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'Innocent forex shop operators to be refunded, without interest'

The government has no intention of withholding money from people who have been proven innocent

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

OPERATORS of bureaux de change proven innocent will be refunded their money and other seized resources, the government has declared. Hamad Hassan Chande, the Treasury deputy minister, told the National Assembly yesterday that a total of 68 bureau de change shops were closed for accusations of money laundering from 2016 to 2018.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) had in 2016 conducted an inspection on forex shops and reported a range of fraudulent transactions contrary to regulations governing the business, especially in relation to control of illicit transactions and money laundering. During 2018 and 2019 the central bank in collaboration with law enforcement agencies mounted an extensive inspection of foreign currency exchange shops and listed a range

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launches this year's edition of the cross-country Uhuru Torch in Moshi municipality yesterday. Photo: PMO

SPORTS

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Doubtful trio included in Yanga's travelling squad for Sundowns clash

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Football's elite are tightening up - and Arsenal lead the pack

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Simba SC down but not out while Yanga remains hopeful

PM cautions on cannabis use, obesity at Uhuru Torch event

The race will cover 31 regions with 195 districts, taking up 195 days with the theme "Conserve the Environment and Participate in Local Election for the Building of a Sustainable Nation"

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the challenge of obesity and excess weight currently becomes a national disaster with 42 percent of women at reproductive age facing iron deficiency anaemia. Launching the 2024 Uhuru Torch race in Moshi municipality, Kilimanjaro Region, the premier said obesity fuels vast increases in the frequency of non-com-

municable diseases. Obesity and excess weight are major health challenges facing many people, a rising threat as they ignite non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, heart and diabetes, he said. He castigated the spread of a new variety of high-potency cannabis (skunk) underlining that it is mixed in cigarettes, posing an especially acute threat, for young people especially those aged 13 to 24.

Experts say the high-strength cannabis has a greater risk for earlier onset of psychosis, involving experience of delusions as a symptom of mental health challenges. He appealed to the youth to value their lives and stop engaging in cannabis use as they ruin themselves and also affect the nation's future. He named regions where cannabis is prevalent as Mara, Morogoro, Arusha, Coast, Kagera and Mwanza, urging farmers to stop farming illegal crops, cautioning that stern measures will be taken when discovered. Stunting among under-five children had reached disturbing levels, he said, calling for greater nutrition education and school feeding initiatives to control the situation. About a dozen regions have stunting

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Danish minister lands for inspection, consultations

By Guardian Reporter

A SENIOR Danish cabinet minister is in Tanzania for a working visit where he will conduct an overview and consultations on numerous areas of make cooperation between the two countries. Dan Jørgensen, the Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy minister in Denmark, will stay in the country until tomorrow, according to a press statement yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation. He will have meetings with top ex-

cutives of various Danish supported projects and institutions, including the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) covering disability and maternal health; the statement indicated. He will then visit Chemi & Cotex Industries at Mbezi, northwards of Dar es Salaam to inspect youth skills training and job creation initiatives, along with vocational training programmes empowered by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), it

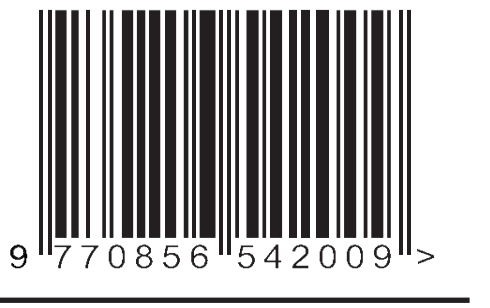
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Monduli set for 40th anniversary of Sokoine death

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

RESIDENTS and the public authorities here engaged in preparations to mark the 40th anniversary of the death of former premier Edward Moringe Sokoine who was killed in a road crash on April 12, 1984. The Sokoine Foundation and the regional secretariat have indicated that a number of cabinet ministers and other leading officials are expected to turn up for remembrances of the late premier at his Monduli family residence in the coming week. Former president Jakaya Kikwete led reminiscences back in 2014 when he was still in the helm, whereas back in 2004, then prime minister Frederick Sumaye led in the high powered event, also attended by other ex-premiers, Salim Ahmed Salim, John Malecela and Joseph Warioba, marking the 20th anniversary of the late premier's passing on. Family sources affirm that President Samia Suluhu and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa have expressed readiness to attend the occasion. Family spokesman Lembris Kipuyo said there will be a requiem mass in the memory of the departed leader at the local parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). A visit to the homestead indicated ongoing preparations for the benchmark anniversary for the ex-premier who represented Monduli constituency from 1965 (then

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'Innocent forex shop operators to get refunds, without interest'

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of irregularities.

Many forex shops were not making efforts to identify their customers prior to service delivery, ignoring law provisions on combating money laundering, he said, pointing at forex shops for administering customer-transaction services "while purposely avoiding to keep important records that justify the transaction."

During inspection law enforcers also learnt that bureau de change operators were not issuing receipts when offering services, and "never submitted correct information of the transactions to the central bank thus affecting the collection of exact data for economic activities," he stated.

Some forex shops were involved in illicit cash transfers and financial flows without having licenses for the business, he said, pointing out that BoT revoked the licenses of forex shops found to be in violation of

the law and regulations, he said.

Agnesta Lamber Kaiza (Special Seats-Opposition) raised the question of whether the government was ready to refund forex seizures victims with interest since the government now admits to have also seized money and resources of innocent businessmen.

In his response, the deputy minister affirmed that the refund won't be cleared with interest, when seven bureau de change shops closed during raids in 2016 to 2018 or such suspicions are relicensed to carry on their businesses.

The original question came from, Ussi Pondeza (Chumbuni) who wanted to know what lies ahead with continued closure of forex shops whose owners have been proven innocent.

The government has no intention of withholding money from people who have been proven innocent, the deputy minister stated.

PM cautions on cannabis use, obesity at Uhuru Torch event

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levels above the national average, including most western zone regions, the 'food basket' regions and the mining region of Manyara.

Stunts exceeding national average were noticed in Iringa, Njombe, Rukwa, Geita, Ruvuma, Kagera, Simiyu, Tabora, Katavi, Manyara, Mbeya and Songwe, he pointed out.

The premier reminded people to ensure they are listed to participate in the civic elections, to choose faithful, patriotic and hardworking leaders committed to deliver chang-

es in the society.

He praised the Uhuru Torch race tradition as a catalyst for peace and unity in the country, promoting the core value of uniting Tanzanians and bringing hope beyond our borders where there was despair, dispelling hatred and uplifting dignity where there was humiliation.

The race will cover 31 regions with 195 districts, taking up 195 days with the theme "Conserve the Environment and Participate in Local Election for the Building of a Sustainable Nation," he added.

Danish minister lands for inspection, consultations

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said.

He will take a trip to Iringa Region to view Udzungwa National Park, the Udzungwa Ecological Research Centre and the Southern Tanzania Elephant Program (STEP), plus a glance at an environmental initiative for alternative charcoal production, the statement affirmed.

The minister is also expected at the Kilombero Sugar Plantation and out-growers community to view how the estates and the community work together.

Tanzania and Denmark have had close relations since the mid-1960s as the Scandinavian state like its partners Norway and Sweden took a keen interest in a democratic transition to socialism under President Julius Nyerere.

Tanzania has been a preferred recipient of Danish development assistance, which chroniclers say it surpasses any other country in Af-

rica.

Danish support has focused on government budget support and specific initiatives in health, tax collection improvement and modernisation plus the business sector programme support (BSPS) to improve the doing business environment.

There has been continued support for investment policy reform since 1997 with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), which has similarly registered 79 investment projects from Denmark, valued at \$110.77m.

They are expected to create more than 3,000 jobs when fully operational, spanning a range of sectors like agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, commercial buildings construction, financial institutions, among others.

The number of Danish tourists in 2019 stood at 15,091 and dropped to 4,000 the following year with the COVID 19 pandemic, and catching up thereafter, officials said.

Kenya doctors' strike enters third week, as clinical officers also join

NAIROBI

KENYAN public hospital doctors who have been on strike since last month convened in two major cities on Tuesday to discuss their grievances against the government.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) which represents over 7,000 members, went on strike on March 15 to demand payment of their salary arrears and the immediate hiring of trainee doctors.

The arrears arose from a 2017 collective bargaining agreement (CBA), the union said. Doctors also demand the provision of adequate medical insurance cover for themselves and their dependants.

It also wants the government to address frequent delays of salaries and to start paying doctors who work in public hospitals as part of their higher degree courses.

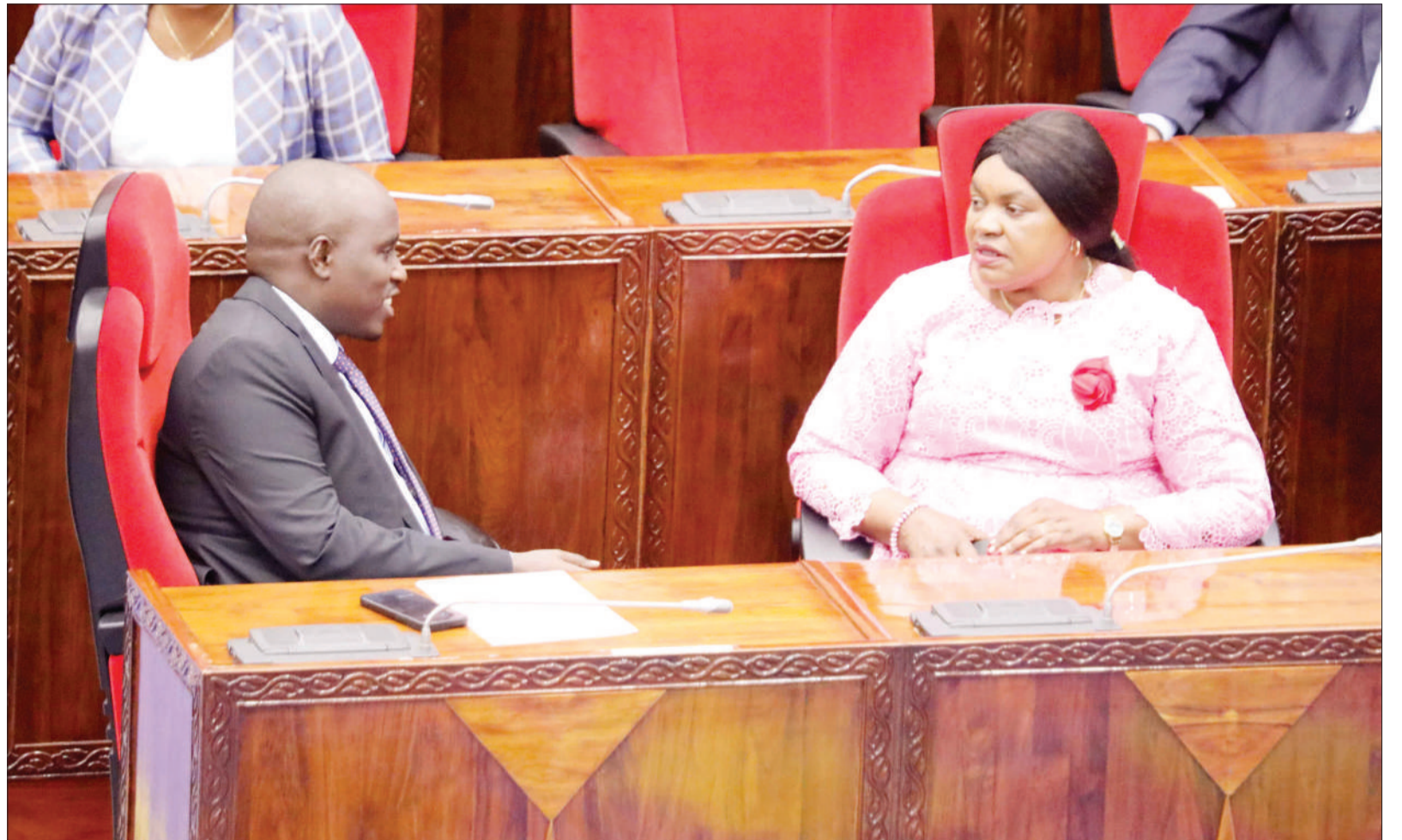
The minister of health Susan Nakhumicha has said the government cannot afford to hire the trainee doc-

tors due to financial pressure on the public kitty.

The Kenyan health sector, which doctors say is underfunded and understaffed, is routinely beset by strikes. Talks between the two sides aimed at ending the ongoing strike have so far not borne any deal and other health workers, such as clinical officers, have also joined the doctors in the strike, local media reported on Tuesday.

"The strike will take as long as it takes the government to wake up," Onyango Ndong'a, chairman of KMPDU's branch in the western city of Kisumu, said on Citizen Television ahead of the rallies by the doctors.

The doctors have held a number of protests in the streets of the capital and other major cities since the strike began. A previous strike in 2017 lasted three months and some doctors in private hospitals downed their tools at various times during the Covid-19 pandemic to protest lack of personal protective equipment and other grievances.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (L) exchanges views in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday with Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination). Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

Monduli set for 40th anniversary of Sokoine death

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called Masai District) up to his death

The crash occurred at Dakawa near Morogoro, as the premier headed back to Dar es Salaam following a session of the legislature. His official Mercedes Benz limousine rammied into hardtop Toyota Land-Cruiser BJ Series, property of the African National Congress (ANC) Mazimbu training camp, with the driver being Dumisani Dube.

A variety of analysts at the time suggested that the premier who was working from his rear seat did not have his seat belt on, and as a diabetic on regular treatment, the shock of a crash disturbed his phys-

iological balances beyond measure

Edward Sokoine took administration studies in Germany from 1962 to 1963, becoming district executive officer for Masai District, which combined the later Monduli, Longido, Ngorongoro and Simanjiro districts.

He was elected to the National Assembly for the Maasai constituency in 1965 then appointed deputy minister for Communication, Transport and Labour in 1967.

He was then appointed Minister of State in 1970 and in a cabinet reshuffle in 1972 he became Minister of Defence and National Service, then exchanged places in February 1977 with Rashidi Kawawa, who was shifted to the Defence portfolio

while Sokoine took over as prime minister, the most exciting cabinet reshuffle during the 23 years of President Nyerere's leadership.

As the country went to war with Ugandan dictator Iddi Amin from November 1978 to April 1979 with Sokoine mobilising the fighters in the frontline on several occasions, and economic difficulties sharpening, the then premier suffering ill health, Sokoine did not return to the premiership after the October 1980 general election, but as economic difficulties mounted and stability appeared to be at issue, he was reappointed to the position early 1983.

He moved into all-out war with commodity smuggling along the

country's borders and presumed hoarding of commodities to sell at hikes prices, which economic analysts figured it could bring the economy to a halt.

President Nyerere stopped the anti-economic sabotage campaign as it was called, and the premier shifted gear, to allow individuals to bring in used clothing when they have their own supplies of foreign exchange, as well as other commodities.

It served as the starting point for his successor, Ambassador Salim Ahmed Salim who took over after Sokoine died in the road crash, and then it became the principal axis of policy under President Nyerere's successor, Ali Hassan Mwinyi.



Motorists have a trying time negotiating way along a flooded stretch of a road at Kitunda in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. The situation was blamed mainly on ongoing rains. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TRA reports 6.63trn/- collection in third quarter

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has in the third quarter of the 2023/24 financial year collected 6.63trn/- which is equivalent to 95.17 percent of the goal of collecting 6.97trn/-.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata said that the increase of collections is attributed to improved awareness among taxpayers and the public in general as well as the strengthened

collection systems, among many others.

"These collections are up by 11.68 percent from the amount collected in the corresponding period of the previous financial year 2022/2023 of 5.94trn/-," the statement reads.

In January alone, the taxman collected 2.12trn/- which is equivalent to 95 percent of its target to collect 2.25trn/-.

"In February, a total of 2.0trn/- was collected which is equivalent to 93.70 percent of the target of collecting 2.16trn/- and in March, a to-

tal of 2.49trn/- was collected which is equivalent to 97.05 percent of the target of collecting 2.56trn/-."

He said that the establishment of divisions to serve small and medium-scale traders as well as resolving tax disputes outside court.

He added that there is an increase in the capacity of taxpayers to submit their tax returns on time through digital systems.

"Other contributing factors to the increase of collections are the increase of investment projects and economic activities such as in

the mining, banking and tourism," he said.

He further said that efficiency increase in custom services, especially in management of taxes on cargo from outside the country, was another contributing factor to the rise of collections.

Kidata urged taxpayers to fulfil their legal requirements of submitting their tax returns and paying withholding tax on time, as well as continue using the Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD) machines in all the transactions as required by law.



Members of the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) church at Ngokolo in Shinyanga municipality stage a march yesterday to mark the denomination's 85th anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Govt pledges 'hard decision' to save struggling tea industry

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has reiterated the commitment to boost the struggling tea subsector at all costs, threatening to ban importation of tea products if need be.

Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe, made the statement here yesterday, assuring stakeholders in the subsector that no tea factory in the country will close due to lack of market for the crop as the government will ensure the existing factories continue to operate.

He said the government has received a notification letter from one of the tea factories in the country, expressing the intention to close due to bad business trends but it has not approved it.

According to the minister, the government has appealed to the investor to continue with operations since closure of the factory will only worsen the situation.

"The government is ready to make the hardest decision such as banning importation of tea in efforts to save the local market" said the minister

Stakeholders in the subsector decry poor local market for tea due to low production and they now seek the government's intervention in order to save the cash crop.

Speaking during the Tea Board of Tanzania's annual meeting, Board Chairperson, Mustafa Umande noted that the tea subsector is deemed for failure as production of the crop faces a lot of challenges which can only be solved through government's interventions.

However, he said that a big percentage of locally produced tea is sold outside the country, stating that at least 27 tonnes out 30 tonnes of tea produced in the country is exported to other countries.

He added that ongoing conflicts in Russia, Sudan, Pakistan and Egypt that have had negative economic impacts in several countries across the globe have also affected international prices of tea.

In addition, he said shortage of dollars in Sudan, Pakistan and Egypt has also contributed to the shaking tea market since Pakistan is the biggest buyer of tea from East Africa, purchasing at least 40 percent of the total regional produce.

On the other hand, he argued that production of the crop by smallholder farmers in the country has declined and is of low quality due to lack of farm inputs caused by big debts owed to them by tea factories.

He said tea factories owe farmers a total of 2.8bn/- and they are not sure if they will get their money due to ever dwindling markets. The situation, he noted, has made the farmers not reach the required standards of production.

He said poor market has not only affected Tanzania only but other countries as well, citing Uganda which has closed down over nine tea factories while Tanzania has managed to save three factories that were about to close.

"The government should intervene and help save the tea sub sector as some farmers have resorted to uprooting tea crops, replacing them with other crops," he said.

Tea Board of Tanzania director Mary Kipeja appealed to the government to strengthen the local tea market as only a small percentage of locally produced tea is consumed in the country.

She said many farmers have lost hope in tea farming because they do not have enough money for production and since payment for last season's sales have not been affected.

"The government should intervene and help save the tea sub sector as some farmers have resorted to uprooting tea crops, replacing them with other crops"

By Guardian Reporter

US, Tanzania partner to combat cholera outbreak

IN response to the months-long cholera outbreak and in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been working with impacted communities to conduct cholera prevention activities, deploy health experts to targeted areas and identify ways to increase access to clean water.

Responding to the Ministry of Health's request for assistance, USAID has allocated 480m/- to assist communities most affected in Tanzania, while the CDC has supported the deployment of health professionals from the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme into six regions.

Collectively, the assistance has been and will continue to strengthen health education on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices; encourage sick people to seek care; facilitate household assessments of WASH practices; and boost the distribution of water purification tablets.

"The United States remains committed to our partnership with the Tanzanian government and stands with Tanzania in its fight against this disease," said US Ambassador to Tanzania Michael Battle in a statements yesterday.

"Cholera is a deadly, yet

preventable, disease. Together, we can prevent it and save Tanzanian lives."

USAID's ongoing commitment of \$50 million focused on providing a long-term solution by improving water infrastructure and community awareness on accessing safe water provides more than two million Tanzanians access to safe water and improved sanitation.

In 2024, USAID will begin building new water systems and sewage treatment facilities to offer more people clean water, while continuing to build capacity for the management and maintenance

of existing water, sanitation, and hygiene projects.

Since September 2023, cholera outbreak surged in Tanzania with more than 2,500 cases and 46 fatalities reported. This outbreak, which affected 18 regions, has the fourth-highest case count and third-highest fatality rate in the past four decades.

The Ministry of Health's response reduced infections and resulted in seven regions declaring an end to the surge. However, 12 regions still have active outbreaks, with Simiyu, Shinyanga, and Mwanza the most affected.



PROVISION OF EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM 2024-2026

INTRODUCTION:

CRDB Bank Plc would like to invite prospective proponents to submit proposals for the provision of Employee Wellness Program for 2024/2026.

OBJECTIVES:

The objective is to engage a qualified wellness Consultant who will partner with CRDB Bank in fostering a workplace culture of wellness to increase productivity and welfare of the employees.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

- Professional Telephone Counselling in Swahili and English -**
Counselling for psychosocial problems, substance abuse and addiction, relationship problems, financial management, health, personal, or work-related problems and all mental disorders.
- Professional Face to Face Counselling -**
For any psychological, relationship, medical, stress, financial problem, marital & pre-natal counselling, trauma focused counselling, teenage counselling, family therapy, individual and corporate coaching, fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle management.
- Managerial Consultation**
Managerial consultancy for stress management, crisis management, assistance in managing risk cases, cultural diversity, or performance management of employees.
- Psychiatric Care Arrangement**
Outpatient assessment and care through accredited Psychiatrist.
- Emergency Response Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)**
Worksite Counseling and Stress Management Support such as armed robbery, death, or disaster at a worksite.
- Education Support and Awareness -**
Conduct awareness program across the network to equip employees on key psychological threat / sign periodically.
- Home Based Care Services -**
Support of home health services where needed.
- Physical wellness -**
Support physical wellness that encourages the balance of physical activity, nutrition, good sleep, and mental well-being.
- Wellness Days -**
Support in conducting annual wellness days across the network that helps to keep employees well educated in various health issues etc.

10. Monitoring & Reporting -

Monthly, Quarterly & Annual

11. Submission of Tenders -

All tender submissions must be online.

Emails where tenders should be sent reads as below, any email sent sizes should be 4MB or less.

- procurementdesk@crdbbank.co.tz
- tenders@crdbbank.co.tz

As part of the technical and financial evaluation of proposals, please indicate the following details in your proposal:

- Submit a Company Profile
- Submit a detailed relevant experience with evidence attached, at least three (3) Contracts, LPO, Recommendation letters) including customers served before and type of work undertaken.
- Submit at least three (3) Recommendation letters for customers served before and type of work undertaken.
- Location of regional offices (HQ & Branches if Any)
- Annual reports / audited financial reports for the past three (3) years.
- Current Annual return certificate, for Tanzania companies, this is obtained from BRELA.
- Submit legal and business certificates.
- Submit valid Regulatory, Government Board or Agency certificate required for such goods/services.
- Submit Valid Business license.
- Employees CVs & certificates
- The following forms are available in our website for filling and submitting as part of the requirements, vendor application, Non-disclosure agreement and Bank indemnity form.

12. Deadline of submission to be indicated as

- Tender deadline for submission 05th April 2024
- Tender Closing time 12:00 hrs
- Tender opening time 16:00 hrs (a link will be sent through to the email that submitted the tender)

The Managing Director

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PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BUILDING CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OPD FOR LIKUYUSEKAMAGANGA HEALTH CENTRE IN LIKUYU WARD, NAMTUMBO DISTRICT, RUVUMA REGION.

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

As part of its CSR programme, Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites Building Contractors to express their Interest (EOI) for the construction of an OPD for Likuyusekamaganga health centre in Likuyu ward, Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region as per BOQ to be provided to short-listed contractors.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following;

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work
 - b) Value of work in USD
 - c) Contractual Duration
 - d) Clients name
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
- Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
- Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
- Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
- Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.
- Workers Compensation Fund Certificate.
- Corporate ownership including main shareholders by percentage.
- Approved Local Content Plan by the Mining Commission.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail addresses; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and mantraprocurement@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on 17th April 2024 at 16.00 hours.

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd
Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki
Email: mantra@uranium1.co.tz
P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255764700440
Dar es Salaam.

Research develops feeds that change fortunes of herders

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A CATTLE fattening study conducted in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, has unveiled new techniques, including feeds that can help herders increase productivity and boost incomes.

Conducted by Prof Sebastian Chenyambuga, Lecturer at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in collaboration with farmers at Mtanana A and Mtanana B villages, the method can improve quality and quantity of beef for both local and international markets.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, Prof Chenyambuga said that beef demand has continued to surge both in local and international markets but many herders were still unaware of techniques to increase productivity.

According to him, after the research, they came up with feeds mixed with various grains that enable cattle to grow fast and become fat thus producing not only high quantity but also high quality meat.

"I decided to come up with this project because there is a huge challenge for herders to grab market opportunities in hotels and international markets; the cattle fattening will help pastoralists transform their activities and start producing cattle scientifically and increase income," he said.

He said many herders have been spending many years in livestock keeping but do not get anything good in return due to poor knowledge on how to utilise the activity to make profit.

"So we invested time and jointly started to produce animal feeds from raw materials that are available in the village. These include a mixture of maize and rice grain plus molasses and sunflower seed cake," he said.

He said they visited various villages in Kongwa and Meatu District in Shinyanga Region and found that many herders still need cattle fattening education.

"During the study at Mtanana A and Mtanana B villages, we built a shed and took two or three-year old calves and each breeder provided

them with the researched feeds to see which one will respond well in fattening the cattle," he said.

According to him, after 90 days, the study produced positive outcomes as the calves gained weight of between 50 and 100 kilogrammes more than those that were not fed.

Prof Chenyambuga said that some herders have already been linked with a reliable market at the National Ranching Company (NARCO) in Kongwa District and have started to reap big by getting profit of between 160,000/- and 235,000/- per cow.

He thanked the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) for supporting the research at a tune of 120m/- which has changed the mindsets and lives of many herders while also linking them with financial institutions.

Fikiri Robina, one of the beneficiaries, said that the project has totally changed their mindset and now they engage in smart livestock keeping which of late paid them a lot compared to the old ways of cattle herding.

Elisa Binamungu, NARCO-Kongwa Manager, said beef from the ranch is one of the favourite meats in many parts of the country and has a good reputation, selling 500 kilogrammes per day.

"Due to growing demand of beef, many farmers have changed ways and now engage in production of quality meat in order to benefit from the market opportunities available here and elsewhere," he said



So we invested time and jointly started to produce animal feeds from raw materials that are available in the village. These include a mixture of maize and rice grain plus molasses and sunflower seed cake

Come up with new revenue sources, Chadema urges govt

By Carlos Banda

THE main opposition Chadema has challenged the government through the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to come up with new sources of tax revenue rather than relying on the same and using penalties and fines.

Ahobikile Mwaitenda, the party's member of executive committee and financial, economic and budget advisor made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a press conference on the implementation of the 2024/25 government budget.

He said that failure to come with innovative ways of revenue collection impedes the effective implementation of the budget for the respective financial year.

Mwaitenda said that sources of revenue are derived from every ongoing economic activity, adding that the increase in income can only be achieved if there are new income sources as well as improvement of collection systems to capture data on revenue lost due to faulty mechanisms.

"We have been advising the government so many times that Zanzibar has ventured into the marine sector and focused on the blue economy as means to create more income. I think the pace of the isles has surpassed us on the number of activities undertaken in the marine sector because we have not maximized anything in regards to deep sea fishing activities. It is certain that the model adapted by Zanzibar will create more income sources," he said.

Mwaitenda said that it is important to have a uniform policy system and

planning so as to track and assess projects that have materialized to the effect of being capable of paying taxes, adding that such assessment and tracking could help answer why the revenue authority complains on the decrease of tax payers despite the increase of economic projects.

The cadre also said with the world embracing digitalization, it is compulsory to have a digital taxation system that will not only keep track of online economic activities but also monitor digital services and transactions.

Highlighting the budgetary constraints, Mwaitenda said the Ministry of Finance did not report on the expenditure for each ministry, arguing that finance minister only placed general figures whilst some ministries had not received a quarter of the budget allocated to them.

On the Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy, he said the government should engage the private sector and forge partnerships that could help ease the government's burden, adding that allocation of funds for the construction of football stadiums ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 tournament should have been a joint venture with the private sector.

"The government should have approached the private sector and shared construction costs and after 10 years of operation and profit generation, the stadiums can be handed over to the government's full control. It is good for the government to engage in partnerships when it comes to the sports sector rather than doing everything on its own," he said.



Asma Mwinyi Foundation representative Mabrouk Aboud (4th-R) presents Ramadhan-time foodstuffs to a representative of three Mkuranga District orphanages yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Govt finalising bill to replace NEMC with NEMA

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is set to table a bill for establishment of a new environment management entity before the end of June this year.

Deputy Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis told the National Assembly yesterday that the government is currently finalising the draft of the bill.

Khamis said that the Environmental Management Act Cap 191 is being amended to pave the way for the replacement of the current National Environment Management Council (NEMC) with

the new National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

He said the new body will also facilitate establishment of the National Environmental Impact Trust Fund that will be mandated with mobilising and disbursing funds for addressing issues arising from climate change.

The trust fund will also help manage funds for climate resilience projects in communities that are mostly affected by climate change effects.

Khamis was responding to a question by Maryam Azan Mwinyi, Special Seats MP who wanted to know strategies in place by the government in drafting the new

law.

The government's decision comes after the parliament had in 2021 approved minor amendments in the National Environment Policy 2021 that involved mitigation measures of climate change effects.

The new law is also expected to address challenges related to management of environmental hazards such as drought and floods

"The government recognizes the essence of having in place reliable sources of funds for addressing hazards and natural disasters related to climate change such as drought, floods and storms," he said.

Khamis said that the ministry

is taking into consideration all previous research results and has been taking into consideration environmental stakeholders' opinions from the private sector in formulation of the Trust Fund.

According to him, this time around the government is keen on identifying the whole structure of the Trust Fund, its roles and economic opportunities that will come with the Fund.

He said the Fund will operate as an independent entity and apart from receiving annual budgets from the central government, it will be responsible for mobilizing funds from global environmental agencies for climate change resilience.



Entrepreneurs in suburban Dar es Salaam's Kipunguni ward attend a seminar on strategies to ensure gainful public participation in the local government elections slated for later this year. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Tanzanian clams being tortured, disabled by US officials

By Guardian Reporter

A TANZANIAN who resides in the United States has claimed that he has gone through a difficult situation for over 20 years due to severe beating and torture from customs officials who thought that he was an illegal immigrant.

According to Andrew Hango, in 2004, customs officials at one of the US airports arrested and severely tortured him, leaving him disabled and unsupported.

"I have lived a very difficult life in these 21 years because despite beating me hard, leaving my body full of injuries, they didn't send me

to hospital. Instead, they forced me to get on a plane and return to Tanzania claiming that I did not have a permit to live there," he said in a telephone interview with this paper.

"However, the plane operators refused to take me on board due to my condition as I was badly injured and they feared I could die."

After the customs officials found that they had wrongly punished him, they sent him to a far island where no one could find him but some human rights defenders got wind of the situation and started to campaign for his release, he said.

"I later went to court to claim for

compensation but even the lawyers who were defending me were threatened but fortunately, I won the case," he said.

He said, after the case, the customs personnel asked him to stay mum and promised to give him \$4,000 and nationality which Hango saw was a little amount to cover his treatment expenses.

Hango said after refusing, the officers gave him a harder time where he continued to experience brutality and beating which later led to a stroke.

"When I was passing through all these, I had the permit to live in the US and I had already lived there for

two years and married an American wife. I don't know why they took me through this difficult life. I thank the human rights defenders who helped me to get out of the island," he said.

When contacted for comment, US Embassy Information Officer Japhet Sanga said the issue should be addressed by the US State Department.

In a response statement, the US State Department stated: "We are aware of the Hango's case. After going through it, we have channelled him to the court here which heard his complaints in order to get relief."



Children with autism are assisted in taking part in a march held in Dar es Salaam city yesterday to mark World Autism Day (April 2). It was organised by the Lukiza Autism Foundation. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Songea council commended for working on LAAC queries

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA regional commissioner Col Ahmed Abbas Ahmed has commended leadership of Songea Municipal Council for implementing six out of eight directives given by the Local Authorities Accounts Committee (LAAC) in 2022.

The RC gave the congratulations during a council meeting to discuss implementation of the LAAC's directives at the Songea Municipal Council Hall yesterday.

He, however, said that there are 53 arguments and proposals that need to be worked on and closed, in addition to the 12 council arguments from previous years that have not been fully addressed and closed.

The RC also congratulated Namtumbo District Council for implementing five out of six instructions of LAAC.

He said that among the three LAAC's instructions, two have been implemented and closed, while the third has not been implemented in the past four years.

"I kindly request the honourable councillors to closely monitor the processing of 44 arguments and proposals in Songea District Council so they can be closed. This will ensure that all arguments are addressed in a proper manner," he said.

Menas Komba, Songea District Council Chairman, pledged to increase the pace of tax collection while also ensuring that all disagreements in the council are resolved.

Songea Municipal Mayor Michael Mbanjo said that the council worked on the six of LAAC's instructions and would implement the final two and close them.



I kindly request the honourable councillors to closely monitor the processing of 44 arguments and proposals in Songea District Council so they can be closed

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

Iramba District to spend 3bn/- on irrigation project

IRAMBA District Council in Singida Region has received a total of 3bn/- from the government for implementation of Masimba irrigation project in Wembere Basin where more than 36,000 hectares have been earmarked for irrigation.

Iramba District Commissioner, Suleiman Mwenda, said this yesterday while speaking to Urughu Ward residents during a public rally addressed by Iramba West MP Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

According to Mwenda, the government's decision on areas to be chosen for irrigation agriculture

is being implemented in order to guarantee agricultural productivity and food security.

"The capacity to store water will enable people to farm throughout the summer and spring after this project is completed. Experts and officials in irrigation have already shown up in my office to provide a comprehensive

plan," he said.

Dr Nchemba who is also the Minister for Finance urged the residents to take care of the project as it has a lot of benefits for their wellbeing.

He said that the money brought to Iramba District and other parts of the country will be used to implement a number of development projects such

as health facilities in each division and key locations.

The minister said that the government has a list of issues and workable solutions, adding that there are irrigation projects and road construction projects going on throughout the country that are meant to improve the lives of many Tanzanians.

Big Announcement

Tomorrow is the Day!...



KIA under TAA custody, declares Speaker after management confusion

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson yesterday said that the management of Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) is under custody of Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) as directed by parliament in 2022.

The clarification came after Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) issued a notice on March 10, 2024, asking residents surrounding the airport who allegedly invaded the area to immediately vacate.

She said that in November 2022, when the parliament was debating the Controller and Auditor General (CAG)'s report on infrastructure development, the MPs resolved that the airport should be placed under TAA custody.

"The MPs and the committee made the same resolutions again in November 2023 that the airport be placed under TAA custody," she said.

She said that since KADCO is 100 percent owned by the government, the airport should be under TAA as well as its handling of operations.

The Speaker added that the issue of management should not bother people who are supposed to vacate the area if they are supposed to do so. "The parliament is aware that the airport is under TAA and other execution processes concerning its operations are in its powers," she said.



The MPs and the committee made the same resolutions again in November 2023 that the airport be placed under TAA custody

Govt set to evaluate primary healthcare, research strategies

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government is set to implement primary healthcare evaluation and research development strategy to bridge existing research gaps in the vital sector.

Among others, the strategy seeks to ensure that universities of health and allied sciences as well as all institutes of health research value chain fully participate in various health studies in the country.

The plan was unveiled here recently by Omary Ubuguyu, assistant director of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) in the Ministry of Health.

He was speaking during the International Primary Healthcare Conference (IPHC) which took place last week for three consecutive days in Dodoma city.

He said that Tanzania has big potentials for execution of thorough health research at various levels but the same remains untapped due to an array of reasons.

Among the untapped research potentials that the country's health sector has been endowed with include availability of important data and research funds, presence of relevant research universities and institutions as well as formulated national research agenda.

Contributing to the topic entitled 'Exploring the Untapped Potential of Primary Healthcare Research Agenda', Ubuguyu said the coming strategy will see involvement of health workers from primary health facilities in research undertakings.

Dr Salma Mohamed, Dean of School of Health and Medical Sciences, State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) spoke of the need for health and allied science colleges to participate in the general role to help build and expand primary health research.

She said that health varsities should be tasked to accomplish a major role of developing key curricula to assist researchers.

"To ensure universities of health fully play their role in stimulating research, they should be assured of sustainable funding schemes," she said.

Availability of key research plans and incentives help to accelerate smooth undertaking of training needed to undertake meaningful health research among health workers, especially those in the primary healthcare sector, Dr Mohamed said.

Dr Nyanda Elias, Director of Research Coordination and Promotion at the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), said the state-owned institute stands at the forefront to help personnel in primary healthcare get thorough knowledge on research matters.

"Primary healthcare is the foundation of human health; realising this fact, NIMR is working closely with other like-minded institutions to ensure detailed and problem-solving oriented studies are conducted in the country's primary health subsector," he said.



To ensure universities of health fully play their role in stimulating research, they should be assured of sustainable funding schemes



Simanjiro constituency legislator Christopher ole Sendeka (4th-L) has a quick word with James ole Millya, a Tanzanian member of the East African Legislative Assembly, at a meeting held in the constituency at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

China 'ready' to work with Tanzania and Zambia on revamping of Tazara

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

CHINA has expressed readiness to work with the governments of Tanzania and Zambia to rehabilitate infrastructure of Tazara railway operated jointly by the two countries.

Built from 1970 to 1975, the 1,860 km single-track railway serves as the monument of the long-standing friendship between China, Tanzania and Zambia. It was the first ever overseas major project to be implemented by the Chinese government.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that half a century ago, the elder generation of Chinese, Tanzanian and Zambian leaders made the historic decision together to build the railway.

Despite its own difficult situation, China tightened its belt upon the project request and took concrete actions to support the two African countries in their just cause of national liberation and strong desire for economic development.

She spoke during an event to commemorate 70 Chinese experts who died while constructing Tazara railway.

"With profound sincere friendship for African people, more than 50,000 Chinese brothers and sisters travelled thousands of miles to this vast continent, working together with Tanzania and Zambian friends and experiencing all kinds of hardship, building the railway with sweat, blood and lives for six years," she said.

The envoy added: "During the construction of the railway, 70 Chinese experts, technicians and workers died on duty and were laid to rest forever in this land. They are heroes who have forged a monument of China-Tanzania and China-Africa friendship. We will always remember their names."

According to her, Chinese President Xi Jinping chose Tanzania as his first stop to visit in Africa after he took office in 2013. He made a special visit to pay his respects and underscored the need to carry forward the Tazara spirit that focuses on mutual respect, equality,

tenacity, perseverance and selfless internationalism.

"Everybody will understand the importance of this railway line; it links two countries: Tanzania and Zambia in terms of facilitating movement of people and goods, it is also a symbol of unity and friendship between our three countries," she said.

This year marks 60th anniversary of China-Tanzania diplomatic cooperation and a moment to highlight achievements that were earlier cemented by the forefathers of the two nations, namely the late Julius Nyerere and Mao Zedong.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, Minister for Transport said Tanzania and Zambia were working hard to bring Tazara back to its feet by providing annual subsidies to meet its operational costs.

"However, we have embarked on finding a permanent solution," he said.

The minister said that China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) has already been engaged as the main contractor in the project to strategically find the best solution to

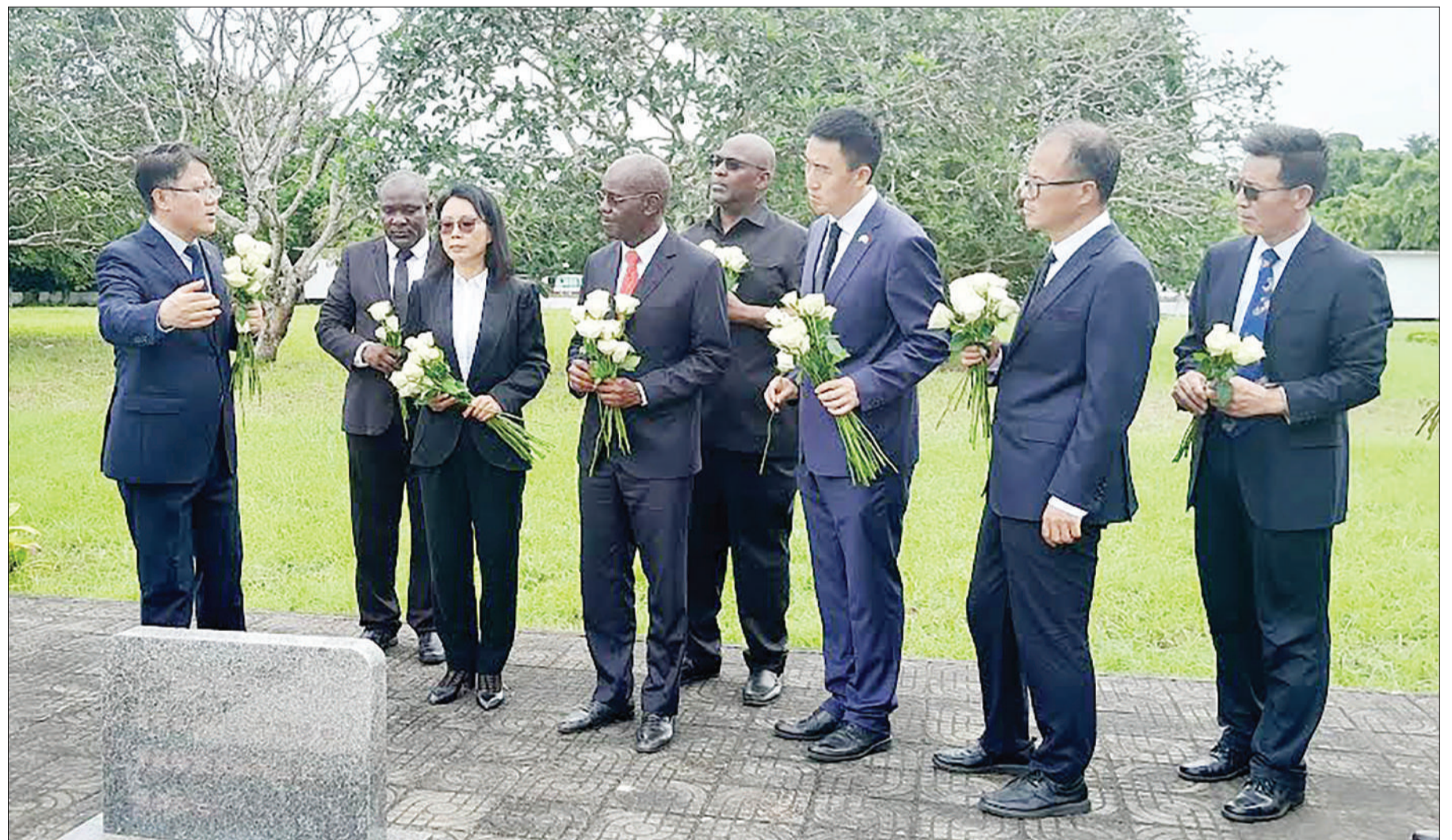
revitalize the railway.

"We have already started negotiations and we believe that we will reach a consensus soon. In February this year, CCECC submitted a proposal for the upgrading of Tazara to standard gauge and reached a consensus to operate the line at a cost of \$1 billion," he said.

According to him, Tazara has faced operational difficulties from the start and was kept running by continued assistance from China, several European countries, and the United States.

Freight traffic peaked at 1.2 million tonnes in 1986, but began to decline in the 1990s as the end of apartheid in South Africa and the independence of Namibia opened alternative transport routes for Zambian copper.

China-Tanzania cooperation has long been leading when it comes to China-Africa cooperation, with China achieving fruitful results from the investment in Tanzania as it has always been a participant, enabler and beneficiary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).



A protocol officer with the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday giving a brief history on one of the cemeteries where Chinese experts who died in Tanzania while engaged in the construction of the 1,860-km-long Tanzania-Zambia Railway (Tazara) are buried. The event was held as part of a Chinese traditional festival. Third left is China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian, and fourth left is Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Muslims reminded on role of religion in child upbringing

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

MUSLIMS in Tanzania have been urged to teach their children the importance of reading the Quran so as to make them good believers and law-abiding citizens.

The call was made yesterday by Imam of Ibaadh Mosque in Mwanza city, Sheikh Nouh Mousa, at a Quran reading competition held at Istiqama pre and

primary school which brought together 95 participants from different madras under Istiqama Muslim Community.

Sheikh Mousa said that children who abide by religious teachings tend to be good believers and law-abiding citizens compared to those who do not.

The aim of the Quran reading competition was to prepare children to be good members of the society who respect and care for others, the Sheikh said.

Children who participated in the competition came from the following madras: Nyakato, Kanyerere, Ilemela, Kirumba, Kitangiri, Kiseke, Nyamanoro, Mahina Kati and Kayenze, all situated in Mwanza city as well as Malampaka and Busega from Simiyu Region.

The religious leader said that completion involved volume one, two, three, five and ten of the Quran, adding that next year they will add more volumes.

Sheikh Nassor Farai, Chairman of Istiqama Mwanza Branch, who was guest of honour at the occasion, commended teachers who taught the participants and parents who allowed them to take part in the competition.

He urged teachers, parents and guardians to continue with the spirit so that children grow in religious environments which he said help them avoid bad influences that can lead them to criminal groups.



Residents of Musanja ward in Musoma Rural Constituency, among them CCM leaders, pictured at the weekend holding copies of a booklet on the implementation of the party's 2020-2025 Election Manifesto issued to them by their legislator, Prof Sospeter Muhongo (C, in black cap). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

DRC names its first female prime minister amid escalating violence

KINSHASA

PRESIDENT Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced the appointment of Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first female prime minister on Monday.

This landmark decision fulfils a campaign promise made by President Tshisekedi and marks a significant step towards gender equality in Congolese politics.

Tuluka, a former planning minister, assumes her new role at a critical juncture for the nation, particularly in the strife-torn eastern region. The area, rich in minerals and resources, has been plagued by relentless violence, leading to the displacement of millions of civilians and earning the dubious distinction of being one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Addressing the nation in her inaugural speech aired on state television, Tuluka pledged to prioritize peace and development

efforts, particularly in the conflict-ridden eastern provinces. She expressed deep concern for the plight of those affected by the ongoing violence and reaffirmed her commitment to finding sustainable solutions to the crisis.

However, Tuluka's appointment comes amidst the arduous task of forming a new government, a process expected to involve extensive negotiations with various political factions. Despite the challenges ahead, her appointment symbolises a significant breakthrough in Congolese politics and offers hope for greater inclusivity and representation in governance.

The situation in eastern Congo remains dire, with numerous armed groups vying for control and perpetuating a cycle of violence and instability. Both local and international peacekeeping efforts have struggled to contain the conflict, further exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population.

President Tshisekedi, who

secured re-election for a second term last December, has reiterated his commitment to addressing the root causes of the violence. He has accused neighbouring Rwanda of backing rebel groups operating in eastern Congo, allegations vehemently denied by Rwandan authorities.

The United States has called for restraint from both Congo and Rwanda, urging diplomatic dialogue to prevent further escalation of tensions. Additionally, the U.S. State Department has emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and the withdrawal of foreign troops from Congolese territory.

As Prime Minister Tuluka assumes her new role, she faces the formidable task of steering the nation towards stability and prosperity amidst daunting challenges. Her appointment represents a historic milestone in Congolese politics and underscores the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in national leadership.

China could drive Africa's renewable energy revolution, a new study shows

continent's energy transition, according to a report from Boston University's Global Development Policy Center and the African Economic Research Consortium.

Lending for renewables, such as solar and wind, from China's two main development finance institutions constituted just 2 percent of their \$52 billion of energy loans from 2000 to 2022, while more than 50 percent is allocated to fossil fuels.

"Given current economic challenges and future energy opportunities, China can play a role in contributing to Africa's energy access and transition through trade, finance and FDI (foreign direct investment)," the report said.

Chinese development finance institutions have been focused on investing in the extraction and

export of commodities to China and in electrification projects.

Chinese lending has targeted many of the same sectors that produce the oil and minerals that flow back to China.

At least eight hydropower projects financed by the Export-Import Bank of China (CHEXIM), which represent 26 percent of all hydropower lending, are intended to support the extraction of various metals. "Although this track has led to export revenues for African economies, African countries are not yet receiving the full benefits of renewable energy technologies," the report said.

In 2022, fossil fuels accounted for around 75 percent of total electricity generation in Africa and about 90 percent of energy consumption, the report said.

Ivory Coast due to increase official farmgate cocoa price

producer, has yet to reflect this.

Major companies such as Hershey (HSY.N), Nestle (NESN.S), Mondelez (MDLZ.O), and Barry Callebaut (BARN.S), buy cocoa from Ivory Coast.

In 2022, Ivory Coast and Ghana boycotted industry meetings in Brussels over a price dispute. Nearly six million people rely on the cocoa industry in the West African nation of Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast leads the world in production and export of the cocoa beans used in the manufacture of

chocolate, as of 2012, supplying 38 percent of cocoa produced in the world. West Africa collectively supplies two thirds of the world's cocoa crop, with Ivory Coast leading production at 1.8 million tonnes as of 2017, and nearby Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Togo producing additional 1.55 million tonnes.

Ivory Coast overtook Ghana as the world's leading producer of cocoa beans in 1978, and today is highly dependent on the crop, which accounts for 40 percent of national export income.

By Terri-Ann Brouwers

JOHANNESBURG - based Colossal Africa Aviation Services, a company predominantly owned by black females, has partnered with Brussels-headquartered Aviapartner to create a new joint-venture ground handling company Colossal Aviapartner.

The company described the collaboration as a "transformative union in the African aviation sector" and anticipates that Colossal Aviapartner "will be a groundbreaking entity poised to modernise ground handling across Africa."

In a statement released by Colossal Africa last week, the company emphasised that the partnership integrates Colossal's extensive expertise in Southern Africa with Aviapartner's renowned aviation services across Europe, aiming to redefine aviation excellence in Africa.

This collaboration is said to promise unmatched services to

SA aviation services firm lands Avis as new partner

a wide-ranging clientele, which includes global airlines like South African Airways, Emirates, Ethihad Airways and British Airways.

Commenting on the partnership, Cingashe Motale, a shareholder of Colossal Aviapartner said: "This partnership is a commitment to our shared vision of pioneering solutions and delivering world-class services. We are excited to embark on this journey with Aviapartner."

The group said the emergence of Colossal Aviapartner marks a new era for the African aviation industry, as it highlights the shared vision of both companies to innovate solutions, invest in expansion, new markets, operational efficiencies, and establish new benchmarks of operational excellence.


It added that the Colossal Aviapartner brand will soon be seen

in airports across the country as the partnership unfolds.

With the aviation sector evolving, this collaboration seeks to redefine the future of ground handling services in Africa, establishing a new standard for the global aviation industry.

"Our partnership with Aviapartner signals our unwavering dedication to setting new industry benchmarks. Together, we will drive innovation and growth in our sector," said Mbongeni Manqele, CEO of Colossal Aviapartner.

"This partnership is a commitment to our shared vision of pioneering solutions and delivering world-class services. We are excited to embark on this journey with Aviapartner."



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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEAD OF IMPACT (1 POST) AND IT SUPPORT OFFICER (1 POST)

CAMFED Overview
CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary school's years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists, and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit Head of Impact (1) and IT Support Officer (1) based in Dar es Salaam.

Job Title: Head of Impact
Reporting to: National Director
Location: Dar es Salaam.

Job Purpose:
The overall responsibility of the Head of Impact is to support CAMFED Tanzania's accountability, compliance and provide a basis for decision-making and promote knowledge management. The Head of Impact will ensure cohesive coordination of the Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning Team, with other departments and providing strategic programme management advice to the National Director in support CAMFED's vision to multiply educational opportunities for girls/other vulnerable children and young women's successful transition in secure livelihood and leadership.

Key Accountabilities:

Strategic Leadership –

- Provide strategic leadership to the CAMFED Tanzania Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning Team (MERL) to deliver on key objectives.
- Represent the Camfed-Tanzania MERL Team at the Global MERL Team level.
- Identifying strategies to ensure quality control over the delivery of programmes.
- Advise National Director and management team on emerging trends, patterns in data, outliers and concerns, as well as evidence base for promising/effective practice in the context.
- Reviews and oversees MEL budgets as part of annual planning and quarterly review, and proposal writing.
- Stays abreast of relevant contextual secondary data in order to support programme learning and adaptation.
- Support in the development and delivery of country strategic plans and annual work plans.
- Responsible for completeness/accuracy/timeliness of data in Salesforce.

Management, Compliance and Supporting Role

- Manage the MERL team budget for CAMFED Tanzania.
- Train and supervise M&E team and champions consistent with programme requirements
- Technical support and training to districts in MERL.
- Support the development of donor proposal and reports and guiding on donor compliance during implementation.
- Ensure compliance with CAMFED's M&E policy.
- Support the development of external reports and communications of CAMFED's work –
- Provide professional oversight of data gathering, analysis, utilisation, and dissemination for CAMFED Tanzania.
- Ensure regular consolidation of quality programme data.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning

- Oversee the monitoring and evaluation function of CAMFED's work.
- Lead the conduct of research, working to maintain CAMFED's high ethical standards and Child Protection Policies
- Lead the national design grant specific evaluation approaches/requirements, in collaboration with Regional MEL.
- Provide guidance to Programme Managers based on Learning outcomes derived from monitoring, evaluation and research of programme activities.
- Identify trends and variances in the programme and advise relevant programme staff.
- Ensure an accurate and up to date Salesforce system that tracks programme activities.
- Oversee the documentation of programme success stories and good practices.

Person Specifications
Essential:

- Bachelor's degree or above in social sciences, education, planning & management, health informatics, public health, biostatistics, epidemiology, demography, information system or a similar relevant

course of study, Master's Degree added advantage.

- Minimum of 6 (Six) years demonstrated experience in planning, monitoring, and evaluation with reputed organizations preferably in education, health, or enterprises sector. At least 3 years in managerial role.
- Knowledge on both qualitative and quantitative research methodology
- Competency in application of data collection, analysis, and visualization software (ODK, Kobo, Advanced MS Excel, SPSS, GIS, Power BI) is essential.
- Excellent analysis and writing analytical quality report skills are crucial.
- Effective communication skills, pro-activeness, positive attitude, and professional integrity.
- Experience of working with stakeholders (Local Government Authorities (LGAs), schools, young women, community groups and health facilities)

Job Title: IT Support Officer
Accountable to: Head of Impact
Location: Dar es Salaam

Job Purpose:
At CAMFED we have ambitious plans for the organisation and the girls and women we serve over the next few years. How we harness and use technology will be a critical factor in the success of these plans.

In this role you will join an IT operation that is very enthusiastic about technology and has been innovating for many years to achieve the best outcomes for our internal teams and our external clients. We believe in supporting users to grow, learn and thrive in their roles.

As a member of the IT team, beyond your core responsibilities, you will have access to many different types of technology to learn and develop your skills which will benefit your personal development and enhance the team's capabilities. For instance, the organisation enjoys relationships with many different technology providers to deploy services globally, such as Salesforce, Google Workspace, Cisco Meraki, Microsoft, AWS, Zoom and more.

Specific Accountabilities:

- As IT Support Officer, you will be responsible for all first line and selected second-line user support for all hardware and software issues, reporting to Head of Impact and working within a small team to deliver professional and friendly support.
- You will have a robust level of IT knowledge, excellent team-working and relationship-building skills and an outstanding ability to work and communicate effectively with colleagues across international teams. You will share CAMFED's core values and ethos of transparency and accountability, and will bring high levels of energy, proactivity and commitment to the role.
- We are looking for a candidate who is enthusiastic about technology as we are, and who is adaptable at working across multiple platforms to maintain systems and support users across the organisation.

Person Specifications
Essential:

- Bachelor's degree in computer science, or Information Technology.
- Minimum of Three (3) years' demonstrated experience in IT.
- A proven track record in working in an IT support desk environment managing cases, problem solving and proactively supporting users.
- Working knowledge of Windows Server Active Directory.
- Good understanding of Windows 10/11 and supporting PCs and troubleshooting hardware issues.
- Understanding of network infrastructure, including Local Area Networking, Wi-Fi, Switching.
- Personable, approachable, and well organized.

Desired Skills and Experience

- Windows Server Administration.
- Microsoft Azure/Entra ID
- Cloud services such as Google Workspace, Zoom and Office 365.
- Familiarity in working with Salesforce.

Application Details
Do you feel you meet the criteria for this exciting job opportunities? If so, please submit applications to hr@tanzania.camfed.org on or before **12th April 2024**, including your most recent CV (indicating three traceable referees- (should be current/previous line manager/HR representative) with valid email addresses) and covering letter, **indicate Title of the job in the subject line of the email**. Due to the volume of responses, only successful candidates will be contacted.

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CAMFED Tanzania NGO Registration No. 1730

JOHANNESBURG

CHINA has a unique opportunity to drive forward an energy revolution in Africa, but it must first reverse nearly two decades of neglect of green power investments there, research findings released yesterday show.

Beijing has emerged as the continent's biggest bilateral trading partner since the start of the century and has financed large-scale infrastructure projects worth billions of dollars.

Three years ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the country would not build new coal-fired power projects abroad, pledging to deal with climate change by supporting the development of green and low-carbon energy.

Although Africa's green energy potential is one of the highest in the world, Chinese lending and investment has so far provided relatively little support for the

ABIDJAN

IVORY Coast, the world's largest exporter of cocoa was expected to increase the official farmgate cocoa price to 1,500 CFA francs (\$2.47) per kilo yesterday from the previous 1,000 CFA.

It comes as President Alassane Ouattara on Saturday validated a proposal for a price of between 1,100 and 1,200 CFA francs per kilo before reversing his decision and asking that the price be even higher.

Cocoa prices have more than tripled over the last year as disease and adverse weather pushed the global market to a third successive deficit, but the official farmgate price that growers can charge for their beans in Ivory Coast, a top

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AfDB badly needs a clear reform approach, not just on youth skills

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) group president Dr Akinwumi Adesina would be much happier with himself were he to succeed in knocking into shape ways to equip Africa's youth with quality education and the skills needed to meet the challenges of the future.

This issue has become a mantra to him even as poverty and unemployment impede the way youths of a certain age would wish to bring up a family, which in turn ruins the whole framework on which tradition is built.

Ordinarily the unemployment problem is most felt by young men as young women have usable household options which their same-age male counterparts do not have.

Marriage or the starting of families cannot be separated from other social classes, and even when a marriage is created, its stability or assurance relates again with these requirements being met.

In the absence of an assured and predictable income, youths are thrown into confusion as life expectations are clouded - if not blocked.

That makes people lead lives of just getting something to fill the stomach, for some irrespective of the manner in which it comes about.

The skills approach AfDB has been speaking about on numerous occasions on behalf of the bank's member states risks being taken for a mirage so long as youths endlessly fail to land employment not owing to low skills but scarcity of jobs.

With low birth rates and vibrant commerce, many developed countries have a problem finding enough workers, while millions of African degree holders roam the streets looking for something gainful to do but often without success.

The hapless youths are blamed for not starting something or excused for lacking 'sellable' skills whereas the wider problem is the pain of not

finding work in an area of training.

Looking at the politics of how all this is handled, it is apparent that most multilateral institutions are on the same wavelength as the AfDB - that youths need skills that uplift their job finding expectations.

The idea of starting what are euphemistically called businesses but are actually not business is largely unworkable, as it often requires capital that comes with savings or property that attracts loans - and that belongs to elders, not youths.

Governments and their development partner friends just keep falling short of telling youths that there is no way through, as that could entice the desperate young men and women into doing just about anything to bring about some form of change.

The brainstorming AfDB and allied institutions are generating or engaging in as they figure out how African youth can become skilled and fight to adapt to unemployment would be better used to examine how African economies can be transformed into 'generators' of jobs.

It isn't that there is nowhere to learn from; rather, it is that Africa will not progress in ejecting itself out of poverty without first confirming whether its key goals in the wake of decolonisation and the subsequent militancy for clan, tribe and state dominance in economic structures do not generate poverty.

Prevailing conditions may be hindering the circulation of capital, while academics and multilateral organisations focus on combating corruption as their theme of choice.

One may stand convinced that the correct use of taxes permits development while that may be limited to social services and lack capacity for optimal use.

Luckily, we have no shortage of the expertise and other resources we need to fare better on the scores that matter most to our development. Let us genuinely and fully feel compelled to put them to optimal use.

WHO, African ministers should do more on the malaria vaccine

TOP officials of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and ministers from a cluster of African countries confirmed to suffer most from the scourge of malaria have just concluded an important meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon, against the background of a surge in malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

The key item on the agenda was how to put anti-malaria progress back on track, with the meeting recommending robust commitment to malaria responses at all levels. However, views are sure to differ as to how far the meeting was pointed in its key suggestions.

The WHO director general, who attended the meeting in person, quoted emerging data as showing that the world has made significant progress against malaria in recent decades but that progress has stalled since 2017. It needs one to go back to a number of intervening factors to figure out why 2017 should be the year progress was halted, whereas Covid-19 spread around the world most conspicuously in 2020.

A better reason is that of a radical change of policy in the US after a conservative government took office early 2017 with executive orders to cut funds to some UN agencies.

The WHO chief executive appealed for greater domestic and international funding, science and data-driven malaria responses, urgent action on the health impacts of climate change, plus the harnessing of research and innovation within strong partnerships for coordinated responses.

This amounts to an appeal to more bilateral and multilateral support, but the climate of funding doesn't actually promise much in that direction. Massive breakdowns in law and order

sap most of the energy that donor countries are in a position to muster, with most other items on the agenda stalling.

This situation is a monumental challenge to African countries because those looking for - or awaiting - better policy initiatives from the West in terms of aid may have a long wait.

Strenuous efforts were initiated towards the end of 2021 as the Covid-19 pandemic started to wear down in the wake of a number of effective vaccines, administered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

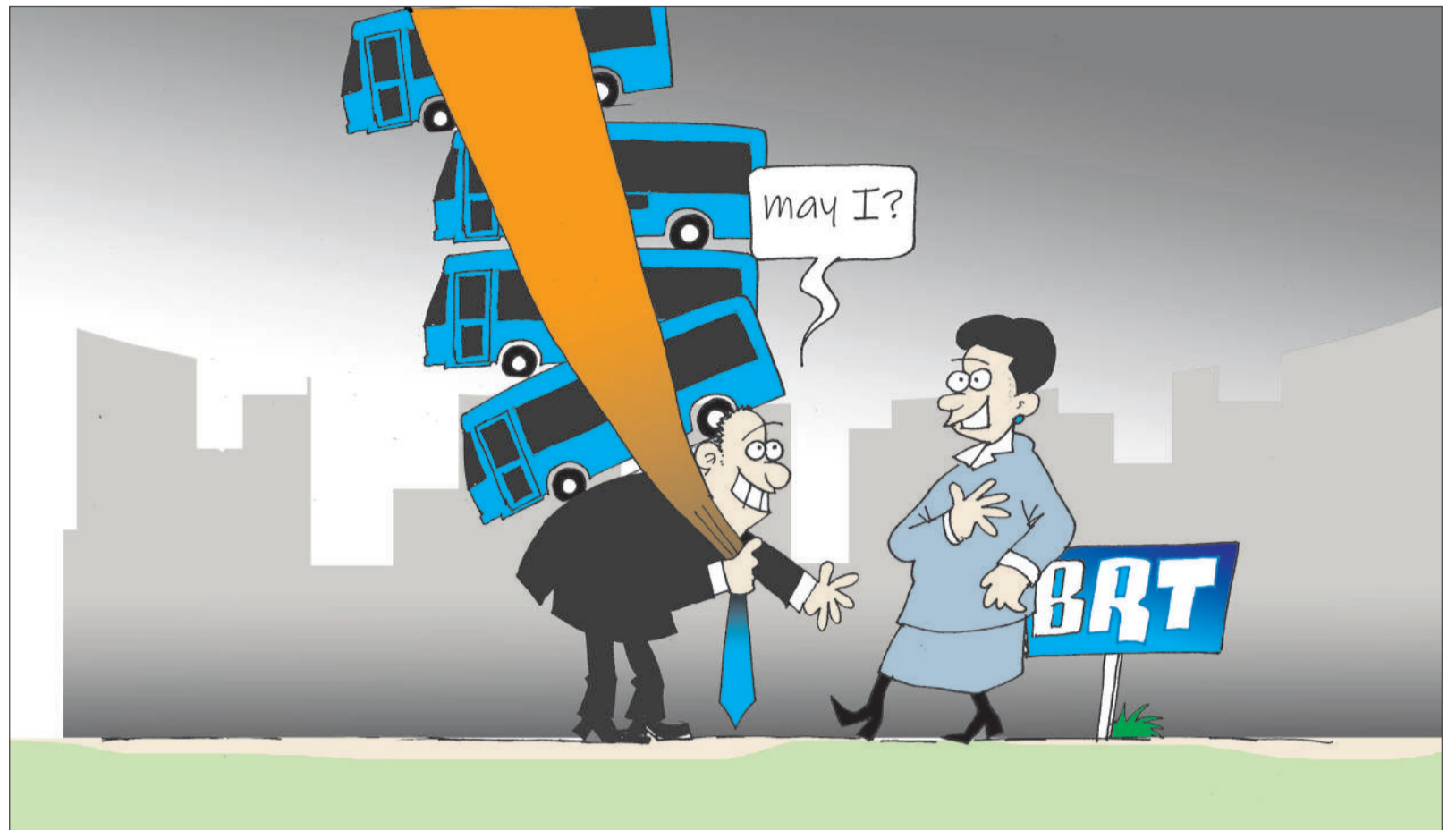
The initiatives were similar to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief programme in that debts were cancelled but the savings were directed mainly to primary education and rural roads. This time around the debts were left in place but governments were handed cash - to enable access to education and health services.

That is why WHO pleads on the need to address delays in malaria programme implementation in various countries to accelerated action to end deaths from the disease risk proving a dead letter.

The ministers promised to sustainably address the threat of malaria as a region but most such funds need to be disbursed by the developed countries and UN agencies - with bilateral agencies funding malaria and HIV drugs.

Eleven African countries account for 70 per cent of the malaria (disease and deaths) worldwide, while the continent as a whole accounts or 95 per cent of the malaria problem generally.

It can thus be said that the remaining burden is due to inefficient economic systems, which explains why other continents have largely abolished the disease.



Expansion in urbanisation facilitating deadly mix of rampant arms trafficking, violent crime in West Africa

By Oluwole Ojewale

URBAN growth in Africa means cities are becoming more globalised, and crime is increasing in complexity and scope. With in-migration comes the coexistence of various cultures, and the problems associated with managing these differences and the conflicts they provoke.

The proliferation of arms in West African cities, especially since the conflicts in Libya (2011) and Mali (2012) began, has exacerbated the situation. Cities such as Abidjan, Accra, Bamako, Dakar and Lagos are connected to international markets. This enables organised crime syndicates to collaborate with groups in and beyond Africa. Illicit weapons are an important trafficked commodity, and a means to protect and control populations and smuggling routes.

Research by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) shows that the arms trafficking economy in Mali's capital Bamako and Lagos, Nigeria, involves diverse actors driven by mutually reinforcing factors. These include transnational criminal groups, violent extremism and thriving gangs that require arms, and the pressures brought on by an influx of people into these spaces.

In Bamako, the increasing presence of transnational terrorist groups is a major driver of weapons trafficking. The dominant groups use their global reach to procure and smuggle arms into Mali, and operate cells in Bamako's outskirts.

In Lagos, kidnapers, armed robbers, petroleum pipeline vandals, ethnic militias, road transport workers, commercial motorcycle riders and criminal gangs in various neighbourhoods provide a ready market for arms dealers. The No Salary Boys, Awawa Boys and One Million Boys cult gangs terrorise residents with guns bought from local blacksmiths and other sources.

Military sources in Bamako say weapons trafficked along the Niger River are mostly small calibre. Many are either obtained through armoury pillaging when insurgents attack security establishments or are manufactured in illegal workshops in the city. Bamako's rugged geography helps conceal these factories, which are behind hills and in caves and ravines, ISS research shows.

Firearm importers and traffickers use different smuggling strategies and concealment methods in Lagos. They falsify import papers and



Police uncover an illegal gun factory in Nigeria. (Photo: Nigerian Police Force/Facebook)

merchandise declarations to bring firearms through the city's seaports. In one case, 1,100 rifles seized at Tin Can Island Port were concealed in a 20-foot container, which the importer had declared as containing toilets and hand basins. Another gun runner hid illegal firearms in a container declared as plasma TVs.

Slums and hijacked city buildings According to the ISS study, poor urban planning and maintenance enable arms trafficking. Bamako's inner city is dotted with slums, which have been identified as critical arteries for the concentration and circulation of small arms. Numerous slum settlements in Lagos also serve as strategic outlets for arms trafficking and havens for criminals.

Incomplete or abandoned buildings in Bamako and Lagos have become places where criminals plan operations and stockpile and distribute illicit firearms. In Bamako, Kalabancoro Police Station officers recovered illicit firearms from a syndicate occupying an unfinished building in Commune V. In Lagos, guns hidden in derelict houses and plots were retrieved by the Lagos State Police Command's task force. Improvised explosive devices, bombs, AK47 rifles, cartridges and daggers were also recovered in similar settings from suspected terrorists.

Linked to the challenges posed by poor urban planning is the use of commercial motorbikes as a means of transport in Lagos. The Association of Commercial

Motorcycle Operators has emerged as an urban militia using illicit weapons to foment violence. In the first half of 2021, 320 bike operators were arrested in connection with 218 crimes. Police seized 480 guns of various calibres from them.

Collusion with officials

The collusion of security personnel through armoury theft remains a major source of illicit weapons and ammunition in Lagos, partly due to poorly managed police and military stockpiles. In Bamako and its outskirts, insurgents regularly attack security force outposts, military installations, security convoys and checkpoints to loot weapons.

Easy access to small arms and light weapons in Bamako and Lagos prolong existing conflicts, such as terrorism in Bamako and ethnic violence in Lagos. It threatens the stability of polarised communities, putting civilians at risk of death or injury.

Data collected by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (Acled) Project and the ISS show 34 attacks in Bamako and its surrounds since 2011 - attributed to armed criminals (62%) and terror groups (21%). ISS reported 20 attacks linked to armed groups in Lagos in 2020, 18 in 2021 and 25 from January-June 2022.

According to Acled, attacks since 2011 were perpetrated by unknown criminals (43%), the National Union of Road Transport Workers (16%), cultists (7%), and communal militias (9%). Acled reported that 241 people

died in targeted attacks by various armed groups in Lagos since 2012.

Addressing arms trafficking and associated security challenges in cities requires state authorities, multilateral agencies, civil society and city residents to work together. They will need new ways of thinking about what effective responses look like in Bamako and Lagos.

Bamako's municipal authorities should register all gunsmiths to garner intelligence about their operations - specifically the scale, pattern and supply to designated government agencies such as police departments.

City governments in Bamako and Lagos must enact planning regulations to curb the proliferation of incomplete and abandoned buildings, and ensure that unfinished structures are properly policed to avoid conversion into criminal hideouts.

Mali and Nigeria's central governments must improve infrastructure and contraband-detecting technologies at ports of entry. Electronic surveillance systems will enable better immigration checks and security at unmanned borders. Lastly, civil society organisations should hold governments to account for their plans to stem illicit arms flows into the two cities.

Oluwole Ojewale, ENACT Central Africa Organised Crime Observatory Coordinator, Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale, Mbeya

Hope as Benjamin Mkapa Hospital performs penile transplantations

The introduction of penile implant surgery at Dodoma's Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) has provided a ray of hope for individuals suffering from erectile dysfunction (ED) caused by various medical conditions.

John Bryson had erectile dysfunction - a health condition that resulted in him being unable to sustain erection during sexual intercourse. Bryson whose love affair is in tatters, said the condition bothers him a lot to an extent that he decided to get drunk all the time.

BMH becomes the first medical institution in the country to successfully perform penile implant surgery for patients with erectile dysfunction, a milestone which signifies a breakthrough in the field of urology and offers renewed hope for individuals facing challenges in their sexual lives.

Specialists say that ED makes a man unable to keep an erection firm enough for satisfactory during sexual intercourse. Bryson has had the problem for years, despite efforts to treat it through natural herbs.

News that the Dodoma-based hospital could perform penile transplants at between 6m/- and 10m/- brought a glimmer of hope to Bryson and many men suffering male impotence.

The newly introduced medical solution restores comfort to fathers who have no children in Tanzania.

In June last year, experts from the Association of Urological Surgeons of Tanzania (TAUS) in collaboration with their France-based medical specialists introduced the technology at the BMH.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the significant milestone, Dr Remigius Rugakingira, a Specialist in Urology and Men's Health at BMH said the service was introduced following increased ED health challenges among men whereas traditional healers also attempted to cure patients with no success.

"We found out that there are men whose penises are weak, making them unable to satisfy their partners during sexual intercourse," narrated Dr Rugakingira.

Bryson's life

Bryson, a resident of Nzovwe in Mbeya Region, finds his life difficult as he lives without a partner and he is not expecting to have a baby. He realised the problem at the age of 20, when he completed his Ordinary Level secondary



school education.

"At first, I thought that I was still young to have my penis erected because my parents and brothers insisted that I should concentrate on education and that having a sexual partner should come later after achieving my educational goals," Bryson stated.

He added: "I have resolved to stay far from my relatives; I also avoid marrying or having a sexual partner as I am worried that my weakness would be exposed. At night, I spend most of my time drinking alcohol at bars, returning home at midnight."

Bryson said the day he heard of the services offered at BMH he was happy because he has unsuccessfully tried to

cure the problem with traditional herbs.

Bryson appeals for help from Good Samaritans to help him pay medical expenses as he has not a permanent job. He works a porter at the bus stand earning between 2,000/- and 2,500/-per day.

The cost of penile transplant in India is between \$6,000 to \$10,000 while a similar service in England or the United States reaches between \$15,000 and \$25,000.

TAUS interventions

Dr Rugakingira said that last year during TAUS second general meeting in Dodoma Region, they agreed to find a solution for men with erectile dysfunction challenges.

"We saw the importance of introducing this medical ser-

vice, aiming to treat male with impotence challenges. Our idea came after realising that most people with the problem seek treatment abroad and at a higher cost," he explained, noting such services are offered in few African countries including Tanzania.

Tanzania is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to offer penile transplant.

He added: "After BMH started to offer the service, the response has been positive with more than 40 people seeking treatment. Previously, people were incurring huge treatment cost abroad, but they can now get it a home and at reasonable prices."

Dr Rugakingira said the government should look at possibilities to facilitate manufacturing of the required devices locally, a move which would ultimately treatment cost.

TAUS leader, Dr Lyuba Nyamsogoro said decisions to introduce the service was reached after realising that many men were struggling with ED challenges. She said the problem is not only in Tanzania, but in other African countries.

"One of our objectives is to build the capacity of Tanzanian experts; we are doing this by linking them with experts from abroad whereas they conduct the surgeries together," said Dr Nyamsogoro, adding they also aim to bring world technology to Tanzania.

Jeremiah Mbwambo is the BMH spokesperson he said the hospital is the first in the country to perform such kind of surgeries for men.

Mbwambo said the successful surgery demonstrates the potential of Tanzania's healthcare professionals to provide advanced medical interventions previously unavailable in the country.

The achievement underscores the importance of collaboration between local and international experts in bringing in-

The silent threat to health and performance in broiler growing

By A Special Correspondent

WHILE factors like temperature and feed management take the spotlight, one silent adversary often goes unnoticed: excessive water or moisture. The impact of high moisture levels in broiler houses relates directly to broiler health and productivity, which is a concern that warrants serious attention.

When air moisture or relative humidity levels go uncontrolled, manure does not dry efficiently and will contribute to caked litter in the house. This increases ammonia concentrations in the environment that have negative effects on broiler health, welfare and performance. Needless to say, exposure to high ammonia levels over a prolonged period can also impact human health.

Respiratory distress

High moisture levels create an environment conducive to the growth of harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, and moulds. These microorganisms can release spores and toxins into the air, leading to respiratory problems among broilers. Irritated airways, laboured breathing, and reduced lung function can result in decreased growth rates and overall performance.

Heat stress

High relative humidity levels reduce the efficiency of evaporative cooling mechanisms in birds, making it harder for them to regulate body temperature. This increases the risk of heat stress, which is a common issue in broiler houses. Heat-stressed birds exhibit reduced feed intake, decreased weight gain, and even mortality in severe cases.

Health issues

Damp litter and excessive moisture can lead to footpad dermatitis and breast blisters. Birds that are constantly in contact with wet surfaces can develop painful lesions on their footpads and breasts, which may become infected. This condition not only causes discomfort but also results in reduced mobility and increased susceptibility to infections.

Decreased feed conversion

Birds under stress from excessive moisture tend to divert energy from growth to coping mechanisms, leading to decreased feed conversion rates. This means that more feed is needed to produce the same amount of weight gain, directly impacting production costs.

Poultry house

These issues, however, do not crop up overnight. Problems related to moisture levels require time to show their symptoms, often over a few days or weeks. This means constant monitoring of house conditions is imperative - even when the situation seems under control - to ensure that moisture issues can be remedied before they become difficult to reverse.

To control moisture levels, the house needs to be properly ventilated at all times. A target relative humidity level of 40 percent to 60 percent is ideal to keep manure and litter dry. But this is not as simple as keeping the fans running 24/7: farm managers must make proper ventilation calculations based on house size, bird age, population and external climate. Then it's about monitoring and tweaking ventilation levels, along with ensuring the air inlets and fans are functioning optimally.

A clever addition, especially in regions with hot and dry

summers, is an evaporative cooling system. Water is added to the surface of polypropylene pads (PP pads). When air flows through the moist pads, evaporation ensures that heat is removed from the air, thus cooling it down. At the same time, humidity is added to the environment so the relative humidity in the house increases. In combination with the ventilation system, poultry managers can thus guarantee a healthy climate in their poultry house any time of the year.

Solutions

Big Dutchman offers a host of equipment and systems to ensure broiler houses are well regulated at all times. From powerful yet energy-efficient exhaust air fans such as the AirMaster series to versatile fresh air side inlets that provide uniform air circulation throughout the entire house, and to the RainMaker pad cooling system: With the wide range of products available from Big Dutchman, the German poultry equipment supplier has an answer for any climate situation worldwide.

Moreover, the entire ventilation system can be

automated using advanced sensors and technology such as the ViperTouch climate computer.

Prevent leaks in the drinker lines

Leaking water lines or malfunctioning drinking systems can contribute to excessive moisture. Farm managers should regularly inspect and maintain water systems to prevent leaks that could lead to wet surfaces in the house, which can cause litter caking and excessive build-up of ammonia. A well-implemented drinking system must be flexible and robust enough to cater to the needs of the growing broilers.

With its range of drinking systems, Big Dutchman is able to equip houses with pressure-stable, hygienic and adequate water for broilers. Products such as water connection units and nipple drinkers are robust and durable, featuring leak and spillage protection. Further enhancements can be made using an electronic water alarm that can monitor water levels and temperatures in drinker lines, alerting farms managers of any issues in real time.

Further enhancements can be made using an electronic water alarm that can monitor water levels and temperatures in drinker lines, alerting farms managers of any issues in real time.

Ensure the house is airtight

The proper functioning of the ventilation system is only as good as how well the house is sealed. The air flowing into the house should not be entering through cracks or loose areas of walls or the roof, as this will disrupt the air circulation and eventually cause humidity to rise. A house structure that is badly sealed will also cause the exhaust air fans to work harder, hence increasing power consumption and overall costs.

Controlling moisture is a delicate balance between ventilation, water management and building the right structure, which is one of the integral ways to grow a healthy and high-performing flock. Big Dutchman's expertise and experience in complete broiler production solutions help to ensure an environment that fosters optimal conditions for farmers and their



Protests in Cuba as electricity and food shortages persist

By Glenda Boza Ibarra

THE appearance of a truck carrying sacks of rice and another with powdered milk after the protest that took place in Santiago de Cuba on March 17, 2024, was no coincidence. The authorities in the eastern city attempted to appease the citizens with some food.

According to Beatriz Jhonson, the first secretary of the Communist Party in Santiago de Cuba, on a social media post, some of the pending rationed food items were sold to the population.

"At this moment, the rations are in a partial distribution process (the first three pounds of rice and the four pounds of sugar), and there is a great mobilization of leaders to respond, because it is now that we have these resources available," said the official.

In Matanzas and Granma, people also demanded food among their complaints. The food situation has worsened in the last three years due to the progressive increase in prices, the decrease in national production, the shortage of foreign currency for imports, and instability with basic rationed products.

But the protests had a significant political component, although one of its immediate causes was related to the need for food. The roots of the protests are intertwined with more complex political, economic, and social issues.

An on-going food crisis

Food scarcity is not a new phenomenon in Cuba, but the intensity and frequency of shortages have reached a critical point in recent months.

The government's inability to meet expectations to provide basic needs – such as snacks for children or milk for newborns – becomes a powerful catalyst that pushed many people to protest.

The image of families desperately searching for basic products or of the elderly rummaging through trash cans to find food is a reminder of food insecurity in the country.

The despair of not being able to guarantee basic food for children is a heartbreaking reality that reflects the severity of the crisis and explains why women have been the protagonists of the most recent protests in the eastern part of the country. Power outages exacerbate the situation, causing the spoilage of whatever little is acquired.

The current situation is the result of a complex mix of internal and external factors. However, it is the failed internal policies and poor economic management that have played a crucial role in recent years.

Dependence on food imports, combined with insufficient domestic production, has created a breeding ground for the current crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation by hitting the tourism sector – one of the main sources of income – which, four years later, has not been able to recover.

The situation worsens when considering unfulfilled government promises and excuses that often look outside the country.

Faced with the current scenario, the Cuban government has failed to fully acknowledge its inability to guarantee the people's food. In fact, it was forced to seek help from the UN to ensure powdered milk for children under 2 years old.

The government cannot solve hunger

During a meeting in March 2024 with the Ministry of Finance and Prices, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel acknowledged that food and other product prices will not decrease and that this is one of the reasons why the population does not trust the authorities.

"Prices will remain high because we have a structural problem of supply and demand. We cannot allow abusive and speculative prices as state and non-state entities are doing," said Díaz-Canel.

The increase in prices in Cuba is not new. According to data from the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI), prices increased by 9.45% between 2022 and 2023, with a Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 41.77% in 2023 compared to 33.32% in 2022. Products



with the highest monthly variation were red beans, black beans, and malanga. Powdered milk and garlic were the most expensive basic foods.

Although some economists argue that the ONEI's statistics fall short of reality, nonetheless it becomes an official confirmation of the critical situation experienced by Cubans.

"The increase in food prices continues to lead, by a wide margin, the general increase in consumer prices. Without an increase in food supply, it is difficult to assume that inflation in Cuba would substantially decrease," explained economist Pedro Monreal in an analysis of official statistics for February 2024.

With three common products – though not always – on the Cuban table (chicken, rice, and bread), the severity of the situation can be exemplified.

Chicken is the main animal protein consumed in Cuba, mainly in thigh form. Cuba imports a good part of it from the United States, and according to available data, in January 2024, 13.3% more tons were purchased than in December 2023, thanks to a price reduction.

Although the data does not specify whether the purchases were made by the state or the private sector, it is known that chicken is one of the main products imported by the Cuban government from the US.

"I don't know where that goes because the chicken hasn't reached the ration store for a long time; much less for special diets for medical reasons," commented a breast cancer patient in Camagüey to El Toque.

Packages of 10 pounds of chicken range from 4,000 to 5,000 pesos, depending on the location and online store, while boxes of 40 pounds cost at least 12,000 pesos. (Most Cubans earn less than 5,000 pesos a month.)

Regarding bread – although since March 12, the distribution of a ship with 8,300 tons of wheat to guarantee production in the provinces from Ciego de Ávila to Guantánamo began – the situation is still difficult in the rest of the country. Bread rolls are distributed according to the planning of each territory, which can range from a few days a week to only for children up to 14 years old and pregnant women.

Alberto Lopez, Minister of the Food Industry, told the press that the arrival of the ship with flour "allowed to shorten the time needed to stabilize bread production, and it will not be necessary to wait until the end of March, as previously announced."

Sources consulted in Ciego de Ávila, Las Tunas, and Camagüey assured El Toque that the situation with food has changed, but it is still difficult to guarantee a bread roll for breakfast and another for the snack for children or the elderly. "Someone in the family has to stop eating for someone else to eat," said a retired man from Las Tunas.

As for rice, by 2030, Cuba aimed to be self-sufficient thanks to the development of a grain production program that began in 2012. However, out of the 600,000 tons of rice needed annually for the country two-thirds are now imported, and that when there are funds to do so.

According to statements by Oslando Linares Morell, director of the Rice Technological Division of the Agricultural Business Group, the main problems with rice campaigns are due to the general lack of inputs and spare parts for rice combines.

The situation is so tense with rice that the per capita pounds that should be sold through the ration book often arrive incomplete or delayed.

The importation of almost all basic products and the lack of liquidity of the Cuban government are the main causes of irregularity in the availability.

"We must seek ways to generate foreign currency," reiterated Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in a governmental meeting. "Exports and other things we must do; we have to approach them with careful thought because we need to put food on people's tables."

However, as on other occasions, it wasn't clear from the press report what those "ways of revenue" will be that will allow changing the situation of the food supply, which has been sold in small quantities during the last few months.

Ensuring the completion and timely distribution of the basic rations is one of the main concerns of Cubans, given that these products constitute the only form of sustenance for many families considering the high prices on the illicit market and limited availability of food.

"Only those who have relatives abroad and can buy (food) for them in online stores can eat a little better," reflects a doctor from Ciego de Ávila. "Every day we see more elderly people searching through garbage hoping to find something to eat."

There will be more protests because there will be

more hunger

Less than 24 hours after the protests on May 17th, they were the talk of the town among Cubans and the foreign press. While all Cuba discussed the events, "Frequency 12, a TV program in Granma, discussed musical events, further studies, lost items, and sent messages for the 205th anniversary of Carlos Manuel de Céspedes' birth.

"We want to resemble you, your interests, and make your lives easier in terms of information," repeated the program's host, while discussing any topic except what the people of Granma surely wanted to know about: the protests and solutions.

Only in Santiago de Cuba did local media mention the protests in the press – though they didn't call them by their name. In the other provinces where there were demonstrations, no official explained how, specifically, they would respond to the population's demands for food.

Government propaganda messages have focused on accusing Cubans abroad and the US Government as instigators, highlighting that the reality of social media is entirely different from real life, or referring to the distribution of the basic food rations in some territories.

"Creative resistance" is the call made to a people who still don't know how they will put food on the table.

No short-term solution to hunger

Food insecurity in Cuba is so severe that the independent Food Monitoring Program recently warned about the illegal hunting and sale of cats for human consumption.

"Until a few months ago, cat meat, like many other products acquired through dubious means, was sold covertly for a very specific market. However, explicit ads proposing cat meat have been circulating on Guantánamo's sales networks for several days," revealed the program.

The situation with food is not expected to improve in the short term. The Food Monitoring Program reports reflect a sustained increase in the price of products such as milk, beans, rice, oil, eggs, and pork in 2023.

Each of the basic food items shows instability in retail stores and, therefore, a progressive increase in prices.

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 |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa's SMEs grapple with costs of tech, skills dearth

JOHANNESBURG

ALTHOUGH small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Africa are increasingly investing in digital technologies, their innovation journey is hindered by the high cost of technology upgrades, the lack of digital skills, and regulatory and compliance issues.

This is the key findings of a research report, titled "Levelling the SME playing field", jointly commissioned by Vodacom Group, Vodafone Group and Safaricom.

It is the sixth research paper under the Africa connected initiative, which aims to drive sustainable development by closing the digital divide in Africa's key economic sectors through strategic partnerships.

The research is based on conversations with 400 SMEs across eight African countries – South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lesotho – ranging in size from one to 200 employees.

The survey is run in partnership with World Wide Worx, a local research firm that focuses on trends in information technology and telecommunication.

According to the findings, digitalisation has been a game-changer for African SMEs, with the respond-

ents highlighting the positive effect of technology on enhancing growth, efficiency, competitiveness and customer service.

Nearly 70 percent of surveyed SMEs invested in technology in the past 12 months to help boost growth and resilience – an indication that SMEs are embracing the positive impact of technology, reveals the survey.

While there are numerous opportunities that unlock the full potential of digitalisation for these businesses, addressing barriers – such as infrastructure, connectivity, the high cost of implementing technology, lack of adequate tech skills and developing best practice frameworks for better collaboration – remains key to business growth.

"SMEs play a pivotal role in both the global and African economy, contributing to job creation, innovation, economic growth and regional development," says Shameel Joosub, Vodacom Group CEO.

"In fact, the World Bank reports that SMEs are responsible for more than 80 percent of Africa's employment and 50 percent of the GDP.

"But SMEs in Africa face a number of distinct challenges, which include access to finance and markets, regulatory barriers, inadequate technology adoption and limited management capabilities.



Survey respondents cited the high cost of technology upgrades and renewals as key hindrances.

To address these stumbling blocks, strides must be made to promote financial inclusion, simplify regulation, enhance technological infrastructure and encourage innovation. The technology pieces of this puzzle – as our research shows – are incredibly important."

When it comes to technology use and adoption, the research shows SMEs work relentlessly to secure finance to address the high costs of technology and the associated implementation. But the initial start-up costs are only the beginning of what will be required throughout their digital journey.

In the study, 58 percent of respondents cited the high cost of technology upgrades and renewals as key hindrances (39 percent in SA), with 32 percent citing difficulty in integrating new technologies with existing systems and regulatory confinements.

Limited internet connectivity and access affects 30 percent of respondents (17 percent in SA), while 14 percent grapple with lack of support and training for employees to use technology (39 percent in SA).

African SMEs are also hamstrung by unreliable electricity supply, notes Joosub.

SMEs that have integrated technology into their business are increasingly making use of e-commerce platforms, social media and digital payment solutions, such as e-wallets and micro-financing services. Innovative use of data analytics tools can further help SMEs to expand their reach, access valuable data insights and streamline operations, according to the report.

Unfortunately, the workforce is often resistant to digitisation, especially those working for SMEs with strong human relationships.

The lack of digital skills and knowledge, support and training for employees and executives around the values and use of specific tools and technologies compound this issue, states the survey. Added to this, SMEs can no longer ignore the threat of cyber security concerns, as criminal attacks or breaches do not discriminate against business size, it points out.

To reap the many benefits that technology brings, laying the right foundations is key.

"This starts with investing in training for em-

ployees, either through online resources, hiring IT consultants, or partnering with local technology firms to equip teams with the skills and knowledge needed to manage the challenges of the digital landscape."

Regulatory and compliance issues can be a significant hurdle, so it's vital that regulators develop effective policies rooted in a deep understanding of the myriad constraints SMEs face and implement targeted programmes that empower these small ventures to succeed.

"While these businesses might be 'small', their impact is significant, which is why it is essential that regulatory bodies are willing to engage in discussions with SMEs regarding compliance requirements.

"Regulators should also assist smaller firms in navigating different regulatory frameworks. This is crucial when it comes to data and its utilisation. For SMEs, much like any other business regardless of size or industry, the ability to access the right data can provide a critical competitive-edge and enable them to better fulfil customer needs," notes the survey.

Africa needs robust legal framework to fight cybercrime

By Alford Nyasha, Harare

AS Africa, it is essential to reflect on the future implications of the evolving cyber threat landscape. Our continent is increasingly facing cyber threats due to rapid technological advancements.

Over the past two decades, technological advancements have revolutionised various aspects of our lives. While these advancements have brought about social and economic progress worldwide, they have also led to an alarming increase in cyber-attacks and technology-facilitated crimes. Hardly a day goes by without news of a cyber-attack or the use of technology in criminal activities.

Although the African Union has made significant efforts to combat cyber-

crimes through initiatives such as the African Union's Convention on Cyber Security and Data Protection laws, the continent still faces notable challenges.

Organisations like INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) have demonstrated that Africa, like any other continent, is vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

However, resource constraints, expertise gaps, lack of cooperation among member countries, and an inadequate legal framework to counter cybercriminal activities pose significant challenges.

Africa has witnessed a significant development in mobile money services, which, from a cybercrime

investigations perspective, provides criminals with increased opportunities to target victims and engage in various forms of criminal activities.

Tech-related scams and their implications for law enforcement, regulators, and the general population in Africa are also a cause for concern.

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation, leading many organisations in Africa to adopt remote working practices. However, this shift has resulted in an elevated security risk.

The debate surrounding the cybersecurity risks posed by remote workers compared to in-office counterparts continues.

Failure to adhere to policies and procedures exposes institutions to a wide

range of cyber-attacks, including those targeting third-party services.

Statista reports that 72 percent of organisations express significant concern over the online security risks faced by their remote employees. Unfortunately, many organisations are reluctant to invest in cybersecurity, leaving their systems vulnerable.

Cybersecurity Challenges in the Era of Emerging Technologies

The growth of the Internet of Things (IoT) market, coupled with advancements in technologies such as 5G and cloud computing, presents Africa with significant cybersecurity challenges. The collection, transmission, and storage of vast amounts of data across interconnected devices and cloud platforms

raise concerns about data security and privacy.

Cybersecurity experts predict an increase in Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) models and the emergence of new cyber-attack techniques, botnets, rootkits, hacker-for-hire services, and supply chain attacks which can all be facilitated through cyber-crime-as-a-service (CCaaS). Additionally, the surge in cryptocurrency usage is expected to impact Africa, with rising crypto-related crimes, including pyramid and Ponzi schemes, darknet market activities, stolen crypto through hacks, and illicit drug transactions.

The advent of technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and quantum computing has led to a rise in cyber-generated crimes.

While AI has its advantages in reducing human workload, it also poses challenges for cybersecurity investigators, such as facilitating artificial intelligence crimes (AIC). AI tools like deep fake enable criminals to manipulate multimedia content, facilitating fraudulent and unlawful activities.

The readiness of Africa to embrace these transformative technologies while mitigating their disadvantages remains a critical question. Protecting personal data and individual awareness.

As internet usage continues to soar, an increasing amount of personal information and data is available online. This data can be willingly shared or compromised through cybercrime attacks and data breaches. The risks faced by individuals, companies, organisations, and governments have never been greater. Therefore, cybersecurity awareness becomes paramount, and organisations must adopt cybersecurity frameworks and standards to protect internet users within their countries and across the continent.

The need for international cooperation and a cybercrime convention. While various handbooks and studies have been published, and international/regional organisations have contributed to the prevention and combating of cybercrime, the rate at which critical infrastructure, corporations, and individuals are being exposed raises concerns about the awareness of

this cyber pandemic. The adoption of a comprehensive international convention to combat cybercrime, such as the Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, is crucial.

Such a convention would enhance international law enforcement cooperation, bridge capability gaps, and enable global responses to cybercrime.

While we appreciate the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the first global resolution on artificial intelligence that encourages countries to safeguard human rights, protect personal data, and monitor AI for risks in March 2024 cybersecurity practitioners are looking beyond 2024 for more resolutions and conventions that will help countries fight the cybercrime scourge.

As Africa experiences rapid internet penetration and increasing criminal opportunities, cybersecurity challenges become a shared concern for all member countries. It is imperative to address resource constraints, expertise gaps, and the need for a robust legal framework. By prioritising cybersecurity awareness, adopting cybersecurity frameworks, and facilitating international cooperation, Africa can strengthen its defences against cybercrimes and protect its citizens, institutions, and nations in the digital age.



The readiness of Africa to embrace these transformative technologies while mitigating their disadvantages remains a critical question. Protecting personal data and individual awareness



Udzungwa Mountain yields six new species of millipedes

By Ryan Truscott

SCIENTISTS have recently described six new species of millipedes, including one from an entirely new genus, in Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains. This brings the number of new species found in the Udzungwa Mountains since 2014 to 81 – further confirming the rich biodiversity of these isolated mountain blocks. The newly-described millipedes are helping researchers to assess ecosystem recovery.

One of the newly-described millipedes, *Udzungwa-wastreptus marianae*, grows to around 3 centimeters in length, and lives in forests above 1,000 meters. Henrik Enghoff, a professor of zoological systematics and zoogeography at the Natural History Museum of Denmark, who has described 69 of the 81 new species found in these mountains, says the genus was given the name *Udzungwa-wastreptus* to celebrate the Udzungwa's astonishing biological richness.

U. marianae and other millipedes trundle along the forest floor like miniature locomotives, feeding on dead plant matter and organic debris. "Some of the millipedes had unique features, such as colorful legs or shiny exoskeletons," says Alain Ngute, a tropical forest ecologist who was part of the team working in the Udzungwa Mountains that collected the millipedes.

Ngute explains that millipedes help to recycle nutrients and maintain soil fertility, and contribute to soil aeration and water retention – all essential for plant growth and forest regeneration.

In areas of degraded forest that have been taken over by thick layers of woody vines known as lianas, the millipedes can indicate that the ecosystem is actually recovering.

"Millipedes can help restore these areas by breaking down the detritus and facilitating the growth of [tree] seedlings and saplings," says Ngute.

Millipedes weren't Ngute's first choice of research subject. He grew up in the western highlands of Cameroon, an experience that he says helped him to forge a strong connection with tropical forests. He was initially interested in researching the impact of forest degradation on bird communities in his home region.

It was only later, while conducting research for a PhD in the Udzungwa that Ngute's focus shifted from birds to millipedes.

"I was initially reluctant to work with these creatures, as I had some childhood taboos and fears about them," says Ngute. "However, as I learned more about their ecology and roles in the forest, I gradually became fascinated and intrigued by them." When Ngute's PhD supervisor, conservation scientist An-



Millipedes help to recycle nutrients, maintain soil fertility, and contribute to soil aeration and water retention. Their presence can be an indication of a healthy ecosystem.

was, Marshall and international colleagues working under the banner of the Forest Restoration and Climate Experiment (FoRCE) have developed a more nuanced view of lianas.

Invertebrates, including millipedes, are helping them to see this bigger picture.

Communities of millipedes, and those of other invertebrates like termites and ants, appear to be just as rich in liana thickets as they are in primary, undisturbed rainforest. This could indicate that liana thickets are in fact dynamic places poised to regenerate into forest with the right environmental or management triggers, says Marshall.

"These places that appear on the surface to be very damaged and look very messy and tangled and don't look like what you think of as forest – are actually teeming with all sorts of things that are helping it tick over," he says.

Marshall and his team think that lianas can act as "bandages", sheltering tree seedlings in damaged areas from external threats.

"If you remove them entirely, you're removing that protective layer and we see in our [study sites] that areas that are opened up [are] impacted by things like elephants, or drought or even people coming in and cutting the trees," he says. "It's not quite as simple as: take the lianas away and the trees will grow back."

While the question of whether lianas hinder or help tropical forest recovery remains unresolved, the battle to develop the "bandage hypothesis" has been hard won. The Tanzanian vegetation survey plots have never been easy places in which to work.

"When we survey them, we have to crawl underneath the vines, and they're hot, humid, sweaty areas covered in thorns, and lots of bugs – so we get bitten a lot, and scratched a lot," says Marshall.

Thankfully though, millipedes are easier to study than the termites or ants that live in large colonies and are "fiddly" to survey. Some ants, like those from the genus *Dorylus* and known by their Swahili name *siafu*, will inflict painful bites on humans that get in their way.

Finding new millipede species is a fun part of the ecological survey work, says Marshall, and Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains appear to be particularly well-endowed. This can't be said of the other places where the FoRCE teams work.

"Across the world, different invertebrate groups tend to dominate, so there is not really any consensus on the best groups to focus on," he explains. In the tropical forests in the north of Australia's state of Queensland, where Marshall has students studying the "bandage hypothesis", only "a handful" of millipedes is ever collected compared to thousands of other forest-floor detritivores, beetles and flies.

"We rarely see millipedes at all," he says

As the research progresses in Tanzania, the scientists expect to find new millipedes, and, intriguingly, new species of fungi too. Although it remains a mystery as to why it happens, tiny species of fungi – many less than half a millimeter long – grow on millipedes and other soil arthropods, says Enghoff, the Danish zoologist in Copenhagen studying the samples sent to him from the Udzungwa.

The fungi often grow on those parts of the male and female millipedes that will come into contact during courtship or copulation. That way, the fungi ensure their own fertilization is successful.

One species of fungi, found growing on the sides of *U. marianae*, the new millipede genus and species described by Enghoff and colleagues, was actually described back in 2016, well before its millipede host was.

The zoologist is currently working on another paper – the 12th in a series known as "Mountain of Millipedes" – that will describe yet another seven new species from the Udzungwa.

"With the material I have, I have more than enough to last for the rest of my life," says Enghoff, who has worked in his field for more than 50 years.

"I'm not going to sit idle."

drew Marshall, first started working in Tanzania in the late 1990s, he was shown large areas of damaged forest in another part of the Eastern Arc.

"There were just vines growing over the whole thing," Marshall recalls. "I hadn't got a clue what was going on, but was told by people there that they were the disturbed parts of the forest where trees had been cut down and the vines had just taken over."

Lianas, rooted in the ground, resemble large snakes as they coil up tree trunks in rainforests. Beyond that aesthetic appeal, however, they are also parasites that can damage or kill trees. In mid-2007, Marshall set up small vegetation study plots within the Magombera Forest to analyze the recovery rates of areas disturbed by commercial logging decades earlier.

His initial findings suggested that lianas, such as the ubiquitous species known to science as *Ucarea africana*, and to the local Hehe community as *mtanasimba*, or "lion's grasp", due to its hooked spines, smothered recovering forest patches. This undermined the forest's ability to regenerate. Half of the plots in the study were managed by cutting lianas with secateurs, and saw a marked improvement in tree growth over five years.

But after years of further research in the Udzung-

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 91 -

deposit of wind-blown sediment 15. small loose particles of stone
 16. an organic compound derived from ammonia
 17. perceive with the eyes
 19. Tortoise in Kiswahili
 20. gourd in Kiswahili
 21. greater

DOWN:
 1. a teacher, especially a strict or pedantic one
 2. Petroleum
 3. a female slave in a harem
 4. a small, soft blue-green spineless cactus, native to Mexico and the southern US
 5. endure something painful
 6. used to lock and unlock
 7. an instrument for writing
 10. Republic of South Africa
 12. elevate
 14. a Person who smokes tobacco
 18. the twelfth month of the civil and sixth of the religious year for Jews

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.

MOSCOW DROSERA MOSCATO
 COTE DAMASCUS SPOT
 AGO EATER SALIVA
 DAMAGED GOAD COWER
 AGO : OAR REV : PO CODES

Yesterday's solution

CANADA P C R A P E O
 O M E N G A G A A I D E S A L L
 D E N Y R P L A T O S E A L L
 E N E M E N A C E N O I S E S D
 T R E E Y A M T E E T H E
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RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

BUSINESS

Dubai-based ICRA boosts Tanzania ties with MoU

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dubai-based International Credit Rating Agency (ICRA) has made strategic moves to solidify its footprint in Tanzania, showcasing its commitment to growth and collaboration by signing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with four prominent financial institutions in the country.

ICRA's official statement, unveiled in Dar es Salaam yesterday, revealed the esteemed partners with whom they have forged alliances for growth and progress in Tanzania.

These include Credit Info Tanzania, Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA), Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI), and Tanzania Institute of Bankers (TIOB).

On the other hand, the firm highlighted its significant achievements in Africa, emphasizing its commitment to fostering economic growth and stability in the region.

"As a leading credit rating agency in Tanzania and the East African region, ICRA is proud to announce its accreditation as the first credit rating agency approved by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT)," the statement reads in part.

This prestigious recognition establishes ICRA as the only central bank-approved credit rating agency in the region.

The statement further reveals that ICRA has been designated as an External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI), solidifying its esteemed status in the industry.

The agency is steadfast in its dedication to upholding excellence as it extends its

reach and makes substantial contributions to Africa's financial sector.

Furthermore, ICRA underscored the pivotal importance of credit rating as a transformative tool that can empower and propel banks, corporations, and microfinance institutions towards unprecedented levels of success and growth.

It was noted that by conducting a thorough assessment of the borrowing company's creditworthiness and carefully evaluating associated risks, funders and investors are equipped to make well-informed decisions.

The said process not only assures lenders of the safety of their investment and timely repayment with interest but also fosters transparency and accountability in financial transactions.

For borrowers with a favorable credit rating, they are considered low-risk clients, resulting in a streamlined and efficient loan application process.

Moreover, a higher credit rating can result in a lower interest rate on the loan, resulting in substantial savings throughout the loan term.

Credit ratings are essential in encouraging businesses and individuals to maintain a positive credit history and achieve their financial goals.

The agency has been delivering outstanding credit rating services to banks, financial institutions, and corporations.

With increasing interest from international investors of ICRA from the Netherlands, Mauritius, South Africa, Switzerland, and France, ICRA emphasizes diverse investment and funding opportunities.



Winnie Terry (C) of TAMFI signs an MoU with ICRA Director, Hassan Mansur (R) and Global General Manager, Zeeshan Khan in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer



Tanzania's 5G evolution: Adopting the mode for a brighter tomorrow

By Margreth Somme

TANZANIA, known for its diverse landscapes and vibrant culture, is now on the brink of a significant technological transformation, the advent of 5G technology.

As the world races towards digitalization, the telecommunications sector in the country is poised for a revolution that promises faster connectivity, lower latency, and a myriad of opportunities for both consumers and businesses alike.

This article delves into the implications of the 5G revolution on Tanzania's telecommunications landscape and explores the investment frontiers it presents.

Understanding 5G technology

5G, the fifth generation of mobile networks, represents a quantum leap in wireless communication technology. It offers exponentially faster data speeds, ultra-low latency, and increased capacity compared to its predecessors.

With 5G, users can expect speeds of up to 100 times faster than 4G, enabling seamless streaming of high-definition content, real-time gaming, and immersive virtual reality experiences.

In Tanzania, major telecommunications companies like Vodacom Tanzania, Airtel Tanzania, and Tigo Tanzania have historically provided 4G LTE services and may be potential candidates for de-

ploying 5G networks as the technology becomes more widely available and adopted globally.

Implications for Tanzania

In Tanzania, the adoption of 5G technology holds tremendous potential for driving economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. Improved connectivity will empower businesses to innovate and compete on a global scale.

From e-commerce and digital banking to telemedicine and smart agriculture, 5G will unlock new possibilities across various sectors, catalysing digital transformation and driving socio-economic development.

Moreover, 5G has the potential to bridge the digital divide by extending high-speed internet access to remote areas, thus empowering underserved communities and fostering inclusivity.

Education, healthcare, and government services can be delivered more efficiently through digital platforms, ensuring that all Tanzanians reap the benefits of technological advancement.

Investment opportunities

The deployment of 5G infrastructure presents lucrative investment opportunities for telecommunications companies, infrastructure providers, and technology vendors in Tanzania.

Building a robust 5G network requires substan-

tial investment in upgrading existing infrastructure, deploying new towers and base stations, and investing in spectrum licenses.

Telecom operators in Tanzania will need to invest in spectrum auctions to acquire the necessary frequency bands for 5G deployment. Additionally, they must invest in upgrading their network infrastructure, including fiber optic cables and radio access equipment, to support the higher speeds and increased capacity demanded by 5G technology.

Infrastructure providers and technology vendors have a significant role to play in the 5G rollout. Companies specializing in tower infrastructure, fiber optics, and network equipment will see increased demand for their products and services as telecom operators ramp up their 5G deployments.

Challenges and considerations

While the potential benefits of 5G are immense, several challenges must be addressed to realize its full potential in Tanzania. These include the high cost of infrastructure deployment, spectrum availability and allocation, regulatory hurdles, and cybersecurity concerns.

Investors must navigate these challenges carefully and work closely with government agencies, regulators, and local communities to ensure a smooth and successful rollout of 5G technology.

Collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors will be crucial in overcoming these challenges and maximizing the benefits of 5G for Tanzania's economy and society.

The 5G revolution presents a paradigm shift in Tanzania's telecommunications landscape, offering unprecedented opportunities for economic growth, innovation, and societal advancement.

As the country prepares to embrace this transformative technology, investors have a unique opportunity to participate in the development and deployment of 5G infrastructure, unlocking new frontiers in Tanzania's digital future.

Therefore, by investing strategically and collaboratively, stakeholders can pave the way for a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous Tanzania in the age of 5G.

Margreth Somme (pictured) is an Intellectual Property & Technology Expert from Rive & Co, a law firm born from partnership between ABC Attorneys and Stallion Attorneys. While the firm provides top-notch legal solutions, this article is intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered as legal advice.

Market expectations move towards fewer rate cuts compared to the Fed

NEW YORK

FOR a brief moment last week, the market and the Federal Reserve were on the same page about the pace of monetary easing. It didn't last long, and Treasuries investors are paying the price.

After spending much of this year making bets that were much more dovish than those of Fed officials, investors have now flipped in the opposite direction. They're forecasting about 65 basis points of rate reductions in 2024, compared to the 75 basis points signaled by the median estimate of projections released following the Fed's March 19-20 meeting.

The reassessment is driving investors to demand higher rates of return on US government bonds. Yields on Treasury debt maturing in five to 30 years climbed to the highest levels this year Tuesday, with the day's economic data releases still ahead at 10 a.m. New York time. The 30-year yield topped 4.5 percent, and the benchmark 10-year note is higher by nearly 20 basis points over the past two days, on pace for its biggest jump since early February.

"I thought it would be hard for the market to challenge the Fed on the hawkish side, but apparently it is willing to do so, in the face of some evidence," said Benoit Gerard, a rates strategist at Natixis in Paris.

Traders are reacting to a couple of economic data points from the past few days that point to strength in the US economy, potentially reducing the need for rate cuts.

First came income and spending data for February that showed consumption remains strong. Then, on Monday, a gauge of US manufacturing activity expanded for the first time since 2022, exceeding all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said after the consumption data that the figures were "pretty much in line with our expectations" and repeated that the US central bank isn't in any rush to cut interest rates.

No Fed ratesetter has spoken publicly on monetary policy since Monday's news, though there are several on the slate for later on Tuesday, including New York Fed President John Williams, Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester and San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly.

Data on US factory orders, light vehicle sales and job openings due Tuesday may also offer more clues on the economy ahead of key payroll numbers on Friday.

It's not the first time in recent weeks traders have challenged the Fed's outlook. They were also betting on fewer than 75 basis points of easing in the days leading up the March rates decision, though this

time round the pricing is even more hawkish.

The shift is also casting doubt on bets that the first rate cut will land in June. The probability of a quarter-point reduction in June briefly dropped below 50 percent on Monday.

"While June is not off the table, market conviction for a first Fed cut by then is fading," ING strategists including Benjamin Schroeder wrote in a note. "In the coming weeks we can expect some Fed speakers to remain vocal about June cuts, but in the end the data will be the deciding factor."

Bloomberg

Dodoma city maintains three successive clean audit reports

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

The Dodoma City Council has achieved a commendable fiscal record by consistently receiving an unqualified opinion (clean audit report) for three consecutive years, a testament to effective management and prudent financial stewardship.

Head of the Accounting and Finance Division of the Dodoma City Council, CPA David Rubbira said Dodoma City Council has been getting unqualified opinion due to smooth working cooperation between the experts at his department and those from the Council of Councilors.

"The professional inspections have proved us to have well processed all of the revenue collection in accordance to the needed laws, regulations and procedures, and together with that, all calculations have followed international standards and transparency," CPA Rubbira bragged.

"The relevant experts from the two sides have been bridging efforts in following the law, regulations and financial procedures in carrying out their daily duties," he observed.

Another success, he mentioned, is in the area of local revenue collection.

"During the fiscal year

2021/2022, the council estimated to collect a total of 43,616,465,99/-, whereby it managed to collect 44,279,552,980/-, which is equal to 102 percent of the targeted collections.

And he detailed that during 2022/2023 fiscal year the council projected to collect 55,127,359,997/- and it was able to collect 44,639,819,472.12/-, equal to 81 percent. "In 2023/2024 financial year, the council's revenue collection target was set at around 58,640,360,000/- whereby as of March, we have already managed to raise a total of 32,760,459,121/-, which stands at 54.7 percent of the relevant target," he expressed.

CPA Rubbira said as per the council's set strategies, by June 30 this year, his office is expecting to have reached 100 percent of actual collection target.

Speaking over use of the injected development funds, he expressed that the council has so far received a total of 29,654,533,199/- from the state coffers, as well as the development partners.

"The funds was spent to facilitate implementation of diverse projects, including construction of a district hospital, classrooms, construction of schools, health centers, clinics, staff houses and toilets," he unveiled.

He also spoke over local rev-



David Rubbira, head of the accounting and finance division at Dodoma City Council

enues collections and expenditure, saying the council was also performing professionally.

"40 percent of local revenue collections is being spent in running the council, whereby 60 percent is used to implement development projects," he informed.

Giving further details, CPA Rubbira observed

that for three consecutive years the council has been able to allocate a total of 60 percent of the local income collected to support execution of development projects.

"The projects, incorporating those focusing to empower women, youth and the people with disabilities," he said.

How IP protects plant breeding

By Margreth Somme

IN the realm of agriculture in Tanzania, plant breeding stands as a cornerstone of innovation, enabling the development of new crop varieties with improved traits such as yield, disease resistance, and nutritional content.

Besides, behind every breakthrough in plant breeding lies years of meticulous research, experimentation, and selection aimed at enhancing the genetic diversity of crops. However, amidst this pursuit of agricultural advancement, the importance of intellectual property (IP) protection cannot be overstated.

IP rights serve as a vital mechanism for incentivizing and safeguarding the innovations generated through plant breeding, ensuring that breeders receive recognition and reward for their efforts while fostering continued investment in agricultural research and development.

Exclusive rights for breeders

One of the primary forms of IP protection in plant breeding is through plant patents. Plant patents grant breeders exclusive rights to a new and distinct plant variety they have developed, prohibiting others from reproducing, selling, or using the plant without permission for a set period.

This protection encourages breeders to introduce novel traits and characteristics into crops, driving genetic improvement and diversification in agriculture.

Additionally, plant patents provide breeders with a competitive edge in the marketplace, allowing them to recoup investments, generate revenue through licensing agreements, and maintain control over the commercialization of their innovations.

Trademark in plant breeding



A plant. Photo: Courtesy of Managing IP

Furthermore, trademarks play a crucial role in branding and marketing plant varieties, allowing breeders to establish recognition and reputation for their products in the marketplace.

By trademarking the names and logos associated with their plant varieties, breeders can distinguish their offerings from competitors, build consumer trust, and capitalize on the value-added attributes of their crops.

This branding strategy not only enhances market visibility but also serves as a form of IP protection, safeguarding breeders' investments in promoting and commercializing their plant varieties.

Safeguarding genetic varieties

Another key avenue for IP protection in plant breeding is through plant variety protection (PVP) systems.

PVP laws offer breeders a form of intellectual property rights over newly developed plant varieties, providing exclusive rights to produce, market, and sell the protected varieties for a specified period.

Unlike plant patents, which require the invention to be novel and non-obvious, PVP protection is based on distinctness, uniformity, and stability (DUS) criteria, ensuring that the new variety is genetically uniform and stable over successive generations.

PVP systems not only incentivize breeders to invest in developing new varieties but also facilitate the dissemination of improved germplasm, contributing to global food security and agricultural sustainability.

Challenges and complexities of IP protection

However, while IP protection offers numerous benefits for plant breeders, it also presents certain challenges and complexities. One notable concern is the balance between promoting innovation and ensuring access to genetic resources for further research and breeding activities.

Striking this balance requires policymakers to design IP frameworks that encourage innovation while safeguarding farmers' rights and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

Additionally, issues such as biopiracy, unauthorized use of protected varieties, and the impact of IP rights on farmers' livelihoods necessitate ongoing dialogue and engagement among stakeholders to address these challenges effectively.

Legal solution

In the agricultural landscape, plant breeding serves as the bedrock of innovation, enabling the

development of resilient crop varieties that meet the evolving demands of farmers and consumers alike.

Amidst this pursuit of excellence, we recognize the pivotal role that IP protection plays in nurturing and safeguarding the fruits of plant breeders' labor. Plant patents stand as a cornerstone of our IP strategy, granting breeders exclusive rights to their novel and distinct plant varieties.

With our expertise in navigating the intricate requirements of plant patent applications, we empower breeders to secure recognition and reward for their innovations while fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence in agriculture.

Our tailored legal guidance ensures that breeders can confidently navigate the complexities of IP law, maximizing the commercial potential of their proprietary plant varieties and mitigating risks associated with infringement.

Margreth Somme, is an Intellectual Property & Technology Expert from Rive & Co, a law firm born from partnership between ABC Attorneys and Stallion Attorneys. While the firm provides top-notch legal solutions, kindly note that this article is intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered as legal advice.

Oil rises to \$85 as OPEC cuts, geopolitical risks fuel rally

NEW YORK

US crude futures pierced \$85 for the first time since October, the latest milestone in a market rallying against a backdrop of OPEC+ cuts, strong demand and heightened geopolitical risk.

West Texas Intermediate added as much as 2.1 percent in New York, while the global Brent benchmark neared \$89 a barrel. Production curbs by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies have tightened the market at a time when global consumption remains robust.

At the same time, war in the Middle East has injected an additional premium to prices, underscored by an Israeli airstrike on Iran's embassy in Syria that killed a top military commander. Iran vowed revenge on Israel for the attack.

Hedge funds have been getting increasingly bullish on crude in recent weeks, with money managers' net-long positions in Brent at the highest in almost 13 months, according to data from ICE Futures Europe. Nearby prices are trading at strong premiums to later ones, indicating traders are willing to pay up to secure barrels for immediate delivery.

"We have been saying that we are going to be breaching \$90 in the summer; if anything, that has come a little bit earlier," Amrita Sen, founder and director of research at consultant Energy Aspects said in a Bloomberg TV interview. "We have seen inventories not build. The physical market continues to remain very, very strong and you're just seeing finally that being reflected in prices."

US futures are up 19 percent this

Crude Climbs to \$85

Prices have been pushing steadily higher over recent months



year. The rally could offer a fresh inflationary test in an election year, with nationwide US gasoline prices

currently averaging about \$3.50 a gallon. Those pressures could menace the rate-cutting efforts of

central banks, but will boost the coffers of major exporting countries and oil companies.

Crude's recent rally comes after the International Energy Agency last month lifted its forecasts for consumption this year. That was before Chinese manufacturing data this week showed signs of an economic recovery in the world's largest crude importer.

OPEC+ is expected to affirm its current output policy at a review meeting scheduled for Wednesday. That would lead to a deficit through the end of the year, according to BloombergNEF.

"An escalation in tension in the Middle East has coincided with firmer oil fundamentals," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy for ING Groep NV. "The market is tightening thanks to OPEC+ supply cuts, which is evident with the strength we have seen in timespreads."

Bloomberg

BEVs could overtake petrol cars in Norway by end-2024

OSLO

THE number of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) on Norway's roads is on track to overtake petrol cars by the end of this year or in early 2025, in a first for any country, according to Reuters' and analysts' calculations.

The shift has been driven by generous incentives, afforded in part thanks to Norway's huge oil and gas wealth.

Still, analysts think it will take a few more years for BEVs to surpass the number of diesel vehicles in Norway.

The Nordic country of 5.5 million people aims to become the first nation to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars - by 2025. Nine out of ten new cars sold at the start of this year have been BEVs.

If more countries follow Norway's lead, demand for oil worldwide could peak earlier than envisaged. The International Energy Agency sees that peak before 2030, with cars and vans accounting for more than 25 percent of oil demand.

However, Norway's transition has not come cheap, with the country exempting BEVs from taxes imposed on cars with internal combustion engines and investing in public BEV chargers.

BEVs accounted for 24.3 percent of Norway's 2.9 million cars as of March 15, versus 26.9 percent for petrol vehicles, according to data from the Norwegian Public Roads Administration seen by Reuters.

That equated to a lead of nearly 76,000 for petrol cars - well below the 104,590 new BEVs sold in Norway last year.

"If that (trend) is continued for the next 12 months and given that sales of pure-petrol cars are negligible now, this time next year there will be more BEVs on the road than pure-petrol cars, and probably before the end of this year," Robbie Andrew, a senior researcher at climate change think-tank CICERO, said.

With almost 370,000 more diesel cars on Norway's roads than BEVs, it will likely take three to four years for BEVs to overtake diesel vehicles too, Andrew added.

Ingvald Kilen Roerholt, head of transport research



Electric cars are seen at Tesla charging station in Gulsvik. File Photo

at Oslo-based think-tank Zero, also saw the number of BEVs moving ahead of petrol cars in Norway this year, despite a recent slowdown in sales.

Sales of new BEVs fell by about a quarter last year in Norway, as new car sales generally declined amid rising interest rates and as the government cut some tax incentives.

Still, BEVs' share of total sales hit a record 92.1 percent in January, according to the Norwegian Road Federation (OFV).

In March, that share was 89.3 percent, while new car sales were down 49.7 percent year-on-year, the latest OFV data show.

Last year, the centre-left government removed a value added tax exemption on BEVs costing more than 500,000 Norwegian crowns (\$46,700), making models such as the Tesla X and Audi e-tron more expensive.

Still, the remaining tax exemptions on BEVs cost the state 43 billion crowns in 2023, up from 39.4 billion crowns in 2022, budget documents show.

Despite the recent dip in sales, Roerholt said she was "quite sure" new BEV sales in Norway would top 76,000 this year.

She also predicted the number of BEVs could exceed petrol and diesel cars combined in Norway by 2029.

"For that to happen, we need to reach the goal that 100 percent of new cars will be zero emissions in 2025," she added.

The surge in popularity of BEVs has led to a decline in demand for petrol and diesel.

Since 2021, sales of diesel and motor gasoline have fallen by around 8 percent at Norwegian gas stations, according to monthly data from Statistics Norway and Reuters calculations. That excludes diesel sales at truck fuel stations.

"It's still a huge market for fossil fuels. We haven't seen the main dip yet," Kristin Bremer Nebben, head of fuel retailers' association Drivkraft Norge, told Reuters.

Demand for fossil fuels has been partly supported by sales of hybrid cars that combine a battery with an internal combustion

engine powered by petrol or diesel.

There were nearly 340,000 hybrid cars on Norwegian roads as of March 15, mostly plug-in hybrids with petrol engines, accounting for 12 percent of the total fleet, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration data shows.

However, hybrids have been losing market share in recent years as the government has withdrawn incentives.

The Norwegian EV Association expects BEVs to account for 95 percent of all new cars sales this year.

Agencies

Tesla misses Q1 delivery estimate due to slowing EV demand, competition

NEW YORK

TESLA missed market expectations for first-quarter deliveries on Tuesday, as it battled competition from upstarts and established players in major markets, while struggling with weak demand for its aging line-up of electric cars.

Tesla shares fell 6.9 percent before the bell, adding to the nearly 30 percent slide in value so far this year.

The world's most valuable automaker handed over about 386,810 vehicles in the three months to March 31, down 20.2 percent from the prior quarter.

Wall Street on average had expected Tesla to deliver 454,200 vehicles, according to 18 analysts polled by Visible Alpha.

The electric automaker's deliveries fell 8.5 percent from a year ago. The last time it posted a sales fall was in the second quarter of 2020 when COVID-19 pandemic forced the automaker to shut down production.

The first quarterly drop in deliveries in four years is also a sign that the effects of its price cuts are waning. Tesla produced 433,371 vehicles during the January-March period.

It delivered 369,783 Model 3 and Model Y, and about 17,000 units of other models, including Model S sedan, Cybertruck and Model X premium SUV.

In January, Tesla also warned of "notably lower" sales growth this year as it focuses on the production of its next-generation electric vehicle.

Agencies

WORLD



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Haji Hasan, on Wednesday. ANI

India has become a model for many countries: EAM Jaishankar

RAJKOT

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar reiterated India's growing stature in the world and referred to the BRICS summit which was held under the presidency of South Africa last year, recounted the incident when South African President asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sit with him in the meeting as he saw India as an inspiration for other developing countries.

"There was a big conference going on there, there were 40-45 Presidents and Prime Ministers and they all felt, because these were mostly Presidents and Prime Ministers of developing countries, they felt that India has done it somewhere. Those who were our hosts, South Africa was the President, he said to Modi ji that come, you sit with me, at least if I touch you, then some of your light will fall on me also, that he felt that your achievement is an inspiration for us," EAM Jaishankar said in his address at the Intellectual meet in Gujarat's Rajkot.

"Today, India has become a model for many countries. India is not just a democracy that delivers but a democracy that is also an inspiration for the world. Now when we say being capable, the world's expectations also grow along with responsibilities," he added.

EAM Jaishankar also described his visit to Tanzania where he received a rousing welcome from the local people of the country and

shared that people turned out in large numbers and they knew that India provided them tap water.

"Last year I went to Tanzania and I was going from one city to another in Tanzania, there were villages in between. I saw it was like it happens here and people came out in such numbers, as if some political event was going on. There, people were standing on both sides of Main Road and the reason for this was that today in 26 cities in Tanzania," he said.

"Because of the Jaljeevan Mission, Indian companies have strengthened themselves in water technology, we were able to take this water technology to Tanzania and there to the people of Tanzania. People in Tanzania think that if we got water it's because of India," he added.

India's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Tanzania is a program that aims to provide tap water to all rural households by 2024. The program will also implement source sustainability measures, such as water conservation, rain water harvesting, and grey water management, according to Indian embassy in Tanzania official website.

The mission is based on a community approach to water and include extensive information, education, and communication as a key component.

The first phase of the program is operational and provides potable water to 2 million people in Dar-es-Salaam. The program has achieved a milestone of providing tap water connections to 13 crore rural households.

The JJM is part of the Jal Shakti Ministry, which is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme. The Government of India has extended Lines of Credit for water projects amounting to USD 1038.65 mn in Tanzania since 2012. ANI

DR Congo president appoints country's first female PM

KINSHASA

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi on Monday appointed the country's first ever female prime minister, naming planning minister Judith Suminwa (pictured) to the role.

Her appointment ends weeks of uncertainty. Tshisekedi's inauguration for a second term in January kick-started a lengthy search for a majority coalition in the National Assembly - a key step before a prime minister could be named and a government formed. "I am aware of the great responsibility ... We will work for peace and the development of the country," Suminwa said on national television.

The authorities face a raft of challenges including a worsening conflict



and humanitarian crisis in eastern regions and the management of Congo's considerable mineral wealth.

In his first term, Tshisekedi promised to root out endemic corruption, rebuild the economy, tackle deep inequalities and curb the eastern insecurity, but critics say he fell short on all counts. Agencies

No barbarian terrorist attack can intimidate Russian, Belarusian peoples - Lavrov

MOSCOW

COMMON challenges are conducive to the cohesion of Russians and Belarusians, and no barbarian terrorist attacks can intimidate them and undermine their morale, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told his Belarusian counterpart, Sergey Aleinik, in a congratulatory message on the occasion of Russia-Belarus Unity Day.

"Please accept my sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of our shared holiday: the Day of Unity of the Peoples of Russia and Belarus," the foreign minister noted.

"No barbaric terrorist attack can intimidate and break the spirit of Russians and Belarusians, who are now forced to mourn on the same day the victims of the Nazi henchmen not only of Khatyn, but also of Krasnogorsk



(site of the Crocus City Hall terrorist attack - TASS). On the contrary, common difficult trials unite us even more, strengthen our determination to put an end to the evil emanating from the hateful ideologies of neo-Nazism and religious extremism," the minister emphasized.

According to Lavrov, Moscow and Minsk jointly will be able to cope "with the most serious threats and challenges posed by the collective West and its Ukrainian puppets, to ensure

the security and prosperity of all Russians and Belarusians." "I count on the continuation of the traditionally close coordination between our foreign policy agencies on the world stage in accordance with the Program of Concerted Actions for 2024-2026. We are determined to provide in-depth diplomatic support for multifaceted bilateral cooperation and intensive integration processes within the [Russia-Belarus] Union State, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)," he pointed out.

"Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish you good health, happiness, prosperity and further success in your professional endeavors," Lavrov concluded. Agencies

US anti-Muslim incidents hit record high in 2023

WASHINGTON

REPORTED discrimination and attacks against Muslims and Palestinians reached a record high in the US in 2023, driven by rising Islamophobia and bias as the Israel-Gaza war raged late in the year, data from an advocacy group showed yesterday.

Complaints totaled 8,061 in 2023, a 56 percent rise from the year before and the highest since the Council on American-Islamic Relations began records nearly 30 years ago. About 3,600 of those incidents occurred from October to December, CAIR said.

Human rights advocates have similarly reported a global rise in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian bias and antisemitism since the latest eruption of conflict in the Middle East.

US incidents have included the fatal October stabbing of 6-year-old Palestinian American Wadea Al-Fayoume in Illinois, the November shooting of three students of Palestinian descent in Vermont and the February stabbing of a Palestinian American man in



Muslims walk to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for the third Friday prayers of the holy month of Ramadan in the Old City of Jerusalem on Saturday. AP

Texas.

CAIR's report said 2023 saw a "resurgence of anti-Muslim hate" after the first ever recorded annual drop in complaints in 2022. In the first nine months of 2023, such incidents averaged around 500 a month before jumping to nearly 1,200 a month in the last quarter.

"The primary force behind this wave of heightened Islamophobia was the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine in October 2023," the report said.

The most numerous complaints in 2023 were in the categories of immigration and asylum, employment discrimination, hate crimes and education discrimination, CAIR said.

Palestinian Islamist group Hamas attacked, opens new tab Israel on

Oct 7, killing 1,200 people, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent military assault on Hamas-governed Gaza has killed over 32,000 people, according to the local health ministry, displaced nearly all its 2.3 million population, put Gaza on the brink of starvation, opens new tab and led to genocide allegations, opens new tab that Israel denies.

CAIR said it compiled the numbers by reviewing public statements and videos as well as reports from public calls, emails and an online complaint system. It contacted people whose incidents were reported in the media. Agencies

Russia remains world's fifth economy by PPP - State Duma Speaker

MOSCOW

DESPITE the unprecedented pressure, Russia ranks fifth in the 2023 global rating by GDP in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) and is the largest economy in Europe, said Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian legislative assembly.

"The new country rating for 2023 (by GDP in terms of PPP) has been posted. Despite the unprecedented pressure, Russia is now the world's fifth economy and the largest one in Europe," Volodin said on his Telegram channel.

Russia's political system and its economic model "proved



their effectiveness once again," the speaker said. "Instead, countries waging the illegal sanctions war against our country continue to experience its negative consequences to the full extent.

The US cannot restore its leading position having lost it. The gap with China is growing.

Germany fell to 7th position, France to 11th, the UK to 12th, Italy to 13th, Spain to 16th, and Canada to 18th position," Volodin noted.

Countries that refused to sanction Russia and made a choice in favor of mutually beneficial cooperation have outpaced "Washington's satellites," he added. In particular, such countries include Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. This trend has continued for the second year in a row, Volodin noted.

"Challenges made us stronger. But there is still much to be done. We need to join the ranks of the four leading economic powers," the senior lawmaker said. Agencies

RECENTLY, top executives from a number of big-name multinational corporations have come to China to open new stores, launch new products, and hold inaugural exhibitions, garnering widespread attention.

Foreign companies are optimistic about the development opportunities in the Chinese market and are increasing their investment in China, which highlights China's significant advantages and vast potential in attracting foreign investment.

Since the beginning of this year, factors for a stronger Chinese economy have been accumulat-

Keeping pace with China is keeping pace with opportunities

ing. Statistics recently released by China's National Bureau of Statistics showed that in the first two months of this year, the total value added of industrial enterprises above the designated size grew by 7 percent year-on-year; the total retail sales of consumer goods increased by 5.5 percent year-on-year; the investment in the manufacturing sector went up by 94 percent from a year ago; the total import and export of goods saw a year-on-year uplift of 8.7 percent.

China's economy has not only achieved reasonable quantitative growth but has also effectively improved in quality. It has a solid foundation for stability and vast room for progress.

At the China Development Forum 2024, managing director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva noted that in the medium-term, China will continue to be a key contributor to global economic growth.

A series of policies introduced by China, which are aimed at sta-

bilizing the economy, promoting opening-up, and attracting foreign investment, continue to take effect, creating more favorable conditions for attracting foreign investment.

Statistics recently released by China's Ministry of Commerce showed that in the first two months of this year, 7,160 new foreign-invested enterprises were established nationwide, an increase of 34.9 percent year-on-year; the actual use of foreign direct investment in the Chinese

mainland reached 215.09 billion yuan (\$30.29 billion), of which 28.27 billion yuan was used in the high-tech manufacturing sector, up 10.1 percent from a year ago. Top executives of international organizations and multinational companies believe that China will continue to be an economy that provides enormous opportunities for cooperation.

China is at a crucial stage of shifting from traditional drivers of growth to new ones and

a key period of promoting high-quality development, containing tremendous development opportunities.

In China, Volkswagen has established its largest overseas R&D center; Schneider Electric has set up an AI innovation lab; Tesla has launched an energy storage super factory project. Many multinational companies believe that keeping pace with China means keeping pace with opportunities, and investing in China means investing in the fu-

ture. China sincerely welcomes enterprises from all countries to invest in China and continues to foster a market-oriented, world-class business environment governed by a sound legal framework.

Last year, China released 24 new guidelines to stabilize foreign investment and issued a set of measures on a trial basis in five pilot free trade zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port to deepen reforms in key areas by aligning with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

People's Daily

Israeli attack on Iranian embassy may escalate regional tensions

DAMASCUS

ISRAEL on Monday afternoon launched a missile attack on the consulate building of the Iranian embassy in Damascus, killing at least seven officers.

Following the Israeli missile strike, Iranian Ambassador to Syria Hossein Akbari vowed that Iran would respond to Israel's attack with equal force.

He said that Israel's F-35 fighter jets had launched six missiles from the occupied Golan Heights in a "criminal," targeted offense on the Iranian consulate's building.

In a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani was quoted as saying that Iran, while reserving its right to take countermeasures, would consider its response to the attack and determine the appropriate punishment for the "aggressor."

Experts have warned that the attack may further exacerbate the already heightened tensions in the region.

Osama Danura, a Syrian political expert, described the attack as an unprecedented escalation of Israeli aggression in the region, coming at a time when Israel's military operations have already inflicted a crisis in the Gaza Strip.

In light of ongoing hostilities in the region, Danura said the international community should take actions to stop Israel from further aggravating tensions and violating international laws. "The recent Israeli aggression on regional countries is unprecedented. This ... highlights the dangerous nature of Israel's actions," Danura told Xinhua.

The attack on diplomatic missions violates international laws, indicating a significant threat to the region. It is crucial to establish international cooperation to halt this escalation," he added.

Echoing Danura's point, Mohammed Nader Al-Omari, a Syrian writer and researcher in international relations, said that this act by Israel represents a disregard for international laws, and dangerous development of regional situation.

Al-Omari said the diplomatic premises are considered part of the sovereignty and territory of the sending states. Therefore, the attack on the Iranian consulate can be seen as an attack on Iranian territory. Al-Omari warned that the Israeli attack will not go unanswered by Iran, and there may be a direct military response to Israeli forces.



Israel's F-35 fighter jets had launched six missiles from the occupied Golan Heights in a "criminal," targeted offense on the Iranian consulate's building

China, France pledge closer ties

BEIJING

STEPHANE Sejourne, France's new minister for Europe and foreign affairs, undertook a packed schedule on Monday in Beijing during his first visit to China in his current post.

As a sign of the value that Beijing places on its ties with Paris, both Premier Li Qiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met separately with him.

Li told Sejourne that Beijing expects the stability of China-France relations to contribute to the respective development of the two countries and "inject certainty into the world's development".

Beijing looks to deepen practical cooperation with Paris in conventional areas, as well as in green energy and advanced manufacturing, to "better realize mutual benefits and a win-win situation", Li said.

The premier also talked with Sejourne about China-European Union economic and trade relations.

He expressed his hope that France will actively push the EU to follow the laws of economy and the rules of the market, and to properly address the concerns of both sides through consultation.

Sejourne said Paris adheres to independence and self-reliance, opposes bloc confrontation, economic decoupling and disruptions of production and supply chains, and firmly adheres to the one-China policy.

France is willing to deepen exchanges and cooperation with China



Chinese Premier Li Qiang (right) meets with French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Stephane Sejourne at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday.

in various fields and promote greater development of the two nations' comprehensive strategic partnership, he added.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France.

As part of the recent and frequent high-level exchanges, Foreign Minister Wang met with Sejourne in Munich and visited France in February.

Analysts said the visit of the French foreign minister comes amid the chaos of the current international situation and rising divides in the global community, and the two countries, as major countries, should work together to be a stabilizer for the world.

Yu Jiang, vice-president of the China Institute of International Studies, noted that

as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and France have transcended bloc confrontation and are both committed to the "two-state solution" to the Palestine-Israel conflict.

"The two countries have contributed to the reform and construction of the global governance system, setting a model for exchanges and cooperation between countries with different historical backgrounds, cultural traditions and political systems," Yu said.

Earlier on Monday, the two foreign ministers held talks at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse and met with reporters on the sidelines.

At the media briefing, Wang announced that the two sides agreed to "build China-France relations to be more stable and fore-

sighted in strategic perspective".

Wang said Beijing and Paris agreed to play a leading role in four areas: international solidarity, innovative development, openness and win-win situations, and dialogue among civilizations.

"The two sides agreed to provide more convenience for people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and to deepen cooperation in areas such as science, education, sports and cultural heritage preservation," Wang said.

France is China's third-largest trading partner within the European Union, and China is France's top trading partner in Asia and seventh-largest in the world. In 2023, bilateral trade reached \$78.9 billion.

China will create more convenience for enterprises from various countries, including France, and "it is also believed that France will provide a fair, just and predictable business environment for Chinese companies to invest in France", Wang said.

Sejourne told Wang during their meeting that Paris advocates openness and cooperation. On economy and trade, France is committed to properly handling differences through consultation, he added.

When asked by a reporter about the EU's seeking "de-risking" regarding China, Wang noted that this year, China and the EU have resumed interactions at all levels. He said cooperation in various fields is in full swing, "the EU's rational knowledge of China is increasing, and its willingness to cooperate with China is increasing".

"Some insightful minds in Europe are also soul-searching and believe that decoupling from China carries real risks," he added.

Xinhua



Trump posts \$175m bond in civil fraud case, averting asset seizures

NEW YORK

DONALD Trump posted a \$175 million bond in his New York civil fraud case on Monday, averting asset seizures by state authorities that could have hobbled the former US president's business empire.

The Republican Trump, set to face Democratic President Joe Biden in the November US election, was found liable on Feb 16 for fraudulently inflating his net worth by billions of dollars to secure better loan and insurance terms.

Trump originally needed to post a bond for \$454 million, but an appeals court on March 25 stayed enforcement of Justice Arthur Engoron's judgment on condition that Trump pay the smaller sum within 10 days.

A three-judge panel of the appeals court will hear Trump's appeal on the merits. The appeals court ruling reducing the bond is no indication of how the panel will ultimately rule.

The bond prevents New York Attorney General Letitia James from going after Trump's properties, including Trump Tower, his 370-acre resort and golf course in Westchester and his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Trump has denied wrongdoing and said the case is a political witch hunt by James, a Democrat who sued him in 2022.

In a 92-page order, Justice Engoron described how Trump directed deputies to change the values of his properties to arrive at his desired net worth for a decade before his entry into politics.

The case is part of a maelstrom of legal troubles Trump faces, including a criminal trial in New York set to begin on April 15. Trump, who has pleaded not guilty, is accused in that case of illegally covering up hush money payments to a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.

He has also been charged in two cases with trying to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden and in another over his handling of classified documents upon leaving office.

Those have been mired in delays and may not go to trial before the November election.

Agencies

UN spokesman has reporters' heads spinning in April Fools' prank

UNITED NATIONS

THE chief UN spokesman on Monday announced a head-spinning, convoluted operating schedule for various UN Headquarters' escalators - in an April Fools' prank.

In a routine manner at a daily press briefing, Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, announced reduced escalator services starting next week due to "budget issues."

"The escalators in the conference building that operate between the basement and the first floor and the

second and third floor will function only on alternate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays," he said.

"Those between the first floor and the second floor and those operating between the third and fourth floors will function on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays because we don't have enough crews."

To make matters worse for correspondents in the briefing trying to make sense of the schedule, Dujarric added that escalators in the General Assembly building reserved just for delegates would function every day except when the Fifth Committee, which handles budgetary affairs, meets. Because of budget trimming, the service cutbacks seemed almost plausible, while the schedule seemed impos-



sible. The prank obviously worked as a correspondent quickly asked for a written notice of the new schedule. Dujarric replied: "Yeah. And it is April Fools'." Some reporters frequently complained recently when the escalator be-

tween the second and third floors was out of order. Journalists are on the third and fourth floors, and the Security Council press area for interviewing ambassadors is on the second floor.

Also, because of liquidity problems, the temperature in the UN Secretariat building has been unusually low, prompting the spokesman to give the briefings in a sweater, insulated vest or even a large scarf.

Dujarric announced at the briefing that three more countries, Guatemala, the Marshall Islands and South Africa, have paid their dues to the 2024 regular budget, bringing the number of paid-in-full countries to 96, among the 193 member states of the United Nations.

Agencies

Chinese military starts exercises to protect border stability

THE Chinese military on Tuesday started carrying out live-fire exercises in regions along the country's borders with Myanmar, according to a People's Liberation Army spokesman.

Senior Colonel Tian Junli, spokesman for the PLA South-

ern Theater Command, said in a statement that the command has mobilized its ground and air forces to conduct rapid development, precision strike, multidimensional blockade and joint assault drills on Chinese territories neighboring Myanmar.

He said that combat units under the regional command are ready to handle various kinds of emergencies and will firmly safeguard China's sovereignty, border stability and Chinese people's lives, properties and safety.

Xinhua



Agencies

Election: South Korea's Yoon hints at flexibility in doctors' strike

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol showed the first signs of flexibility in his medical reform plan as a prolonged standoff with doctors is ramping up pressure ahead of next week's parliamentary elections which are expected to be

close.

The plan, chiefly aimed at boosting medical school admissions by 2,000 from 3,000 starting in 2025, has emerged as a key issue in the elections, in which Yoon's ruling party seeks to recapture a majority in the opposition-controlled parliament.

A drawn-out walkout by thousands of trainee doctors nationwide in protest at the plan is increasingly putting strains on the country's healthcare system.

Yoon, who has taken a hard line approach to labor disputes, initially had been emboldened by polls showing South Koreans over-

whelmingly support the idea of adding more doctors.

But as medical school professors and community doctors cut working hours this week and threatened to resign en masse unless the government negotiates, some voters have started to blame Yoon for refusing to seek a compromise.

What is Yoon saying?

On Monday, Yoon for the first time signaled the possibility of adjusting the reform initiative in a 50-minute public address, saying his administration is open to talks with doctors if they offer a "reasonable, unified" alternative proposal.

Yoon denied considering "political gains and losses" in pushing for any reform.

A senior presidential official said Yoon meant to express his willingness to be "flexible" in implementing the policy regardless of the elections.

Agencies

5G technology sees application in various industries in China

DESPITE living at an average altitude of 5,373 meters, residents of Pumaqangtang township in Nagarze county, Shanxi, southwest China's Xizang autonomous region, can access live sports streaming on their mobile phones.

With the help of 5G technology, surgeons in Beijing can control robotic arms nearly 3,000 kilometers away in south China's Hainan province, and perform challenging operations for patients with nearly zero network delay.

These scenarios couldn't have been realized without China's efforts to promote 5G technology. As of the end of 2023, China had built over 3.37 million 5G base stations and the number of 5G mobile phone users had reached 805 million. China is home to the world's largest optical fiber and mobile broadband networks, which cover all prefecture-level cities

and counties.

The applications of 5G technology have seeped into all industries, bringing profound impacts to people's work and life.

According to an official of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), over 90 percent of the existing 5G base stations across China are co-constructed and shared by telecommunication carriers, and 23.02 million ports are capable of providing gigabit network services.

The official said China has launched seven batches of pilot programs of universal telecommunication service, offering support to 130,000 administrative villages in building optical fiber networks and helping the construction of 60,000 4G base stations in rural areas. This has enabled the country's vast countryside to enjoy high-speed and stable network services.

The network infrastructure is becoming increasingly developed, and new breakthroughs are being continuously achieved in key 5G technologies. In recent years, China's 5G technology sector has consistently strengthened its innovation capabilities in areas such as technical standards, network equipment, and terminal devices. China owns more than 42 percent of the standard essential patents for 5G technology, staying at the top of the world rankings. Mobile Internet of Things (IoT) terminal users account for 57.5 percent of the total number of mobile network terminal connections, which has laid a solid foundation for universal interconnectivity.

Lightweight 5G core networks and customized base stations have achieved commercial deployment. A batch of new terminals such as 5G industrial gateways and inspec-



Two 5G-enabled autopilot tour buses are on trial operation in Wujiang district, Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu province. Photo: Wang Jianzhong/People's Daily Online

tion robots have been successfully developed.

China has launched the world's first smartphone with satellite communication, and further enhanced its innovation capabilities in areas like 6G, quantum communication, and artificial intelligence.

In the general assembly workshop of a smart factory of GAC Aion, a Chinese electric

vehicle manufacturer, an intelligent carrier transporting a vehicle body glided into a workstation. Two seven-axis robots on both sides of the workstation then sprang into action. What used to require multiple operators to finish was automatically completed in just 53 seconds. What's more important, key parameters were simultaneously uploaded to an intelligent

production system, enabling full-lifecycle traceability of the products. This intelligent connected vehicle exactly mirrors the rapid integrated development of 5G and industrial internet in China.

"Benefiting from 5G-powered industrial internet, we not only have achieved a 98.5 percent first-pass yield and maximum capacity utilization of 160 percent, but also offer users over 100,000 personalized configuration combinations across more than 20 dimensions including intelligent driving, wheels, exteriors, and interiors," said Gu Huinan, general manager of GAC Aion.

At the end of last year, the smart factory of GAC Aion stood out from numerous new energy vehicle factories around the world and was listed as a Lighthouse Factory by the World Economic Forum, Gu added.

In recent years, the 5G-powered industrial internet has expanded its application scenarios from production to the entire industrial chain, effectively promoting the transformation of the manufacturing industry towards high-end, intelligent, and green development.

Behind the increasingly diverse application scenarios is the continuous development of digital technology. Currently, 5G applications have been integrated into 71 out of the 97 categories of the national economy, with over 94,000 application cases and more than 29,000 5G industry virtual private networks. 5G applications have been widely promoted in industries such as manufacturing, mining, power, ports, and healthcare. Over 10,000 5G-powered industrial internet projects have been launched.

People's Daily

SPORT



Participants of a six-week safety, swimming, and diving course—organized by Scout Dar es Salaam and Agnes Kimimba Foundation (ASF)—pose for a picture after the conclusion of the training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

CRDB inks 3.2bn/- contract with TFF to sponsor Federation Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has signed a three-and-a-half year deal—worth 3.2bn/- after value-added tax with CRDB Bank to sponsor the Federation Cup, replacing Azam Media Limited.

The bank, as a result, is becoming the first main sponsor of the Federation Cup that previously witnessed Azam Media Limited owning the tournament's naming rights—given the firm was broadcasting all games. The company is now slated to remain as a broadcasting sponsor.

The agreement was signed by TFF president Wallace Kairia and CRDB Chief Executive Officer Abdulmajid Nsekela at the bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

The Federation Cup, which will now be known as CRDB Federation Cup, attracts more than 100 teams across the Premier League, Championship League, First League, and Regional Champions League, making it the most decorated competition in the country.

CRDB bank will begin the institution's sponsorship from the Round of 16 of the showdown that is set to continue this month.

The competition—which usually starts the season at the district level and later moves to the national level as scheduled by TFF—will receive a new impetus in financial bonuses to participating squads.

Speaking during the signing of the contract TFF president Wallace Kairia said the federation assures all sponsors will have their mileage with all agreements reached set to be adhered to.

"I would like to assure all our sponsors that the federation will adhere to contract agreements for the

benefit of our football development through the CRDB Federation Cup," he noted.

The TFF boss added: "It is to our greatest belief that participating clubs will value the Federation Cup and add value to the showdown and sponsors."

"The winner of the CRDB Federation Cup will represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup, I look forward to making sure we develop our football and clubs through (participation in) continental football."

"Money signed will be directed to the clubs to accommodate the following areas—transport, accommodation, and having the federation running day-to-day activities," Karia disclosed.

Karia also asked Nsekela to notify CRDB executives in Babati, Manyara to inspect Tanzanite Stadium—where the final of the Federation Cup will take place—to clarify areas where the institution's billboards should be located for advertisement.

The first of the CRDB Federation Cup semi-finals will take place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza but the second's venue is not yet revealed—with doors open for any region ready to host it after meeting all criteria issued by TFF.

Morogoro set to host 2024 Lina Professional Golf Tour next week

By Guardian Correspondent

THE second series of the inaugural Lina Professional Golf Tour is set to take place in Morogoro from April 11.

The showdown will be taking place following the first series that was played at the TPC Club golf course in Moshi from February 29 to March 3.

The 72-hole Stroke Play tournament, exclusively for Tanzania's professionals and amateur golfers, has been introduced to commemorate the late Lina Said Nkya, also known as 'Mother Golfer', who passed away in Moshi on January 19, 2021.

Said Nkya's family has organized the tournament in collaboration with the Tanzania Ladies Golf Union (TLGU) to honour Lina, who had a great contribution to the sport and TLGU.

Lina was one of the reputed local female golf players who successfully represented Tanzania in the regional golf showdown, having helped the national women's golf squad clinch the 2011 East and Central Africa tournament's trophy—with the tournament

having taken place in Dar es Salaam.

Ayne Magombe—TLGU vice president—revealed that the Lina Professional Golf Tour will be held in various regions to continue honouring the late Lina by bringing out golf talents and giving them a platform to take part in the competition.

"I hope to see the great participation of golf players as was the case in Moshi, we got a good response, this is done to appreciate what Lina did during her life, she was very fond of this game," she said.

Lina's husband—Said—noted that the reason for organizing the showdown, which is also used as golf tourism, has come about given his wife loved the game and helped so many. According to him, they want to continue where she left off by helping other golfers improve.

He said that they will continue to hand over impressive awards to the tournament's winners, as was the case in the Moshi series.

According to Said, such a move has been reached to motivate various golf players to come forward and register to participate in large numbers.

SPORTS

Simba SC down but not out while Yanga remains hopeful

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

DESPITE unsuccessfully going all out to secure a precious victory in their respective quarterfinal first legs of the CAF Champions League last weekend, Simba SC and Yanga do not have time to mope around as the second legs of their quarterfinal will take place this weekend.

Indeed, many die-hard Tanzanian football fans were left feeling sad following Simba SC's wafer-thin 1-0 loss to Egyptian bigwigs Al Ahly and Yanga's more encouraging sharing of the spoils with South African big guns Mamelodi Sundowns.

It is clear to see that Simba SC faces a Herculean task in their second-leg tussle with Al Ahly this weekend as the highly acclaimed Egyptian titans have garnered greater success than any other club in the exciting history of the CAF Champions League.

Nevertheless, despite the magnitude of the challenge facing them, the Msimbazi Street outfit will have to summon up the courage to boldly head to Al Ahly's home ground and earn an emphatic win that would seal their place in the semi-finals.

Let's not forget, minnows have sometimes taken the scalps of so-called heavyweights who were unwise enough to underestimate them.

This fact then should offer encouragement to Simba SC as they go in search of a resounding second-leg victory that would see them carry the day and advance to the semifinals, which would be a remarkable first for Tanzanian football.

While Simba SC will be trying to overturn the deficit from their first leg in their second leg clash with Al Ahly, Yanga will be earnestly seeking to gain an outright victory against their highly touted South African opponents Mamelodi Sundowns in the second leg of their quarterfinal tie.

Indeed, Yanga impressively held their own in their quarterfinal first-leg



Simba SC's left-back, Mohammed Hussein (R), races past Al Ahly's midfielder Percy Tau during the 2023/24 CAF Champions League last eight clash which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Al Ahly cruised to a 1-0 victory over Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

match against Mamelodi Sundowns, which ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Admittedly, Yanga faces an uphill battle in their second-leg showdown against Sundowns, especially when one remembers that the Jangwani Street side will be playing on South African soil.

However, given the admirable display that Yanga produced in the first leg, there is every reason to believe that the Jangwani Street club can stunningly defeat their South African opponents on the latter's home ground.

Let us now zero in on junior women's netball which has been in the headlines recently following the overall below-par performance of the Junior Taifa Queens at the recently concluded Netball World Youth Cup Africa Qualifiers in South Africa.

Despite trying their damndest, the Junior Taifa Queens miserably lost all of their matches in their fruitless efforts to leave a mark on the competition.

Importantly, one key reason for the debacle is the glaring fact that the Junior Taifa Queens lacked exposure which played a major role in our shoddy displays.

In addition, the Junior Taifa Queens' opponents were able to easily take advantage of another

noticeable shortcoming of the team, which was the height of our players.

This conspicuous weakness was the fact that many of our players were too short while in sharp contrast, many of our opponents were towering in stature.

It should also be noted here that local netball as a whole suffers from gross underinvestment, which is a deeply dissatisfying state of affairs in urgent need of redress.

Thus, one hopes that netball stakeholders and well-heeled corporate firms will swiftly invest in the sport to put it on an upward trajectory.

Mokwena makes vital declaration after Sundowns' draw with Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

AFTER settling for a 0-0 draw with Yanga in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal first leg, Mamelodi Sundowns' head coach Rulani Mokwena has made a major declaration ahead of the second leg.

The 'Brazilians' and Yanga played out to the barren draw at a packed Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday evening.

Despite having the lion's share of ball possession, Mokwena's men could not find the breakthrough to get an away goal.

The two will clash again in the return tie at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium in Pretoria on Friday.

When asked whether Sundowns would make it to the next stage, Mokwena was quick to state that he 'thinks' his side will seal the semi-final spot.

The gaffer noted: "We played against a good team, we knew it was going to be difficult. Regardless of whatever was going to be the score line we knew we were going to have to win in Pretoria and I think it remains the same."

"Yanga is a good side, I thought we defended well for most parts of the game and kept off attacks by Musonda, Mzize, and Aziz Ki and, not giving them many chances is good but we could have done more to create chances," the South African added.

Mokwena said his team had planned to switch focus to the domestic fixture against Richard Bay slated for midweek and thereafter focus on the CAF Champions League last eight's return fixture.

"I'm very confident about that. What's the plan? The plan is to get home safe now, rest, drink lots of water, sleep, analyze the game, and prepare for Richards Bay," Mokwena revealed.

"We have got a crucial league game on Tuesday. So, that's the plan for now."

Mamelodi Sundowns, also known as Bafana Ba Style, played the first leg without the club's captain Themba Zwane due to suspension. This was

after he accumulated yellow cards in the Group Stage.

Mokwena admitted that they missed the Bafana Bafana playmaker. He's delighted the 34-year-old will be available for selection next week.

"He's the captain of the team and he's an important part of the team, of course, we missed him a little bit today but everyone tried. I'm happy with the commitment and the effort of the team, especially in the second half."

"Okay, let's build on that. It's not always easy coming from the FIFA break. The first game after the international break, but okay, let's see how it goes," Mokwena said.



Mamelodi Sundowns head coach, Rulani Mokwena.

“

I hope to see the great participation of golf players as was the case in Moshi, we got a good response, this is done to appreciate what Lina did during her life, she was very fond of this game

German football to change controversial kit number

BERLIN

THE German Football Association (DFB) said Monday it would change the typeface used on its shirts after one of the kit numbers drew comparisons to a Nazi symbol.

The number four worn by national team players was said to bear a resemblance to the insignia of the Nazis' elite SS corps.

"The DFB checks the numbers 0-9 and then submits the numbers 1-26 to UEFA for review," the football association said in a statement.

"None of the parties involved saw any proximity to Nazi symbolism in the creation process," the DFB said.

Nonetheless, the sporting body said it did not want to "provide a platform for discussion".

"Together with our partner 11teamsports, we will develop an alternative design for the number four and coordinate it with UEFA," the DFB said.

Kit provider Adidas removed shirt personalisation options for the German strip from its website on Monday

afternoon, the German daily Bild reported.

The name and number personalisation features were not available when an AFP journalist visited the website on Monday evening.

Shirts with the number 44 were at the centre of the controversy, with the number set said to look most like the SS logo.

Deliveries of shirts already ordered with the number had been stopped, Bild reported.

The new typeset was worn in recent friendlies against France and the Netherlands, as Germany prepares to host the men's European football championship in June and July.

The DFB caused a stir last month when it announced that it would be replacing Adidas as its kit provider from 2027.

The German outfitter, which has supplied the national team since the 1950s, will make way for US sports-wear giant Nike.

AFP

Inter beat Empoli to close in on Serie A title

MILAN

INTER Milan took another step towards the Serie A title on Monday with a straightforward 2-0 win over struggling Empoli which maintained their 14-point lead at the top of the league.

Federico Dimarco put Inter ahead after five minutes at the San Siro before substitute Alexis Sanchez sealed the points in front of delighted home fans with nine minutes remaining.

Monday's comfortable victory left Inter needing just 11 more points from eight matches to beat second-placed AC Milan to a 20th Italian league crown.

Inter have a huge lead on their local rivals thanks in large part to academy product Dimarco, whose first-time strike from Alessandro Bastoni's neat clipped pass separated the hosts from their spirited opponents for most of the match.

It was Bastoni's third assist in as many league matches and the Italy defender joked: "It was the worst of the lot, Dimarco's finish made it look much better!"

"We're really happy with the win because we've just come off the international break and it's never easy winning after travelling around the world," added Bastoni.

Simone Inzaghi's side were far from the scintillating form they showed before being knocked out of the Champions League by Atletico Madrid last month.

But Inter have dropped only two points since the turn of the year and Monday's win was a good way to end what has been a difficult couple of weeks.

Francesco Acerbi was cleared late last month of racially abusing Napoli defender Juan Jesus, an ugly episode which dragged on through the international break as the Italy defender and Inter denied the accusation.

Acerbi started the game after avoiding a potential 10-match ban due to the Italian Football Federation's disciplinary tribunal deciding there wasn't enough evidence to punish him.

A fourth straight defeat without scoring a goal left Empoli back in the relegation zone on goals scored, swapping places with 17th-placed Frosinone who drew 1-1 with Genoa on Saturday.

"If that run had knocked our confidence you'd have seen it tonight with a bad performance but that didn't happen," said Empoli coach Davide Nicola.

Bologna cruised past Serie A's bottom side Salernitana 3-0 to continue their charge towards a first-ever appearance in the Champions League.

Stunning first-half strikes from Riccardo Orsolini and Alexis Saelemaekers and Charalampos Lykogiannis' fine finish in stoppage time ensured that Bologna would stay in fourth place, five points above Roma who were held to a goalless draw at Lecce.

Thiago Motta's side have won eight of their last nine matches and not only look a good bet to reach Europe's top club competition, but also have Juventus in their sights.

Juve are just two points ahead of Bologna in third following their last-gasp defeat at Lazio on Saturday and have been dragged back into a battle for the Champions League.

Bologna currently sit in the final spot but Serie A is firmly in the running for an extra place in next year's revamped tournament, meaning fifth may well be good enough.

Both Bologna and Roma host Juve before the end of the season.

"We're doing really well at the minute, with the way that we're playing and the results we're getting," said Motta to Sky Sport.

Although the seven-time Italian champions played one round in the old European Cup in 1964, the same year that they most recently won the Scudetto, they have never participated in the modern Champions League.

Last season's ninth place was the highest Bologna had finished in Serie A for over a decade and they are well on course for their best placing in years.

"Obviously we're looking at the table but that's not what matters to us, what's important is putting in the work in training and the performances on the pitch," said Saelemaekers.

Stefano Colantuono could not turn around Salernitana's fortunes in his first match in charge, his team falling to their third straight defeat as they sink towards Serie B.

Salernitana have not won a single game since the turn of the year and are 12 points from safety.

AFP

“

If that run had knocked our confidence you'd have seen it tonight with a bad performance but that didn't happen

Football's elite are tightening up - and Arsenal lead the pack

By Jonathan Wilson

WHO said football was supposed to be fun? Sunday's meeting between Manchester City and Arsenal was billed as an epic showdown between sorcerer and apprentice that might decide the league title. It produced a total of three shots on target - which is to say as many as Brentford had against Manchester United between the 53rd and 55th minutes. Admire the tactical machinations if you like, the levels of concentration and the planning that went into it, the obviously refined level of the lack of action, but this was shit on a stick for the TikTok generation.

In fact, in many ways, it was worse. When the great former Argentina forward Jorge Valdano came up with his line in Marca to describe the second leg of the 2007 Champions League semi-final between Liverpool and Chelsea - "Put a shit hanging from a stick in the middle of this passionate, crazy stadium and there are people who will tell you it's a work of art. It's not: it's a shit hanging from a stick" - he was at least describing a knockout tie.

In that 2007 Liverpool-Chelsea match, there was a sense of jeopardy, that any mistake could lead to elimination. Daniel Agger's goal midway through the first half cancelled out the lead Joe Cole had given Chelsea in the first leg. There were penalties at the end of it. At the Etihad on Sunday, there was never the prospect of anything decisive: both teams still have nine games to go and the only immediate consequence was that, after their not entirely convincing win over Brighton, Liverpool now have a two-point lead over Arsenal with City a point further back.

City, perhaps, will feel that, given the injuries they had, with Ederson, Kyle Walker and John Stones out and Nathan Aké forced off on the first half, the stalemate was a reasonable enough outcome, particularly given they appear to have the most straightforward run-in of the three challeng-



Liverpool are top of the Premier League with nine games to play. Composite: Guardian Picture Desk

ers. Liverpool will probably be happy enough as well, given the title is now in their hands: win every game from here in and Jürgen Klopp's final season at the club will culminate in his second Premier League title.

And yet the greatest achievement on Sunday was probably Arsenal's. They had lost seven successive league games at the Etihad. They have, in recent years, habitually faltered in away games against top-level opposition. But they effectively stopped City from playing, restricted them to a single shot on target and, for the third time this season, emerged unbeaten from a game against them. In the mini-league between the top three, Arsenal are top on eight points with the other two sides both on three.

But what's equally telling is that those six league games between the top three have yielded just 11 goals. This is on course to be the highest-scoring season in Premier League history, with an average of 3.23 goals a game as a whole, but among the very elite the picture is very different. That tallies with the picture that is emerging in the Champions League, in which

goals per game in the knockout stage has been below 3.0 in each of the past three seasons, having previously fallen below that mark only once since 2008.

Klopp predicted the new defensiveness after a goalless draw against Bayern Munich at Anfield in 2019. Given the focus that had gone into attacking over the previous decade, that's where the competitive advantage was to be found. The wild three-goal swings we've become used to in the Champions League may be huge fun but they are not a sign of a game in good health; rather they reveal top teams with no idea how to check the tide when it turns against them, so fatted on the advantages their resources have given them, so unused to being challenged in most domestic games, that they had effectively forgotten how to defend. The first teams to rediscover resilience would clearly have an advantage.

And at the moment it's Arsenal leading that charge. Not only have they conceded fewer goals than any other side in the Premier League this season - 24, to Liverpool's 27 and City's 28 - but they have by far

the best xG against: 20.4 to City's 28.2 and Liverpool's 34.9. That may reset to an extent after Arsenal have faced away games against Brighton, Tottenham, Wolves and Manchester United but the pattern is established enough: they are the best side in the league at preventing the opposition from creating chances.

They're also at the forefront of the trend for eschewing full-backs, using four central defenders so that, although Ben White does get forward, they can play narrow and have the wingers drop in as auxiliary full-backs, as happened on Sunday, and are perhaps set for countering opposition counters when possession is lost.

They stopped City from scoring for the first time in 58 home matches, and that is not an achievement to be dismissed. Whether it is enough to win the league is another matter.

"This is an extract from Soccer with Jonathan Wilson, a weekly look from the Guardian US at the game in Europe and beyond."

Who is Jason Wilcox and why do Manchester United want him?

By Harry Latham-Coyle

MANCHESTER United continue to make changes off-the-field, with Jason Wilcox, currently Southampton's director of football, the latest individual linked to a role.

The Old Trafford club have made an approach for Wilcox to become their technical director as Sir Jim Ratcliffe continues his off-field overhaul.

Ineos chairman Ratcliffe has completed his minority investment into the club and has taken control of footballing affairs, with Omar Berrada joining as chief executive at the end of the season.

Berrada arrives from cross-town rivals Manchester City, where the Spaniard has served chief football operations officer, while Newcastle sporting director Dan Ashworth also appears likely to join the club after being placed on gardening leave.

Wilcox worked alongside Berrada at Manchester City and could reunite with the executive.

The Bolton-born 52-year-old enjoyed a productive career as a player, winning three England caps and being an integral part of the Premier League-winning Blackburn side in the 1994/95 season.

The former winger concluded his playing career in 2006, joining Manchester City as an academy coach six years later.

During his time as head coach of the club's men's Under 18s, Wilcox oversaw a national championship victory and two FA Youth Cup final appearances, helping the club become one of the best regarded youth set-ups in England. He was appointed to the role of academy director in October 2017 having fulfilled the brief on an interim basis since June.

His time in Manchester ended last January when Southampton lured Wilcox south as the club's new director of football.



Jason Wilcox spent more than a decade at Manchester City. Agencies

He took up the role in the summer after serving his notice period, leading the Championship side's football department and also taking on player recruitment responsibilities.

A black belt in judo, Wilcox explained after taking the role at St Mary's that "alignment" was key to building a successful football club.

"I've not come here trying to bring Manchester City down south."

the director of football said in an interview with Southampton's club website. "That's not what I'm going to do.

"My job is to come in and make sure we've got alignment where the first team manager plays a certain way, the academy teams play a certain way and then we can transition creating this pathway for the younger players. That's what I'm here to do. I think when you don't have alignment and you have inconsistency of work, it takes you a lot longer to get there and you're being reactive all the time.

"I've been brought now for the last 12 years on a complete alignment from top to bottom, from the board to the director of football, to the first team manager and to the academy director.

"And then when you get that alignment of thinking and you understand profiles of players, you understand what's happening on the pitch, you can build and you can grow and even when you're losing football matches, you can actually understand where you're going wrong or when you win football matches, you can understand what you're doing really well and have clear measures. And that's something that I'm looking to implement."

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Football's elite are tightening up – and Arsenal lead the pack

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Aziz Ki wins NBC PL's March Player of the Month Award

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC attacking midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki has been named the NBC Premier League Player of the Month for March, with Azam FC boss Bruno Ferry scooping the Coach of the Month prize.

The Burkinabe midfielder sparkled throughout March with three goals and assisting a further four in the four games he played for his team in the NBC Premier League.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, started March with a 3-1 away victory over Namungo FC, and they did so thanks to a goal and assist by Aziz Ki at Mjuliwa Stadium in Lindi.

Three days later, 'Wananchi' went on to defeat Ifhefu 5-0. Aziz Ki scored one and assisted three times to inspire Yanga to a sixth league win in a row as they tightened their grip on the top spot.

Aziz Ki scored for the third consecutive game when his lone strike secured a hard-fought 1-0 win over a battling Geita Gold FC at Azam Complex Stadium.

The former ASEC Mimosas left-footed midfielder then closed out the month with his fourth assist though it was not enough to prevent Yanga from succumbing to a 2-1 defeat to Azam FC during the pulsating tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

His seven goals contribution has helped Yanga take nine points from the 12 on offer in March and retain the top spot in the league standings, with a five-point lead over second-placed Azam FC.

This is the second time this season that Aziz Ki has won this award following the previous triumph in October.

He came out on top in the final voting ahead of midfielders- Feisal Salum of Azam FC and Clatous Chama of Simba SC.

With 13 goals - as well as seven assists - after 21 league games, Aziz Ki is joint-top in the race for the top goalscorer award.

Ferry steered Azam FC to win two of the three games they played in March to maintain their hold on the second place in the league standings.

There were triumphs over Dodoma Jiji FC and Yanga as well as a draw with Coastal Union that saw him edge out Miguel Gamondi of Yanga and Zubeir Katwila of Mtibwa Sugar.

The French coach has now won the award on three different occasions- having won it back-to-back in November and December.

The Awards Committee also selected Shaban Rajabu as the Stadium Manager of the Month for a job well done at Lake Tanganyika Stadium, Kigoma.



Stephane Aziz Ki. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA



Simba SC midfielder, Clatous Chama (R), seeks to outfox Al Ahly's defender (partly hidden) and goalie Mostafa Shobeir when the clubs met in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League quarterfinal first-leg duel played in Dar es Salaam last Friday and ended in a 1-0 win for Al Ahly. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC departs for Egypt, eyes upsetting Al Ahly in CAF CL

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC is poised to depart today for Egypt, gearing up for the crucial second leg of the CAF Champions League quarterfinal against Al Ahly.

Scheduled for Friday at 5 pm EAT in Cairo, the game carries immense significance for both teams.

Simba SC faces a daunting challenge after suffering a 1-0 defeat at home in the first leg. In a matter of moments, the Simba SC fans were stunned as their team conceded a quick goal.

Al Ahly found the back of the net just four minutes into the match. A defensive lapse by Simba SC's defender, Henock Inonga, who could not deal with Mohamed Ahmed's delivery from the right side, led to Ahmed Koka's goal.

Ahmed Ally, Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, stressed the team's singular focus on securing victory in Egypt.

"Following our home loss, there's no room for debate—we need a win in Egypt," Ally noted.

"Despite the daunting task ahead, we're prepared to surprise Al Ahly in Cairo and showcase our quality on their turf."

Expressing unwavering faith in their abilities, Ally emphasized the team's resilience and determination to overcome adversity.

"We thrive on the unexpected. Our unwavering belief in our rematch is bolstered by our relentless pursuit of success," he added.

To advance directly to the semi-finals, Simba SC requires a two-goal lead. However, a 1-0 victory would force the game into a penalty shoot-out challenge, underscoring the importance of a decisive performance.

Simba SC suffered their first-ever home defeat against Egypt's Al Ahly in the first leg, a setback that has galvanized the team.

Abdelhak Benchikha-Simba SC's head coach, while acknowledging the disappointment, remains steadfast in his belief in the team's competence.

"The match is far from over. Our journey to Cairo presents an opportunity to turn the tide," Benchikha remarked.

"Our defeat at home is a mere chapter in our story. We're determined to author a different ending in Cairo."

Despite the historical challenge of defeating Al Ahly away, Benchikha has drawn confidence from past successes, including a victory against the Egyptian giants in the CAF Super Cup with his former team, USM Alger.

"I refuse to entertain the notion of defeat in Egypt. We have the talent and resolve to rewrite history," Benchikha affirmed.

With a renewed sense of purpose, Simba SC confronts the daunting task ahead. Benchikha's unwavering belief in the team's ability to correct past mistakes and seize victory resonates throughout the squad.

"Our journey is far from over. With each challenge comes an opportunity for growth and redemption," Benchikha concluded.

Simba SC embarks on their journey to Egypt with a singular objective: to defy the odds, rewrite history, and emerge victorious against Al Ahly.

As they prepare to take the field in Cairo, they carry with them the hopes and aspirations of their fans, united in their quest for glory in the CAF Champions League.

Doubtful trio included in Yanga's travelling squad for Sundowns clash



Tanzania's Yanga footballers are pictured training in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals and NBC Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AMID doubts over their fitness, the trio of Pacome Zouzoua, Khalid Aucho, and Attohoul Yao has been included in the Young Africans SC travelling squad that will take on Mamelodi Sundowns on Friday.

Record Mainland Tanzania champions Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, on Tuesday left the country for South Africa for their CAF Champions League quarterfinal second-leg game against Mamelodi Sundowns.

The doubtful trio missed the first leg game on Saturday due to injury. They were part of Miguel Gamondi's squad of 21 players that were on board Malawi Airlines on Tuesday morning.

Yanga's chances of securing a positive result, on the one hand, rest largely on their star players'

availability for selection and being at the top of their game. Fortunately for Gamondi, the inclusion of the trio is a huge boost.

The full travelling squad has three goalkeepers Djigui Diarra, Aboutwalib Mshery, and Metacha Mnata.

Eight defenders made it to the list including Bakari Mwamnyeto, Dickson Job, Ibrahim 'Bacca' Hamad, Gift Fredy, Kibwana Shomari, Lomalisa Mutambala, Nickson Kibagage, and Yao.

The 12 midfielders in the squad are Zawadi Mauya, Maxi Nzungeli, Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy', Augustine Okrah, Mahlatse 'Skudu' Makudubela, Denis Nkane, Jonas Mkude, Farid Mussa, Stephanie Aziz Ki, Zouzoua, Aucho, and Mudathir Yahya.

The frontline players are Kennedy Musonda, Joseph Guede, and Clement Mzize. The team is accompanied by 12 club officials.

Following last weekend's goalless draw, Yanga needs either a scoring draw or a win to advance to the semi-finals for the first

time in their history.

On the other hand, Mamelodi Sundowns, who are still chasing their first CAF Champions League title since 2016, need a win to qualify for the last four.

Another goalless draw will send the game into a penalty shootout to decide the winner.

The aggregate winner of this clash will go on to face the winner of the other quarterfinal between Tunisia's Espérance and Ivorian outfit ASEC Mimosas in the semi-finals set for late April.

Having won the inaugural African Football League tournament last year, Sundowns have firmly set their eyes on the elusive second CAF Champions League title.

Last year, the South African football giants were eliminated at the semi-final stage by Morocco's Wydad AC.

They have dominated the Group Stage for many seasons but come short at the decisive knockout hurdles.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

