that remains is for me to fight for the club," Okrah stated.

"Doing my best compared to what I was doing in the Ghana Premier League is my target in these two years that I will be at Simba SC."

"I will fight to break into the first team and showcase the best level, including scoring many goals, providing assists and sufficient cooperation to my teammates."

"You know Simba is a big club and every player has to fight for it and protect its value, that is what I have put in my heart along with other goals that I believe I will achieve."

SPORTS

Senzo Mbatha picked a fine time to leave Tanzania

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SOUTH African football administrator Senzo Mbatha has left reigning Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions, Young Africans, alias Yanga, hardly a month after celebrating winning every domestic trophy on offer.

A day after Yanga had confirmed his exit, Mbatha bid farewell to Tanzanian football through a released statement on his social media accounts.

"I want to thank the Tanzania football family for allowing me an opportunity to be part of this industry. Thank you to the government for approving my legal stay in Tanzania, and thank you to the football federation for the opportunity to be part of your football."

"To all the colleagues and stakeholders, thank you. Thank you to the football sponsors and donors. Without you, football would not have moved this far."

"To all my bosses, from Simba and Yanga, thank you once again for the opportunity to manage your beloved clubs. Boss MO (Mohamed Dewji) and Boss Ghalib, thank you!"

"To Kaduguda and Doctor Msolla, thank you for the opportunity to be part of your leadership. To my colleagues and friends in football, thank you! To the fans and football lovers in Tanzania, you will remain special in my life. To the media members, continue to promote Tanzania football. I also thank you for your cooperation."

"Your praise and condemnation have assisted me in becoming a better administrator. Thank you for your love, my friends, and random people I have met. Wanchi wenzangu asanteni #DaimaMbeleNyumaMwiko."

The former Orlando Pirates administrator arrived in Tanzania in 2019, joining the then Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions Simba as the club's CEO.

He won the Premier League title and Federation Cup with the Msimbazi Reds before sensationally switching to cross-city rivals Yanga.

Many thought he was out of his mind, abandoning a club that was rubbing shoulders with continental giants like TP Mazembe, Al Ahly and AS Vita in the CAF Champions League Group Stage for one that had won nothing since 2017.

At the time of joining Yanga, the club was in a rebuilding process under the influence of GSM Group.



Former Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha.

There was a gulf between Simba and Yanga both on and off the pitch.

It came as no surprise when at the end of his first season with Yanga, they finished second in the league, lost in a Federation Cup final, and won the Mapinduzi Cup.

While that was not a successful campaign compared to Simba who swept every domestic title on offer and made it to the CAF Champions League quarterfinals, it showed clear indications that Yanga under Senzo was on the right track to reclaiming their glory.

By the end of the second season, Yanga had transformed into a formidable unit.

The club began its campaign by snatching the Community Shield from age-old rivals Simba, won a record-extending 28th Premier League title unbeaten, and completed its hat-trick with the Federation Cup.

Yanga was back on top, and the much-ridiculed 'The Return of Champions' slogan was real.

Perhaps Mbatha knew only a formidable run in the CAF Champions League could top what Yanga achieved last season otherwise it is downhill.

Leave the stage while people are still clapping, there is a time for everything and a season for every activity here on earth.

There is a right time to leave, there is a time to come but there is also time to go.

For leadership positions, especially one where someone is under public scrutiny from a very demanding fan base and endless political maneuvers, there is a time to be appointed and a time to step away because the particular person's time to leave has come.

There is wisdom in knowing when to ascend to a position but perhaps more so in knowing when to

leave. Mbatha picked the right time to leave the stage. In early July, he celebrated the treble with Yanga, bringing the number of trophies he has won in Tanzania to seven.

The first three silverware were won with Simba - the Community Shield, Premier League, and Federation Cup.

On July 31, he exited the stage, he knew when to leave, he knew when to say 'enough'.

He provides one of the most interesting examples of being ready to go and leaving the stage while people are still clapping.

Yanga fans and Tanzanian football stakeholders will miss him because he picked a perfect time.

When it became a matter of not if but when Yanga would be crowned Premier League champions, Mbatha indicated he was eager to return home. This is a man who knew how to discern the time to leave.

His exit came as a result of an expired contract, which came to an end on July 31.

He did not seek to get an extension, he did not want to overstay when the signs were clear that it was time to go, to leave room for another CEO to take charge of the club.

Ahead of the new season, if Yanga manages to have another good campaign it would be attributed to Mbatha having laid down the foundation for success, if they fail, it would be said it is due to the vacuum left behind by his exit.

There are many examples of football administrators and coaches in Tanzania who have overstayed and hurt themselves in the end, ruining relationships. Mbatha chose otherwise.



Dar es Salaam junior basketballers display their skills at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's court recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Deputy Speaker to grace Dar Jogging Club 20th Anniversary

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DEPUTY Speaker of the National Assembly, Mussa Azzan, is expected to be the guest of honour at the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Dar Jogging Club, the outfit's officials announced.

The club's Chairman Ramadhan Namkoveka said all is set for the celebrations and Azzan and other Dar es Salaam-based Members of Parliament and government officials have confirmed to attend the event on Saturday.

He said it will start at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park which is situated at Kidongo

Chekundu, and end at Uhuru Stadium.

The participants will run through Lumumba Road, Morogoro Road, Msimbazi Road, Nyerere, and Chang'ombe to Uhuru Stadium.

He said joggers from various areas in the country have confirmed to attend the event.

"We will have our 20th Anniversary celebrations this weekend, we are happy that Deputy Speaker of National Assembly, Mussa Azzan, has confirmed to attend the event, we extended an invitation to all Dar es Salaam-based jogging clubs and clubs from other regions, we are the second jogging club to be

registered by National Sports Council (NSC)," he said.

He said in the past years the club has managed to have many members and in 2019, and 2020 with support from TDB and Tantrade, encouraged its members to take part in the trade fair.

Namkoveka said the aim of encouraging the club members to take part in the fair was to appreciate locally made products.

The club, based in Temeke District, was formed as one way of promoting good health among people in the country.

A decade later, Man United still toils in Ferguson's shadow

By STEVE DOUGLAS

NINE years, five permanent managers, \$1 billion spent on players and zero Premier League titles.

That adds up to a whole lot of bad decisions made by Manchester United as England's grandest club approaches a decade since the retirement of its greatest manager, Alex Ferguson.

And the big concern heading into the new season? United appears to be further away than ever from reclaiming its status as the top team in England.

Just look at last season. United finished 35 points behind champion Manchester City in the Premier League, and 34 points behind Liverpool, to cap a campaign when it had as many managers – three – as matches in the two domestic cups.

Off the field, there was rising anger and resentment at the ownership of the Glazer family, leading to end-of-season protests at matches.

On it, there was the growing realization for Cristiano Ronaldo and Paul Pogba – United's two biggest names and marketable assets – that this was not the team which would be winning trophies and competing at the summit of the European game.

Pogba has run down his contract and left United for a second time to join Juventus. The latest news on Ronaldo is that he wants to leave to play for a team in the Champions League, but there are currently no takers.

There was always likely to be a comedown following the departure in 2013 of Ferguson, British soccer's greatest ever manager. After all, he won 49 trophies in his coaching career, comfortably more than any other European manager, and had that knack of getting the best out of players with his man-management skills and constantly renewing the United team every few seasons.

But few could have predicted how bad it would get for a club which, according to Forbes this year, is the third richest in world soccer and valued at \$4.6 billion.

There have been only three major trophies in the post-Ferguson era, and even those have been cup competitions – the FA Cup in 2016 and the League Cup and Europa League in 2017.

The rise of Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City, which has won 12 of the 27 domestic trophies since 2013, and the presence of two other major rivals in Chelsea – fueled by the wealth of Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich until this year – and more recently Liverpool, the epitome of a well-run modern-day club, brought about the sudden end to United's dominance.

But United has to look at itself, too, and the way the club has been run in both the boardroom and on the field.

With no long-term strategy or sporting director in place, the club has flipped between managers with different styles of play – from the direct approach of David Moyes (2013-14), to the possession-based play of Louis van Gaal (2014-16), to Jose Mourinho's approach based on power and pragmatism (2016-18), and then to the counterattacking style of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (2018-21).

That lack of continuity has been highlighted in United's recruitment, with each manager wanting to bring in different players to suit their style of play. Even from Mourinho to Solskjaer, there was a major cultural shift, from bringing in established, high-profile stars like Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Alexis Sanchez to a strategy of signing young British players like Daniel James and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Is it any surprise that transfer expendi-



Alex Ferguson

ture has risen so high, to the current figure of around \$1.5 billion since 2013? City's net spend isn't too different to United's, but the blue half of Manchester has the trophies to show for it.

Throughout it all, United executives continue to boast about things like the number of likes or interactions the club gets on its social media accounts, seemingly oblivious to how that sounds to fans who are getting increasingly disillusioned by performances on the field.

So, will anything change under the latest manager, Erik ten Hag? In the short term, not likely.

United is no longer the English team for whom top players aspire to sign, especially when it is not in the Champions League. The offseason has been something of a grind in terms of the transfer market – witness the failure to sign Frenkie de Jong from Barcelona after drawn-out negotiations and United getting beaten to the signature of Benfica striker Darwin Nunez by Liverpool – and Ten Hag, a Dutchman, has resorted to going for players he knows, or knew, from his time as a coach and player in the Dutch league.

Left back Tyrell Malacia has arrived from Feyenoord, center back Lisandro Martinez has joined from Ajax, and former Ajax playmaker Christian Eriksen has come on a free transfer. United is heavily linked with a move for Brazil forward Antony, also from Ajax.

Having identified Ten Hag as the coach to take United forward, the club needs to back him and trust him. Ideally, United will adopt a set way of playing – some sort of identity, DNA – and stick to that even if the manager is changed. That is what City has done to great effect.

It can only be a positive that a designated football director (John Murtough) and technical director (former United midfielder Darren Fletcher) have been recently installed. That should lead to a more coordinated approach to squad development.

Shrewder activity in the transfer market is required, too, rather than the scattergun approach of recent years. Were Alexis and Fred signed just to thwart City, which was also interested in those players? Was signing Ronaldo the best long-term play, despite all of his goals last season? Are United's network of scouts finding the best players?

Realistically, while Jurgen Klopp is manager of Liverpool and Pep Guardiola is manager of City, there's little hope of United winning a record-extending 21st English league title.

Hard as it may be, United would be better off building the foundations of a sustained revival in the coming years and stop simply chasing short-term gain.

AP

EPL sets high bar in European soccer, finances and glamor

GENEVA

THE world's richest soccer league was to start a new season in England later yesterday as the rest of Europe looks for ways to catch up.

Off the field, the English Premier League is a commercial juggernaut with broadcasting deals worldwide fueling player transfers and wages most others cannot match. It helps explain why some clubs created the Super League project.

League riches helped English champion Manchester City make the marquee summer signing, Erling Haaland's arrival from Borussia Dortmund cost City more than 100 million pounds (\$122 million) in transfer and agent fees.

While Haaland was a boyhood City fan whose father played there, he was also lured to a competitive league that avoids the one-club dominance recently seen in Germany, Italy and France.

On the field, five different teams have won the Premier League in the past 10 seasons, including Leicester's stunning 2016 title. Though City has four of the past five titles, two were epic duels with Liverpool.

The Champions League is also feeling Premier League power with four different teams in the past four finals, including two all-English games. Liverpool was in three of the past five finals while winning just one Premier League title.

Those same four teams – City, Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham – are England's entry in the Champions League this season.

Manchester United and Arsenal qualified only for the second-tier Europa League and are by far the wealthiest clubs in it.

Here's a look at English financial dominance and the challenge for other top leagues:

*ENGLAND'S EARNING

Premier League broadcast rights earned 3.64 billion euros (\$3.7 billion) last season with Spain's La Liga next best at around 2 billion euros (\$2.04 billion), according to UEFA's annual survey of European soccer.

"This is of course the best example in the world of how to market a sports competition," Jacco Swart, managing director of the 30-nation European Leagues group, said in praise.

Evenly weighted cash distribution gave the worst Premier League team, Norwich, 98 million pounds (\$119 million) in prize money that beat the entire budget for most European clubs.

English clubs took 10 of the top 18 places in the latest Deloitte list of highest earners. Abu Dhabi-owned Man City led with 644.9 million euros (\$657 million).

The total wage bill for 20 Premier League clubs was 2.88 billion euros (\$2.93 billion) in 2020, according to UEFA – 1 billion euros (\$1.02 billion) above La Liga, and more than Germany's Bundesliga and Italy's Serie A combined.



FILE – Manchester City's Erling Haaland, right, is challenged by Liverpool's Andrew Robertson during the FA Community Shield soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, England, on July 30, 2022. (AP Photo)

*SPAIN'S CHASING

La Liga skews prize money toward top clubs with the winner taking about 160 million euros (\$163 million), up to three times more than other clubs.

It's good for Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atlético Madrid – who have won all the league titles since Valencia's in 2004 – though not for competitive balance.

"They do not have a very long tradition of selling (rights) collectively," Swart said.

Real Madrid's response to tough times was winning yet another Champions League by implicitly ousting the top three English clubs and Paris Saint-Germain.

Madrid and Barcelona have long raised their Champions League earnings by using influence at the European Club Association – which they left to launch the failed Super League – to steer prize money toward storied clubs.

Barcelona has eased its own financial crisis, fueled by long-term overspending on wages, by trading future TV rights money for cash now from an investment firm.

Signing FIFA player of the year Robert Lewandowski from Bayern Munich was one result, though Barcelona's reputation is being hit by pressuring Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong to take a pay cut.

A Spanish success has been coach Unai Emery lifting, first, Sevilla and now small-town Villarreal to overachieve and win a combined four Europa League titles.

*GERMANY'S CULTURE

The Bundesliga's "50+" ownership rule is widely liked for protecting clubs' identity and preventing takeovers by the oil-rich states, oligarchs and billionaires lured to the Premier League.

Clubs controlling a majority of voting rights is embedded in German culture, which also curbs ticket and pay-TV prices – a principled stand which reduces revenue.

"What people are willing to pay to watch football in England is totally different to what people are prepared to pay in Germany," Swart said.

The average season ticket price is 1,095 pounds (\$1,325) at Arsenal but some Dortmund fans can pay just 240 euros (\$244).

Dortmund also excels signing and nurturing English teenagers, then selling them back to the Premier League. Haaland's former teammate, Jadon Sancho, went to Man United for a four-fold profit and Jude Bellingham is likely next.

*ITALY'S DECLINE

After hosting the 1990 World Cup, Serie A was the rich, glamor league. Decline followed the 1992 launches of the Premier League and Champions League, and Italian stars started moving to Chelsea and even unfashionable Middlesbrough.

Serie A clubs fell further back by playing in city-owned stadiums – some shared, with an athletics track, and dating fast – they could not exploit commercially.

Juventus opened its own stadium in 2011 and won nine straight

titles. Red tape has not helped stadium building plans in Rome, Milan and elsewhere, frustrating a new wave of American club owners.

Chinese ownership at AC Milan and Inter Milan has been complicated, though both ended a decade-long wait to win Serie A.

Italy's favored bid to host the 2032 European Championship can spark a needed stadium modernization program and play has improved on the field.

Attack-minded teams Atalanta and Napoli helped Serie A shed a reputation for negative play, which dulled global interest in paying for broadcast rights.

*FRANCE

Ligue 1 has mostly been owned by Paris Saint-Germain since Qatar bought the club in 2011 months after being named the 2022 World Cup host. Lyon and Marseille have not won titles since 2008 and 2010, respectively, and both are now in American ownership.

Lyon's new majority owner, John Textor, arrived in June promising to spend to pursue PSG at home with European ambitions next.

Marseille has had turmoil in six years under former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Frank McCourt, though is now back in the Champions League.

Another foreign owner driving a renewed challenge at Nice is Monaco-based British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, who was often linked to bids for Chelsea.

The overseas ownership model offers some stability after the collapse two years ago of the league's touted new broadcast deal.

AP

Chelsea's Koulibaly says no one can stop him representing Senegal

LONDON

NEW Chelsea signing Kalidou Koulibaly has insisted he will never let anyone stop him playing football for Senegal.

The Senegal captain said African nations deserved more respect after the president of his former club, Napoli, said he would only sign African or South American players willing to miss competitions with their national teams.

"Don't talk to me about Africans anymore," Napoli president Aurelio de Laurentiis told business website Wall Street Italia.

"I wish them well, but either they sign a waiver for the African Cup or else..."

"Between that tournament and the World Cup qualifiers in South America, these players are never available!"

But Senegal captain Koulibaly, who led his country to the Africa Cup of Nations title earlier this year before joining Chelsea in a reported £34 million (\$41 million) move from Serie A side Napoli was unimpressed.

"Nobody ever told me not to go to AFCON or something like this," said Koulibaly during a news conference Wednesday.

"Maybe sometimes they try to ask my manager or something like this."

"But me, now as captain of Senegal, when AFCON comes I

have to be the first one there, the first one in Senegal."

Koulibaly, who has signed a four-year contract with Chelsea following the purchase of the club by US businessman Todd Boehly's consortium, added: "Nobody can tell me not to go to my national team. I have a lot of love for my national team, the team that I play for."

"So, if someone told me to do that, it would be the only time that I can fight with somebody."

"The way we feel all the time with my national team, we are all respectful, we wait for players to come from the Premier League, and everybody is happy to be here."

"Everybody thinks the same as me in the national team. If someone told them not to come they would always fight to come."

"This is the most important thing. Everybody has to give us respect."

Koulibaly will bolster a defence now without Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen after they each left Stamford Bridge.

He will wear the number 26 shirt made famous by Chelsea great John Terry having sought permission from the Blues legend.

"I called John and at the beginning he didn't believe it was me, he thought it was a joke," Koulibaly explained. "So he called the

team manager to ask if it was really me."

"I know that it's a very important number for John, but it's also a very important number for me too, because I took it at Napoli."

"And when he said yes I was very happy, because I know what he did for the club and for the supporters

here."

"I wanted to tell everybody that I asked him before, because I didn't want to disrespect a legend of the club."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

EPL sets high bar in European
soccer, finances and glamor

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Changalawe, Mbutwike set for 2022 C'wealth Games semis

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's boxers Yusuf Changalawe and Kassim Mbutwike will today be in action in the semi-finals of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in England.

This is the first time for two local pugilists to reach the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games.

To reach the stage, Light middleweight boxer Kassim beat Faustino Marion AH Tong from Samoa Island via Referee Stop the Contest (RSC) in the third round, spending 1.53 minutes.

Light Heavyweight pugilist Changalawe was victorious in the bout against St. Lucia boxer Arthur Langelier in a similar manner in bout number 119, grabbing a win in the first round and spending 2.18 minutes.

Today, Mbutwike will face Mozambican boxer Tiago Muxanga while Changalawe will trade blows with Sean Lazzerini of Scotland, both bouts will take place at NEC hall 4.

Changalawe and Mbutwike have become the second and third Tanzanians to qualify for the semi-finals of the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The late Michael Yombayomba had, during his life, turned out to be the first, in which Yombayomba made it to the semi-final in the 1998 Commonwealth Games which were held in Malaysia.

Boxing Federation of Tanzania (BFT) Secretary-General Lukelo Wililo hailed the two for carrying the national flag high in the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

"It is an honour to us that two boxers have reached the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games, we pray that they reach the finals and make history for the country," he said.

"We are delighted with the performance of our boxers, they are doing the country proud," he said.

Alex Isendi is the only boxer who was knocked out in the first bout of the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

The government had sponsored camping for all athletes who are representing the country in this year's Commonwealth Games.

The performers are taking part in disciplines namely athletics, boxing, judo, swimming, and Para sports.

Last Saturday, athlete Alponce Simbu clocked 2.12.29 to take second place in the men's marathon.

Simbu's compatriot, Hamis Msai, ended eighth by clocking 2.15.59. The Commonwealth Games will conclude on August 8.

While handing over the national flag to Tanzania's representatives in the showpiece, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Mohamed Mchengera challenged the athletes to perform well in the Games, saying the country wants medals.

He promised to hand over cash prizes to contenders who will bring home gold, silver, and bronze medals.

"The government has spent a lot of money to see our athletes prepare well for the Commonwealth Games," the minister disclosed.

"There are also cash prizes which will be handed over to those who will bring home gold, silver, and bronze medals, go there and do your country proud," he noted.



Yusuf Changalawe



Tanzania's U-17 women's football side 'Serengeti Girls' takes part in training at Mao Tse Tung Stadium, Zanzibar recently to prepare for the 2022 U-17 Women's World Cup finals to be held in India from October 11-30. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Yanga players' shirt numbers for 2022/23 campaign revealed



Yanga players jubilate once one of the squad's footballers scored in a friendly clash against Friends Rangers in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam recently. Yanga cruised to a 9-0 victory. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC's first team jersey numbers ahead of the 2022/23 season which gets underway on the second weekend of August have been revealed.

Several personnel changes have been made at the side, alias Yanga, during the off-season, with several departures freeing up a few digits for the new arrivals and one player opting to change the digits on his back heading into the new campaign.

The attacking midfielder, Burkinabe Stephane Aziz Ki, steps into the number 10 jersey recently vacated by compatriot Yacouba Songne who has been deemed surplus to requirement after coming from a long injury layoff with his contract ending.

Zambian international Lazarous Kambole who signed for Yanga from South Africa's giants, Orlando

Pirates has taken over the number 7 jersey, previously worn by Balama Mapinduzi who left the club to join Mtibwa Sugar. Congolese fullback Joyce Lomalisa will don jersey number 13.

Ghanaian Bernard Morrison who is returning for a second spell will use number 3 which was used by club captain Bakari Mwanjeto in the last campaign.

Mwanjeto has agreed to vacate the number for Morrison who used the same number while at Simba SC.

In his first spell at Yanga, Morrison used the number 33.

The other new addition to the first team, Burundi international and former midfielder for England's Newcastle, Gael Bigirimana - who wore number 34 at his former club - finds the number unclaimed at Yanga, and will be using it in his first season with the green and yellow side.

The Mainland Premier League defending champions will enter 2022/23 Premier League season demanding nothing less than another triumph.

They will kick off the new campaign with a trip to the Ushirika Stadium in Moshi to face Polisi Tanzania before making the short trip to Tanga to face Coastal Union a few days later.

Here is the full squad list of jersey numbers:

Goalkeepers: Djigui Diarra (39), Erick Johola (30), Abdultwalib Mshery (28).

Defenders: Djuma Shaban (21), Kibwana Shomari, David Bryson (12), Joyce Lomalisa (13), Abdallah Shaibu, Dickson Job (5), Bakari Nondo, Yanick Bangala (4), Ibrahim Bacca (2).

Midfielders: Khalid Aucho (8), Gael Bigirimana (34), Aziz Ki Stephane (10), Feisal Salum (6), Zawadi Mauya (20), Farid Mussa (17), Jesus Moloko (12), Dickson Ambundo (37), Salum Aboubakary (18), Denis Nkane (16), Benard Morrison (3).

Forwards: Fiston Maye (9), Yusuph Athuman (14), Chrispin Ngushi (11), Heritier Makambo (19), Lazarous Kambole (7).

Serengeti Girls continue with intense preparations for 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA U-17 women's national football team 'Serengeti Girls' has continued with intense preparations for the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup finals, which will be held later this year in India.

Serengeti Girls will participate in the global showpiece finals for the first time, after qualifying from Africa having cruised to wins over Cameroon, Botswana, and Burundi U-17 women's teams.

Bakari Shime, Serengeti Girls' head coach, stated his team is progressing well with preparations in Zanzibar and they have high hopes of doing well.

He has said that the players he selected for the team are showing commitment and following his instructions, he asked Tanzanian fans to have faith in their team.

The tactician revealed: "We have started to prepare early for the U-17 World Cup finals to have a good time to have a strong and good team going to this tournament."

Shime pointed out: "The progress of my players is very great, they show great effort and follow my instructions, I believe we are going to fight and do well in the U-17 World Cup finals in India."

"Tanzanians should continue to have faith in their team, continue to pray for them, I can assure them that we will not let them down because until now the chance to win the tournament is open to every participating team," Shime added.

Serengeti Girls has been put in Group D along with Japan, Canada, and France.

The team will begin a search for success in the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup by confronting Japan on October 12.

Serengeti Girls will later come up against France on October 15 and finish the group stage by playing against Canada on October 18.

The Group D games are scheduled to be played at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium located in Margao.

“

Tanzanians should continue to have faith in their team, continue to pray for them, I can assure them that we will not let them down because until now the chance to win the tournament is open to every participating team

Flexibles by David Chikoko

