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12 die after AN Classic bus hits ditch, overturns

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TWELVE people died and 36 suffered injuries after a bus veered off the road and overturned at Lwanjilo village, in Mbeya District.

ACP Wilbert Siwa, the acting regional police commander, said here yesterday that the accident occurred in the morning as the AN Classic bus, T. 282 CXT, was travelling from Mbeya to Tabora.

Speeding and recklessness of the bus's driver was apparently the cause of the accident, he said, noting that the driver failed to control the bus at a sharp corner, hit a ditch and the bus overturned.

Some passengers died instantly while others passed away while receiving treatment at Chalangwa Health Centre and Chunya District Hospital, he said, express-

ing disappointment that the driver also died.

Some bodies were taken to health centre and others to the district hospital, he said Siwa, while witnesses who participated in the rescue efforts said that the bus was travelling at high speed.

This led to the driver losing control in a section of the road with sharp curves, they said, one being Isaka Mbuba, a local leader from Nsalaga area where the accident occurred.

He said he witnessed the bus overturn while he was informing residents about a community meeting, recalling seeing the bus moving at high speed and hearing a loud noise before turning around.

He found the bus having overturned and

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Traffic police officers pictured yesterday at the spot where a commuter bus (see wreckage) was involved in a road crash at Lwanjilo village in Mbeya District yesterday, leaving 12 people dead and 36 injured. Related photo on Page 2. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

'Ministry must ensure close oversight of SGR services'

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed the Ministry of Transport to maintain close oversight of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) to ensure that standard gauge railway (SGR) services are improved, and its infrastructure well maintained for sustainability.

Adjourning the 16th meeting of the current legislature in the capital yesterday, he said that during this financial year, the government will seek to develop the transport sector by closely overseeing railways, moving towards the finalisation of SGR construction and strengthening the modern

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By Special Correspondent

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has described Africa's debt situation "as unsustainable and a recipe for social unrest."

Speaking at the China-Africa cooperation summit in Beijing on Thursday, he called for "deep reforms" to the "outdated, ineffective, and unfair international financial system."

These reforms would help provide developing countries with "the liquidity they need" to respond to problems, including climate change, he said, noting that a growing debt crisis across the continent and the rising cost of living has resulted in civil unrest in several countries, citing Kenya in recent months.

Many African countries are mired in debt and struggling to invest in sustainable development, he said, recalling his proposals to reform "outdated, ineffective and unfair international financial architecture."

The goal is to provide a stimulus plan for developing countries

UN chief applauds China-Africa links



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience in Beijing yesterday with investors and officials representing various Chinese companies. She is in the Chinese capital for the ongoing (Sept 3 to 8) Heads of State and Government Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Photo: State House

striving to make the sustainable development goals (SDGs) a reality, he said, asserting that solutions include increasing the lending capacity of multilateral development banks.

This would enable them to massively scale up affordable financing for development, he started, stressing that the support of China and Africa for these initiatives is critical.

"In this context, South-South cooperation is essential to build capacities and drive progress on shared development goals - while in no way reducing the responsibilities of the Global North," the UN chief declared.

"Many have no access to effective debt relief, or enjoy scarce resources," he said, pointing at the clearly insufficient concessional funding to respond to the basic needs of their population.

This would help to protect them from the ravages of a climate crisis which African

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Mwinyi explores Indonesia links in Mangapwani design

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has affirmed the government's readiness to collaborate with Indonesia's state-owned port operator, Pelindo, to develop the Mangapwani multipurpose port.

A State House statement said here yesterday that the president made this affirmation when visit-

ing Tanjung Priok port in Jakarta yesterday, where he held talks with the Pelindo management operating all ports in Indonesia.

Mangapwani is expected to make a significant contribution to national income as a vital gateway, so the government is working to implement initiatives to improve port services to stimulate development, he said.

The government is pursuing strategies to ensure Zanzibar ports make a significant contribution to our economy

The facility is a new cargo port designed to cater for needs in East

Africa and wider markets, supporting Malindi port in meeting Zanzibar's growing trading targets, he stated.

The project involves the construction of berths for liquid bulk cargo, containers, fishing vessels, natural gas offshore services and workshop facilities, he said, pointing at intended grain storage, container handling, dry port,

break-bulk terminal, and oil storage facilities.

Seeking to be competitive enough, the port is intended to be a transshipment hub, here importers can seek a range of strategic needs from the hub instead of scaling up Middle East and East

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'Ministry must ensure close oversight of SGR management'

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passenger train service from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma.

He was jubilant that express train service between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro began on June 14, 2024, extended to Dodoma on July 25, formally launched by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on August 1.

He also applauded the Ministry of Agriculture for its efforts to monitor availability and proper distribution of agricultural inputs ahead of the upcoming farming season. These efforts were taking into consideration agro-climatic conditions of the various regions, he stated.

He appealed to agricultural extension officers to intensify efforts of grassroots outreach on the use of advanced technology for food preservation and reduction of post-harvest losses at the household level.

He emphasised on improvements in national revenue collection, pointing at better performance among local government authorities for the month of July, with a total of 113.70bn/- collected.

This represents an eight percent of the 2024/2025 estimate of 1.356trn/- and an increase from 90.665bn/- obtained in July last year, marking a rise of 23.036bn/-, he stated.

Higher local government authorities' collec-

tions arose from managing existing revenue sources, regular evaluations of internal revenue sources across all 184 councils, and higher compliance resulting from extensive taxpayer education, he said.

The government is also overseeing the proper use of a revenue portal that facilitates taxpayer access to pay taxes on a self-service basis and point of sale machines, he said.

As 2024 is the year for holding local government elections, the people need to prepare to fully participate in late November polls, he reminded MPs, noting that drawing up election regulations and voter education guidelines had already been completed.

Other election preparations are nearing completion, including announcing administrative areas, verifying polling stations in the second phase, and procuring election materials.

"Currently, the relevant authorities are providing voter education through media, billboards and social networks," he said, urging MPs to take up the matter as they leave the capital.

MPs need to use their time in constituencies, along with artists and media, to promote the importance of citizen participation in the local government elections, he emphasised.



Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera (L) pictured at Chalangwa Health Centre in Chunya District yesterday visiting people admitted to the facility after being injured in a road crash involving a commuter bus. The incident left 12 people dead and 36 hurt. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

UN chief applauds China-Africa links

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countries "did nothing to create," he further asserted, highlighting that China has become a major player in Africa since the forum was founded in 2000.

Chinese companies have invested heavily in mining for the resources its industry needs, while its development banks

have made loans to build railways, roads, and other infrastructure.

China has become sub-Saharan Africa's largest bilateral trading partner but China exports much more to the continent than it imports, he said, suggesting that in part to reduce the trade deficit, African leaders are seeking Beijing's help to ex-

pand their agricultural exports and industrialise their economies.

Chinese cooperation with African countries could drive development in many key areas including energy, food safety, and technology, while joint efforts by China and Africa can spark new momentum for development on the continent.

UN support for this partnership is necessary on account of rising geopolitical tensions, raging conflicts and growing poverty and hunger, he said, pointing at the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan.

He also lamented the worsening climate crisis, inequalities and threats to global and African efforts to achieve sustain-

able development, describing China's partnership with the African continent as a pillar of South-South cooperation.

The exchange of technology and skills between countries of the Global South is an illustration of the United Nations Charter, as it can create a new momentum for African development, the UN chief intoned.

12 die after AN Classic bus hits ditch, overturns

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passengers shouting for help, rushed to the scene and found many people injured, some trapped under the bus.

He immediately called the village chairman on the matter, and within a short time all vehicles coming from Mbeya and Chunya stopped. People disembarked to help with the rescue efforts until the police and fire services arrived, the resident elaborated.

One of the survivors, Hamadi Mazingira, admitted to the health centre, said he was travelling from Mbeya to his home in Lupatinginga ward, Chunya District.

From the start of the journey the driver was speeding, and although passengers were shouting that he slows down, he maintained the reckless driving, at one point shaking off part of the luggage but it was reloaded.

The driver told the loading crew and passengers to hurry up so that the bus

leaves quickly as he wanted to catch up with other buses that had overtaken AN Classic.

"We didn't understand what happened until we found ourselves on the ground," he mildly recalled.

Regional Commissioner Juma Homera who visited the accident site said the bus was carrying between 50 and 60 passengers while the speed governor, the vehicle tracking device, had been inactive for over a month.

He appealed to the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to monitor buses more closely and take action against those found tampering with speed governors.

He similarly demanded that the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TanRoads) place warning signs at steep descents and sharp bends, as the accident was the second within a week.

It follows another accident early in the week in Mbarali District killing 10 people and injuring 18 others, residents noted.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa adjourns the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Domestic violence likely to triple by 2060 in Africa due to climate crises

New York

SEVERE climate crises could drive a sharp uptick in the number affected by intimate partner violence in sub-Saharan Africa, a new United Nations report says.

The number of women and girls facing domestic abuse in sub-Saharan Africa is set to almost triple by 2060 - an increase of more than 90 million - as a result of climate change.

This is according to the projections published on Thursday in a new report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Scientists believe that natural disasters and other climate emergencies - like

droughts, floods, and earthquakes - do not usually cause gender-based violence, but rather exacerbate existing problems.

The stress of displacement, loss of social support, increased alcohol abuse, food insecurity, financial and other pressures can make it easier for perpetrators to enact violence and leave victims isolated.

However, some studies have also linked extreme heat to violence, with high temperatures potentially driving increased aggression.

For the new study, researchers analysed demographic and health surveys that measure women's experiences with physical and sexual violence from their

husband or intimate partner, and then mapped them onto potential future scenarios based on social and environmental factors in the region.

In the best-case scenario, which envisions "strong climate action and improved socioeconomic conditions," the share of girls and women ages 15 to 49 who are affected by intimate partner violence (IPV) in sub-Saharan Africa would fall from 24 percent in 2015 to 14 percent in 2060.

In the worst case scenario - a "business-as-usual approach" with severe climate events - that percentage would stay relatively level but amount to an increase of 90 million people, according to

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Asia port cities, he explained.

He similarly dwelt on common potentials and challenges facing island nations in maritime transport, stressing the critical role of ports in enhancing such potential and using littoral location to enhance national economies.

The government is pursuing strategies to ensure Zanzibar ports make a significant contribution to our economy, he said, while Arif Subartono, the firm's CEO operating 71 port management branches across Indonesia, expressed optimism that the visit would pave the way for closer cooperation.

It may facilitate the setting up of a strategic partnership between Indonesia and Zanzibar, he said, backed by experience of the vast port management layout from Sumatra in the west to Papua in the east of the one thousand plus islands country.

The Isles leader concluded his visit to Indonesia as well as the tourist resort island of Bali, where he represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the Second Indonesia-Africa Forum, the statement added.

the UNFPA report, which was conducted with the University of Vienna and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria.

"The findings of this report have major policy implications," Kim Van Daalen, a postdoctoral researcher focused on climate change and gender inequity at the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, told Euronews Health.

"The choices we make regarding emission reduction and development pathways will profoundly influence future rates of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls."

Agencies

Southern African weather conditions set to improve

By Special Correspondent

THE largest part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region could expect normal to above-normal rainfall between October and December 2024, according to a recent statement by the 29th Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF-29).

Normal to above-normal rains were also forecasted for the period between January and March 2025 for most of the region except for, among others, the south-western fringes of South Africa, north-western Angola, northern Zambia, northern Malawi and northern Mozambique.

The temperature outlook covering the period from October 2024 to January 2025 indicates a high likelihood of above-normal temperatures in most parts of the SADC region.

"The SARCOF-29 statement shows an increased probability of normal to above-normal conditions in the period from October 2024 to March 2025 in the central part of the SADC region. This includes Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and central Mozambique.

Increased probability of normal to below-normal conditions during the October 2024 to December 2024 period is predicted for south-western Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and north-east South Africa," the SARCOF-29 report read.

There is a probability of the expansion of below-normal rainfall to cover northern DRC and northern Tanzania through the December 2024 to February 2025 period.

According to the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, the prospect of good rainfall in 2024-25 is a welcome development for the region's food and nutrition security "as Southern Africa is still grappling with the impact of the El Niño-induced drought and the flooding that occurred in the 2023-24 season".

The centre said in a statement that the improved prospects of rain would also boost the output of hydropower stations in the region.

Countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe had been forced to cut down on hydropower production due to low water levels as a result of last season's drought.



Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (L) confers the rank of Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police on Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Dora Kiteleki in Moshi municipality yesterday following the latter's promotion by Commander-in-Chief President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo courtesy of Tanzania Police

Police holding several suspects over theft, other alleged crimes

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

POLICE in Mtwara and Lindi regions are holding several individuals for alleged involvement in various criminal activities across the country.

Lindi Regional Police Commander ACP John Imori revealed this yesterday here at a press conference regarding a police operation which led to the arrests.

He named the arrested individuals as Juma Nambala alias Mchukuli

(47), Abdallah Said Mpeula alias Kinana (32), Saidi Mussa Kandenya (49) from Masasi District, Mtwara Region, and Michael Mathias Ndomba (48) from Kilimahewa Village, Ruangwa District, Lindi Region.

Imori reported that the suspects who were in police radar for a while were apprehended on August 26 and 29 this year. They were allegedly found in possession of various items—48 in total—including 12 mobile phones, six TV sets, two radios and roofing sheets, all without prop-

er ownership documents.

Additional items seized include three HP laptops, one Toshiba laptop, two Lenovo laptops, three bags, five batteries, four lock-cutting wires, scissors for cutting wires and a house heater, all without legal ownership.

The police commander also noted that Ndomba was arrested in August 2024, and during a search at his house, various items were discovered, including three different TVs, a deck, a computer keyboard, speak-

ers, a power bank, a Philips electric iron, and a DSTV decoder.

Further items found include hair clippers, Azam decoders, two Ailiang DVD decks, carpentry tools, Soundsoft equipment, a Samlex regulation device, a Dell deck, and two motorcycles—a Hojue (MC 625 BXQ) and a Boxer (MC 326 CTH) along with a Samsung phone.

ACP Imori urged citizens to continue cooperating with police by reporting criminal activities to ensure peace and security in the region.

In a separate case, police in Lindi have arrested eight people, including one woman, in connection with the murder of two residents of Kitomanga Village in June this year.

Commander Imori stated that the suspects whose names were not disclosed, were apprehended in various locations following a crackdown and patrol by police in August. They were finally arrested on September 3, 2024.

Imori reported that on June 13 this year, at Kitomanga Village, Lindi Dis-

trict, the suspects are alleged to have killed Mwhidini Salum Mohamedi (69) and his child Ramadhani Mwhidini (10) and subsequently dumped their bodies in a nearby field.

"Through our interrogations with the suspects, we have identified three individuals, including one woman, as the main perpetrators of the murder," ACP Imori said.

The commander said that all suspects will be taken to court to face charges once official procedures and investigations are completed.



Mary Mihigo (R, in blue T-shirt), a Finance ministry senior finance management officer, sensitises residents of Kiwangwa ward in Chalinze District earlier this week on the need to ensure that they seek loans only from legally registered financial service providers. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Biteko wants African countries to unite in clean energy agenda

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko has called on African countries to unite and heighten the use of clean energy sources and innovate new ones to enhance development.

Dr Biteko (pictured) made the remarks on Thursday in Windhoek, Namibia, while addressing an international conference on the use of hydrogen for electricity generation.

He stated that the countries need to join forces and establish systems and policies to facilitate adoption of technology and alternative energy sources for sustainable development among participating nations.

Using Tanzania as an example, Dr Biteko informed the conference that Tanzania is implementing a strategy to ensure reliable and affordable energy supply, thus driving the overall development of the nation. He urged African countries to make clean energy a collective agenda which would reduce operational costs and mitigate health challenges.

Despite financial, infrastructural and market challenges associated with hydrogen use, he emphasised that cooperation and good relations among African countries could provide solutions.

He further said that Tanzania will continue to lead in clean energy usage by collaborating with other African nations to review systems, policies and laws aimed at sustainable development.

The conference was opened by Namibia's Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who encouraged participants to use the opportunity to outline strategies and approaches for leveraging available resources to advance their countries.

She highlighted Namibia's pride in its use of hydrogen for industrial purposes, benefiting not only Namibia but also neighbouring countries and other nations aligned with this energy approach.

Tanzania is in the early stages of developing hydrogen use and is taking the opportunity to learn about the potential benefits and challenges.

African countries involved in hydrogen use include Namibia, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritania and Morocco.



Zanzibar VP for alliances to advance social services

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has reaffirmed the government's commitment to collaborating with various international organisations to advance development for residents.

This includes enhancing maternal and child health for the broader

benefit of the people of Unguja and Pemba.

He made the statement on Thursday when he met representatives from Dtree International who paid a courtesy call at his office in Vuga.

The organisation works closely with Zanzibar Ministry of Health, particularly in community health services.

Abdulla said that the government will continue to support Dtree International in its efforts to train health workers, especially those in rural areas, to ensure they provide high-quality services to every person.

He said that the organisation's programme to train Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) will significantly contribute to advancing the sector

for the greater good of the people of Zanzibar.

The Vice President further assured that the government will prioritise support for volunteers in the health sector to ensure they deliver quality services, particularly in rural areas. This includes providing education on preventing non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hyper-

tension.

Riccardo Lampariola, executive director of Dtree International Zanzibar, expressed gratitude to the government of Zanzibar for its ongoing trust and collaboration, especially in community health services.

He noted that the organisation recently introduced a digital programme designed to assist health

workers, especially volunteers in performing their tasks more efficiently and providing better services to patients.

Lampariola added that in partnership with the Zanzibar, he was confident that their goals of delivering quality services to health services across all districts in Unguja and Pemba will be achieved.



Industry and Trade minister Dr Selemani Jafo (L) speaks with College of Business Education officials including rector Prof Edda Lwoga (next to him) shortly after the minister arrived at the college in Dar es Salaam yesterday for a routine tour. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Young engineers urged to value innovation, permanent learning

By Guardian Correspondent

YOUNG engineers in the country have been encouraged to prioritise technological advancements and actively pursue opportunities for learning and innovation to ensure a brighter future for themselves and the nation.

Zanzibar Chief Secretary Zena Ahmed Said made the call in Dar es Salaam this week during the 2024 Youth in Engineering Forum (YEF).

The two-day forum organised by Engineers Registration Board (ERB) from 3 to 4 this month drew over 250 participants under the theme 'Engineering and Entrepreneurship: Accelerating Excellence'. The event aimed at empowering young engineering professionals to explore self-employment and foster innovation.

"I urge all engineers to focus on technological development and continually seek out learning opportunities," said who is also an engineer. "We must commit to being innovative students and leaders who contribute positively to society and help build a better future for all Tanzanians."

She stressed the importance of not solely relying on traditional employment but also exploring opportunities by merging technical knowledge with entrepreneur-

ial spirit. Said also encouraged engineers to utilise government initiatives such as low-interest loans and the 10 percent revolving fund allocated for youth, women and people with disabilities by all councils to start their own businesses and create opportunities for others.

She urged engineers to tackle challenges in various sectors, including agriculture, livestock and fishing by designing and developing solutions that leverage their engineering expertise.

"We need young engineers to take action by innovating and applying their skills to drive positive change in their personal and professional lives while contributing to national development," she stated. "The strength of our nation lies in its youth who are expected to lead change across different sectors."

She expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Works for its commitment to encouraging female students to pursue science courses and engineering profession.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works Dr Charles Msonde commended ERB for organising the forum and urged the board to build on the success for next year's event to engage a broader audience of engineers.

Jafo wants CBE to host online business courses

By Correspondent, Joseph

Mwendapole

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Dr Selemani Jafo has urged College of Business Education (CBE) to introduce courses on online business to equip youth with skills needed to engage in e-commerce successfully.

Speaking at the college yesterday as part of his tour of in-

stitutions under his ministry, Dr Jafo called on CBE to continuously innovate and refresh its curricula to align with global trends.

He emphasised the need for graduates to be capable of conducting business both nationally and internationally, thereby contributing to development of the economy and the nation as a whole.

Dr Jafo stressed the importance of providing practical

training over theoretical knowledge to better prepare graduates for self-employment and immediate employment opportunities. He encouraged the college to offer short-term programmes that build professional skills and operational efficiency.

"The government is committed to creating a conducive environment for investment and business. Therefore, the college should

ensure that students are prepared to be self-reliant upon graduation rather than struggle to get employment," he said.

He commended the college for its efforts to increase enrolment and expand its infrastructure, noting the growth in student numbers year on year. Despite these achievements, Dr Jafo highlighted the need for the college to strengthen collaborations with both local

and international institutions to realise aspirations of Tanzanian youth.

"The world is evolving rapidly and business is at the forefront. We must emphasise business education, particularly online business to ensure our youth are equipped to operate internationally," he said.

Prof Edda Lwoga, CBE Rector, expressed gratitude to the government for its support in expanding the college's facili-

ties. She noted that the college now has campuses in Mwanza, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

She also highlighted the college's new apprenticeship programme, which integrates classroom learning with practical training to better prepare students for self-employment.

She mentioned successful collaborations with various institutions and companies providing practical training

opportunities for students.

"The college has trained around 1,500 people in the 2023/24 financial year and we aim to reach even more," she said. "We have signed agreements with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) for metrology courses as well as with the e-Government Agency (eGA) to provide digital and technology solutions."

Intervention curbs maternal, neonatal mortality at Nduta

By Special Correspondent

EFFORTS to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality have made significant strides at a refugee camp in Kigoma Region, thanks to improved pathways to care benefiting both refugees and local communities.

Elda Kyando, medical team leader at Nduta Refugees Camp in Kibondo District, for Doctors Without Borders (MSF) recently highlighted the transformative impact of Maternal and Neonatal Health services provided by MSF and its partners.

"I am delighted to see mothers arriving at the hospital for delivery and leaving with their newborns, all smiles," she said.

"We have ensured that healthcare services remain accessible to Nduta refugee population and the surrounding community. Our facilities continue to offer comprehensive inpatient care, including emergency room services, adult ward, paediatric, intensive care, neonatology and maternity care."

She said MSF's 15-bed maternity unit addresses critical conditions that heighten the risk of maternal mortality such as postpartum haemorrhage, eclampsia, sepsis, obstructed labour and unsafe abortions.

For cases requiring advanced care, MSF has established a referral pathway to Kibondo District Hospital which prioritises time efficiency to enhance survival rates.

Lilian John from a neighbouring Malolongwa Village shared her experience saying: "I have had all three of my children at the hospital in Nduta. When we come from the village to the camp, we receive a permit and accommodation close by. The services are excellent and the staff are friendly. They listen and provide very good care." Since January 2024, MSF has facilitated 624 referrals to Kibondo District Hospital for high-risk pregnancies needing emergency surgery.

Maintaining a stable blood bank is essential to manage bleeding risks during and after delivery. Kyando said: "One night, I received an urgent call from Kibondo District Hospital about a patient we had referred who was severely bleeding. They lacked matching blood, and finding a donor was challenging. We quickly dispatched three units of blood from our bank, which enabled the hospital staff to save the woman's life."

Increased awareness on maternal and neonatal health within and around the camp has fostered trust in existing services and encouraged timely healthcare seeking.

Despite ongoing health challenges in Kibondo District for both refugee and host communities, investing in maternal and neonatal services promises significant improvements in healthcare access for mothers and their newborns.



Mohamed Mchengera (L), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has an audience with Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange CEO Peter Nalitoela in Dodoma city on Thursday. The thrust was on ways to strengthen strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing financial inclusion and fostering economic development through capital markets. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Initiative seeks to check low voter turnout in Hai District

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

A NEW initiative is being implemented at Kwa Sadala, Mungushi and Kware villages in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, to boost civic engagement so that more people take part in elections.

The measure comes in response to low voter turnout recorded in the areas during the 2020 General Election.

Dubbed: 'Maendeleo Yetu',

the project, implemented by the Kilimanjaro based-Tusonge Community Development Organisation and Public Accountability Institution (WAJIBU), is set to operate from September to November this year in its first phase.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting with stakeholders in the area yesterday, Tusonge CDO Programme Manager Lawi Msemwa announced that the project will be rolled

out across 15 regions in Tanzania, involving 157 different organisations.

"The goals of this project are to empower women, people with disabilities, and youth in the project areas so that they actively participate in governance, elections and the fight against corruption and bribery," he said.

He added that the project aims to enhance transparency, accountability and citizen

participation in the upcoming elections to foster accountable leadership and governance.

The anticipated outcomes include active involvement of empowered citizens (women, youth and people with disabilities) in election processes, including policy discussions, voter registration and anti-corruption activities.

The project also seeks to improve transparency and accountability through strength-

ened laws and regulations as well as involving the media in the election process.

Masama South Ward Executive Officer Rose Mengo expressed appreciation for the introduction of the project, highlighting its importance in raising voter awareness and encouraging registration on the permanent voter roll.

Mengo noted that Masama South Ward has 4,899 households with a population of

18,524 people, comprising 9,063 men and 9,461 women, according to the 2022 census.

She also reported that Mungushi Village has 1,367 households with 5,084 people, including 2,632 men, while Kware Village has 438 households with 1,753 people, comprising 928 men and 825 women. Kwa Sadala Village has 2,492 households with 9,379 people, including 4,555 men and 4,824 women.

Gilbert Owen, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the organisation, noted that the project targets women, youth, and people with disabilities aged 18 and older.

According to the 2022 census, 51.3 percent of the population (30,713,709 people) are women, 34.4 percent while 20,612,566 people are youth and there are over 3.3 million people with disabilities in the country.

WHO reports upsurge in global cholera cases, vaccine shortage

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has reported a significant increase in both cholera cases and deaths in 2023, highlighting a growing global health crisis.

Speaking at a recent briefing, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus used alarming statistics that underscore the worsening situation.

"Today, WHO has published new data on cholera for 2023, showing an increase in both cases and deaths," said Dr Tedros. "The number of reported deaths from cholera last year increased by 71 percent compared with 2022, and the number of cases increased by 13 percent." He further noted that, so far in 2023, over 342,000 cases and 2,400 deaths have been reported to the WHO from all regions.

This rise in cholera cases has also led to a severe shortage of cholera vaccines, as demand has outstripped supply.

According to Dr Tedros, "Between 2021 and 2023, more doses were requested for outbreak response than in the entire previous decade." Despite the production of approximately 36 million doses last year, this figure represents only half of the amount requested by 14 affected countries.

Cholera, an acute diarrheal illness

caused by infection of the intestine with *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria, is primarily spread through contaminated water and food.

Outbreaks tend to occur in areas with inadequate access to clean water and sanitation, making low-income and crisis-affected regions particularly vulnerable.

As the world faces this growing cholera crisis, the urgent need for increased vaccine production, improved sanitation, and better access to clean water is becoming more evident.

The WHO continues to work with governments and health organizations to tackle this global health threat, but without a sufficient vaccine supply, the fight against cholera remains challenging.



Today, WHO has published new data on cholera for 2023, showing an increase in both cases and deaths



Mara regional commissioner Col Evans Mtambi addresses residents of Nyatwali ward in Bunda District yesterday on progress made by the government in compensating those earmarked for relocation from areas legally forming part of Serengeti National Park. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mongella upbeat about CCM's grounding for upcoming polls

By Guardian Reporter

CCM Deputy Secretary General (Mainland) John Mongella has expressed confidence in the party's preparation and readiness for the upcoming local government elections in November this year and General Election next year.

His optimism follows a review of implementation of the party's 2020-2025 manifesto based on the recent report he received from Shinyanga regional office.

He said that positive progress

in implementing the manifesto's promises suggests a likely decisive victory for the party.

Mongella, who is on a seven-day tour of Shinyanga as patron of the region, also called on leaders at both regional and local levels to work towards bringing development to the people.

He also emphasized President Samia Suluhu Hassan's dedication to improving citizens' lives through timely provision of agricultural inputs and educational support for farmers.

Earlier, discussing agriculture, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Anamringi Macha said that due to heavy rains in the previous farming season, cotton production has significantly decreased.

"Due to the heavy rains, cotton production has dropped considerably, but other crops such as tobacco and rice have shown satisfactory yields," he said.

He said that the government is committed to timely execution of all projects outlined in the 2020-2025 election pledges.

Mongella underscored the vital role of youth in development activities, emphasizing their importance in the national workforce and the need for modern agriculture and technology to boost productivity.

He praised the government's development projects, including road, hospital, and school construction which have strengthened public trust in the party.

In the health sector, Mongella commended improvements in healthcare services, including

availability of medicines and medical supplies.

The advancements have contributed to reduced maternal and child mortality rates and enhanced service quality. He also advocated for increased health education efforts.

Mongella acknowledged the efforts of regional leaders in fighting corruption and fraud, stressing that such practices impede development. He encouraged citizens to expose corrupt individuals and support ethical leader-

ship. Additionally, he addressed environmental conservation, urging the people of Shinyanga to plant trees and protect water sources. He affirmed that environmental protection is a shared responsibility and that the government will continue to support the initiatives.

During his tour in the region, Mongella will visit Shinyanga Urban, Kahama, Msalala, Ushetu and Shinyanga Rural where he will hold both internal and public meetings.



Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) chairperson Dr Ellen Otaru (R) addresses editors from various media houses yesterday at a meeting on ways to mitigate the impact of conflicts between humans and wild animals in the country held in Bagamoyo town. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Corruption pushes 60pc of Africa's youth to emigrate

By Special Correspondent

SIXTY percent of African youth are looking to leave because unchecked corruption threatens their future, according to a poll of more than 5,600 youngsters in 16 countries released Tuesday.

Corruption is seen as the "single greatest hurdle" they face to achieve their own potential and a better life, said the Johannesburg-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation, which commissioned the poll of 5,604 people aged 18 to 24.

"Most of all, they don't believe their governments are doing enough to address this scourge and, because of it, almost 60 percent are looking to emigrate in the next five years," it said.

The 2024 African Youth Survey, which the foundation says is unparalleled in scope and size, was conducted via face-to-face interviews in January and February in countries ranging from South Africa to Ethiopia.

North America was the top pick for emigration for this age group, followed by Western European countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Spain.

More than half (55 percent) of those polled said Africa was headed in the "wrong direction," although there was a modest rise to 37 percent in "Afro-optimism" from the 2022 survey.

"They want tougher sanctions against corrupt politicians, including banning them from standing for office. They also want a different form of government," the foundation said.

Although about two-thirds of those interviewed believe in democracy, around 60 percent were in favor of an "African-infused" form.

Nearly one in three believe that non-democratic systems, from the military or one-party rule, could be preferable under certain circumstances.

Most of those polled (72 percent) said foreign influence was an issue. "They are concerned about their countries being exploited by foreign companies, especially their natural mineral wealth being mined and exported without any further benefit to the people," said the foundation.

Bill Gates sees malnutrition as Africa's biggest challenge

ABUJA

AFRICAN farmers need better seeds to solve the malnutrition challenge that causes health problems in a fifth of the continent's population, Bill Gates has said during a visit to Nigeria.

Headline appearances by the billionaire philanthropist have been a hallmark of the Gates Foundation's interest and interventions in Africa's agriculture and health sectors in recent years. "The thing that's holding back potential the most is malnutrition,"

Gates told an audience of advocacy groups, students and reporters early this week.

An estimated 278 million Africans are undernourished, according to the anti-poverty charity Oxfam. It said that number was rising due to poor government policies, high inflation, and climate change. The Gates Foundation, which co-founded a "green revolution" alliance in 2006 to ramp up farm productivity with advanced seeds, has increasingly argued that innovation around seeds is key for climate adaptation.

Nigeria's abundance of arable land should

make it a net food exporter if traditional seeds and systems are improved to produce more at lower costs, said Gates. There should be confidence in the country and the rest of Africa that "even as weather is changing due to climate change, we can come up with seeds that deal with the increased temperature and often can thrive with less water or too much water," he said.

The foundation designs public domain seeds from which it makes no royalties or profits, Gates said, unlike commercial hybrid seeds developed by other players in the sec-

tor.

Soaring food prices in Nigeria over the past year have aggravated malnutrition problems, stretching the resources of government health facilities and aid organizations.

In June, Swiss non-profit Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said it had "a crisis at hand" as its clinics in Nigeria's northern states faced a surge in the number of "severely malnourished" people admitted for treatment. More than 2,600 people died after diagnosis of acute malnourishment in seven states in 2023, MSF said.

In January, Nigeria became the second African country after South Africa to approve the commercialization of genetically engineered corn.

Four maize varieties approved could quadruple yields to 10 tons per hectare compared to harvests of the 2022/2023 season, the US Department of Agriculture said. The agency often attributes high corn yields in South Africa to modified seeds, though drought due to the El Niño weather effect could cause an 18% drop for the coming season.



Endasak Secondary School Headmaster Rogate Munisi (4th-L) moves to place a wreath at the grave of Lidya Saitoti, one of the school's three students killed in a road crash at Gawal in Babati District last Saturday. It was at the deceased's burial at Mirerani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

First shipment of mpox vaccines arrives in DRC

KINSHASA

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have announced the arrival of the first shipment of 99,100 doses of the JYNNEOS mpox vaccine.

The shipment is expected to kick off a critical vaccination campaign aimed at combating the escalating epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The vaccine doses were officially received by Samuel Roger Kamba, Minister of Health of the DRC, alongside Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC, UNICEF Representative in DRC, Grant Leaity, and Laurent Muschel, Director General of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

Since the beginning of 2024, the DRC has reported over 4,901 confirmed mpox cases and more than 629 associated deaths, marking a sharp increase in both infections and fatalities compared to previous years. The introduction of the JYNNEOS vaccine is a crucial step towards mitigating further spread and protecting at-risk populations.

Following the declaration of mpox as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) by Africa CDC on 13 August 2024, an urgent appeal was made to the international community for vaccine support.

"We are pleased to receive the first shipment of nearly 100,000 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine in the DRC, with an additional 100,900 doses arriving on Saturday, 7 September 2024. By the end of the week, a total of 200,000 doses will be available in the country,"

UN climate chief calls on leaders to boost climate action in Africa

By Special Correspondent

UNITED Nations Climate Chief Simon Stiell has called on world leaders to "flip the script" on climate action in Africa, advocating a shift from an "epidemic of under-investment" to a goldmine of human and economic benefits.

Addressing a conference of African environment ministers on Thursday in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Stiell emphasised that investments in renewable energy and climate resilience "can and should be the single greatest opportunity for Africa, to uplift people, communities, and economies."

African countries face a disproportionately heavy burden from climate change, with temperatures across the continent rising slightly faster than

the global average, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Deadly floods, droughts and extreme heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, with increasing knock-on effects on economies and societies.

The WMO report cited by Stiell in his speech indicates that African countries are losing between 2 and 5 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) annually due to climate-related hazards.

Stiell cautioned world leaders, particularly those from the G20 group of major economies, against dismissing climate impacts in Africa as someone else's problem. "It is African nations and people who pay the heaviest price," he said. "But the economic and political reality - in an interde-

pendent world - is we are all in this crisis together."

He called for "exponential changes in business, investments, and growth" to strengthen Africa's role in climate solutions, including renewables such as solar and wind power, energy efficiency, clean cooking, and adaptation measures.

African countries require an estimated \$277 billion annually to fund their climate action plans outlined in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

However, they currently receive only a fraction of that amount. Investments in clean energy and related electricity grid upgrades amounted to \$39 billion across Africa in 2023, just 2 percent of the global total, according to the International Energy Agency

(IEA). Fossil fuel supply and power generation continue to attract the majority of energy investments in the region. Efforts to prepare for and adjust to the impacts of climate change are similarly underfunded. The cost of climate adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to be between \$30 billion and \$50 billion annually over the next decade, according to the WMO report. Yet the region received an estimated \$10.8 billion in adaptation finance between 2021 and 2022, according to the latest data from the non-profit Climate Policy Initiative.

Youssef Nassef, the UNFCCC's director for adaptation, told journalists on Wednesday that climate change is worsening poverty, undermining food security, and harming children's development across Africa. Only 21

out of 54 African countries have so far submitted National Adaptation Plans, which are crucial for mapping out and funding climate resilience measures. This is largely due to the limited capacity of the poorest nations to prepare them, he noted, describing it as "a cause for concern."

At the COP29 UN climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, this November, countries are expected to agree on a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) for finance to channel more money into both adaptation and clean energy in developing nations. However, governments remain deeply divided over key issues, including the size of the goal, what it should fund, and who should contribute.

Wealthy countries are pushing for high-emitting emerging economies,

such as China and the Gulf states, to contribute. While some of these countries are resisting inclusion in the NCQG donor base, they are already providing climate finance bilaterally, outside the UN process.

Stiell said that COP29 "must signal that the climate crisis is core business for every government, with finance solutions to match."

He called for progress on various finance sources beyond the NCQG, such as establishing a global carbon market and operationalising the new loss and damage fund, which would help advance climate progress in Africa and beyond.

"An Africa ascending, an Africa empowered to take bolder climate actions is in every nation's interests," the UN climate chief concluded.

Delegates from over 120 countries to seek answers for global food systems

TURIN

THE Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2024, set to take place from September 26 to 30 at Turin's Parco Dora in Italy will bring together Slow Food delegates and activists from over 120 countries to explore transformative solutions for global food systems.

Agroecology, championed by Slow Food, is at the forefront of this year's event. This approach promises a healthier, more productive, and sustainable farming system by fostering positive interactions within ecosystems. Agroecology creates synergy that benefits both human health and the environment.

Synergy is a cornerstone of agroecology, reflecting the harmonious interactions among different elements of an agroecosystem.

Healthy soils, teeming with microorganisms, provide essential nutrients for plants, which then nourish animals and humans. This interconnectedness not only supports biodiversity but also strengthens ecosystems, leading to more resilient and productive agricultural systems.

This year's Terra Madre Salone del Gusto will address five key themes: diversity, community, synergy, justice, and knowledge. While previous press releases have explored diversity, justice, and knowledge, this re-

lease highlights the critical theme of synergy.

In contrast, industrial agriculture often depletes soil health and harms pollinators through the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The result is food that is less nutritious and potentially harmful.

According to "The Economics of the Food System Transformation" (2024), the hidden costs of industrial agriculture are estimated at \$15 trillion annually - about 12 percent of global GDP in 2020. This reflects the broader issue of overconsumption leading to undernourishment, as highlighted by the global obesity epidemic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, extending beyond humans to encompass ecosystems and animals. This holistic approach, known as "One Health," recognises the interconnectedness of global and local systems.

Marta Messa, Secretary General of Slow Food, remarked, "An agroecological farm is a living community, not just a place to grow crops. It mimics and enhances the complexity of nature to mitigate climate change, foster economic diversity and social well-being, and enhance biodiversity."



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday morning responding to questions from legislators. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

UN experts call for expanded arms embargo, impartial force in Sudan

GENEVA

UNITED Nations (UN)-backed human rights investigators yesterday urged the creation of an "independent and impartial force" to protect civilians in Sudan's war, blaming both sides for war crimes

including murder, mutilation and torture and warning that foreign governments which arm and finance them could be complicit.

The fact-finding team, in their first report since being created by the U.N.'s main human rights body last October, also accused the paramilitary

Rapid Support Forces, which are fighting Sudan's army, and its allies of crimes against humanity including rape, sexual slavery and persecution on ethnic or gender grounds.

"The people of Sudan have suffered greatly, and the violations against them must stop. This cannot be done without

ending the fighting," Mohamed Chande Othman, the chair of the team, told a news conference.

The experts called for the expansion of an arms embargo on Sudan's long-restive western Darfur region to the entire country.

The findings from the team

mandated by the 47-country Human Rights Council come as more than 10 million people have been driven from their homes - including over 2 million to neighbouring countries - and famine has broken out in one large camp for displaced people in Darfur.

The conflict that erupted in

April last year has killed untold thousands of people, and humanitarian groups are struggling to gain access to people in need. In December, the U.N. Security Council voted to end the world body's political mission in the country under pressure from the military leadership.

While the killings, displacement and forced starvation have been long known, the call for the creation of an independent force marks the latest sign of desperation from rights advocates both within the country and abroad to halt the bloodshed, displacement and food crisis.

Inferno kills 17 primary school pupils in Kenya

NAIROBI

At least 17 pupils have died after a dormitory at a boarding school in central Kenya caught fire on Thursday night, police said.

There were fears the death toll could rise as more than a dozen others have been taken to hospital with severe burns.

The cause of the fire at Hillside Endarasha Academy, a primary school in Nyeri County was not yet known.

President William Ruto called the fire "horrific" and "devastating", and had ordered an investigation.

"Those responsible will be held to account," Ruto wrote on social media.

A team of investigators has been deployed to the school, police said.

More than 150 pupils were in the dormitory when it caught fire at around midnight local time, police chief Pius Murugu said.

The blaze spread very fast as most of the buildings in the school were made of timber, according to a journalist from network Citizen TV.

Police spokesperson Resila Onyango told the AFP news agency that bodies recovered were "burnt beyond recognition".

"More bodies are likely to be recovered once (the) scene is fully processed," she added.

The Kenya Red Cross said it was providing trauma counselling services to the pupils, teachers and affected families, and had set up a tracing desk at the school.

Hillside Endarasha Academy is a private primary school, with more than 800 pupils mostly between five and 12 years old, located near Nyeri town - 150km (93 miles) north of the capital, Nairobi.

School fires are relatively common in Kenyan boarding schools.

In 2017, 10 pupils died in an arson attack at Moi Girls High School in the capital Nairobi.

At least 67 pupils died in Machakos County, south-east of Nairobi, in the deadliest Kenyan school arson that took place more than 20 years ago.

There were fears the death toll could rise as more than a dozen others have been taken to hospital with



Students from a school that was not immediately identified visit an Akili Platform Tanzania pavilion at an exhibition on the activities of various NGOs held in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

GABI set to advance Africa's role in vital global business solutions

NEW YORK

THE Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) said it will be bringing together leaders from the public and private sectors to advance Africa's role in shaping global business solutions.

Dubbed: "Unstoppable Africa: The Solution for a Global Future," the forum is scheduled to take place on 25-26 September 2024 in New York.

This year's forum will be held on the margins of the UN General Assembly and aims to elevate Africa's role in shaping global business solutions.

In virtual press briefing held in announcing its line-up for 2024 forum, GABI stated that the event will take

place alongside the Summit of the Future, a landmark convening of the UN General Assembly.

Central to this event is the recent strategic partnership between the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and the African Union Commission, which focuses on leveraging Africa's business potential to drive sustainable development. This partnership aims to advance Agenda 2063 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

The event will not only highlight Africa's economic resilience and vast potential but will also be a platform for presenting novel and practical solutions to some of the most urgent global challenges.

From addressing energy transitions and ensuring access to sustainable power, to advancing digital transformation across sectors and promoting inclusive growth, Unstoppable Africa will position the continent as a leader in the global pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future.

Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of the UN Global Compact, which convenes GABI, commented: "With a market valued at over \$3 trillion, Africa is poised for unprecedented growth and development. Africa's GDP growth rate is expected to outpace the global average, with projections of 3.8 percent in 2024 and 4.2 percent in 2025.

"Unstoppable Africa will bring to-

gether Africa's brightest minds and global leaders to collaborate on sustainable solutions. When Africa wins, the world wins. Africa is ready to lead, and GABI is where Africa meets the world's political, business, and philanthropic leaders."

This year, the event will focus on several key themes that address Africa's growing role in shaping the global future:

Unlocking Inclusive Growth through Trade: Africa's vast economic potential is increasingly tied to the development of inclusive trade systems that benefit all sectors of society. With the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) set to transform intra-African trade, the event will explore how policymakers

and business leaders can capitalize on this agreement to spur economic growth, reduce poverty, and create jobs. The solution for clean energy: where leaders in the energy sector will discuss the continent's unique ability to leapfrog into renewable energy solutions, overcoming the barriers of out-dated infrastructure and delivering modern energy access to millions.

Africa's Digital Revolution: Sessions on digital transformation will explore Africa's rapid advancements in technology, from fintech to AI, and how these technological advances are enabling the continent to bridge gaps in education, healthcare, and trade.

Sport: And the Winner Is... Africa!

Africa's sports industry is emerging as a powerful driver of socio-economic transformation. From football to track, African athletes continue to make their mark on the world stage, and discussions will focus on building sports ecosystems that develop talent, attract investments, and foster national pride.

African Creativity for the World: The event will shine a spotlight on Africa's cultural powerhouses—its creative industries and sports sectors—which are becoming major economic drivers. On Thursday, 26 September, GABI will host a special film showcase titled "Bold Stories" dedicated to celebrating the transformative power of African women filmmakers in the entertainment industry.



A small trader hunts for customers along a Malamba Mawili road in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

African Water Facility secures euros 12m for urban sanitation

By Special Correspondent

THE African Water Facility has secured 12 million euros from the Nordic Development Fund for a new funding initiative to support governments, utilities, the private sector and other stakeholders to expand access to safe and sustainable sanitation in African cities.

The Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative (AUSII) was launched on 27 August 2024, on the sidelines of World Water Week 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Nordic Development Fund announced the funding during a panel session on investing in Africa's water sector, which it hosted in tandem with the African Union's African Water Investment Programme.

Over the next ten years, the African Water Facility, through the Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative, aims to mobilise \$320 million to support 50 sanitation projects, connecting at least 15 million people in urban areas to safely managed sanitation services and generating \$7 billion in downstream investments. Ten percent of the \$320 million is expected to come from climate-focused funding sources. The Facility is hosted by the African Development Bank.

"We are delighted to have successfully launched AUSII and to have secured this grant from the Nordic Development Fund as we operationalise our new financing

window for urban sanitation. We hope to see more support from other partners for this important initiative which will ensure inclusive and sustainable access to safe sanitation and cross-cutting impact on development on the continent," said Mtchera Johannes Chirwa, Coordinator, African Water Facility and Acting African Development Bank Director for Water Development and Sanitation.

Satu Santala, the Nordic Development Fund's Managing Director, said: "Africa has the lowest sanitation access levels in the world. With the Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative, we aim to support the provision of innovative and socially inclusive solutions to solve this challenge, especially as the impacts of climate change worsen. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and continue this collaboration with partners like the African Water Facility."

The new financing window comes at a time of increasing demand for water and sanitation on the continent, and for the African Water Facility's resources and expertise to prepare projects and mobilise investment to meet these demands. Africa's cities are growing exponentially due to rapid urbanisation, and traditional sewer systems, which are expensive and complex to build and maintain, are no longer viable, especially in densely populated urban areas.

"I believe the Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative can help turn this around," said Dr Beth Dunford, the Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, in remarks delivered virtually. "The initiative will serve as an accelerator and innovator to help African governments and private sector develop solutions to Africa's sanitation challenges."

Beyond delivering infrastructure, AUSII aims to promote the transition to more targeted solutions such as onsite and decentralised sanitation systems, tailored to the specific needs of African cities. "The beauty of the Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative is that it will take a flexible approach to each and every identified project for implementation. This is particularly important as beneficiary countries are at various stages of development," said Carl-Hermann Schlettwein, Namibia's Minister for Agriculture, Water, and Land Reform, and Chair of the African Water Facility's Governing Council.

"The Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Initiative is a landmark for the African Water Facility, and for water resources management in Africa in general, to accelerate progress... the member states of the African Ministers Council on Water fully support the initiative," said Dr Rashid Mbaziira, Executive Secretary of the African Ministers Council on Water

New plan seeks to recover African vegetable varieties

By Special Correspondent

A NEW initiative led by the World Vegetable Centre (WVC) aims to tackle hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and the climate crisis by rescuing and

conserving biodiversity of African vegetables.

The African Vegetable Biodiversity Rescue Plan, announced at the 2024 Africa Food Systems Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, seeks to bring in-

creased resources and attention to native crops in Africa.

These crops are often nutrient-dense and can thrive with minimal space and inputs compared to other species. However, many have been ne-

glected or underutilised, according to the Crop Trust.

As the rescue plan is implemented, farmers, breeders, and researchers in sub-Saharan Africa will use the rescued genetic material to boost the

availability of healthy foods.

School feeding programmes and homestead production will then help make these vegetables accessible to local communities.

The initiative was prompt-

ed by a study from the WVC, which highlighted the inadequate protection of biodiversity in Africa. Vegetables are also underrepresented in genebank collections, particularly in Africa, said Maarten van

Zonneveld, Head of Genetic Resources at the WVC. "There's an urgent need to rescue and conserve African vegetable biodiversity so that we can address malnutrition," he said.

Stock instruments at popular stage relevant for lifetime housing levers

AT times people learn to do certain things just because those things look good in the way they are done elsewhere. That means trying to copy habits without having the same needs where those habits provide a ready-made solution.

That much can rapidly be observed in the way that for nearly 30 years we have been making efforts to anchor collective stock market investment units into our daily habits.

How far this is a real success is anyone's guess. It is widely usable; a new initiative is in the air.

In unveiling what looks like an in-house money market fund at Treasury premises, top officials spoke of the need for the public to utilise the growing financial opportunities by investing in money market funds.

The idea is simply that they will gain, expand their monetary base and improve livelihoods - though definitely that is to talk of the long term.

In between it is as if the money is not in one's pocket but in a safe deposit where its value increases, whereas in a bank its value will decrease as prices keep rising, so money buys less over time.

The newly unveiled fund is said to be a mutual instrument investing in short-term best placed securities, with a strategy for high liquidity with low risk.

It also expects to be stable as an investment quantity while being geared at typically higher yields than various government bonds or Treasury bills.

All this needs to be closely inspected as it has dissonant elements like high yield and low risk, stability and minimal capital input at an individual level, as it is risky for shareholder consensus.

The financial services industry has been growing as more and more firms come up with inno-

vative services targeting scores of savers who can afford such instruments. However, the wide-ranging effort to make a difference to consumers has its limits.

It is thus arguable how far common investment conditions in the social money market exist in the wider region, as often shareholders need people of like minds to move propositions on issues.

Small investors would be hard put to know who stands for them at a shareholders' meeting without prior social cohesion.

All these intricacies are likely to be taken care of in the design, while Treasury experts say stakeholders need to invest in awareness programmes to educate the people on innovative financial services.

The experts are convinced that many people don't take much notice of information on such instruments despite its being available through mobile phones.

Trouble with this assessment is the usual impression that people embark on certain courses of action, especially involving their savings, just out of getting information.

Unquestionably, information is paramount in whatever venture one seeks to pursue in life or in the course of any year where there are substantial earnings to be sunk into investment.

The idea that the public can take up mutual funds as a cardinal asset anchor where surplus funds are ordinarily directed fails to see the link the funds have in the social setting like in the United States, the most vivid example of their use.

The secret is stable earnings and a wish to pay for own residence over a long period of time and, implicitly, venture capital becomes a fund for all those savers.

Reaching out to small traders pulled by credit empowerment, tax tag eligibility

A SORT of experiment is being conducted on the just-unveiled programme where small traders are slated for digital inclusion on the basis of the personal identification number, or the tax identification number.

Either number simply relates to the fact that one conducts a business in the streets for which cash is earned and is operating that unit instead of being someone else's servant or staff member.

Earlier on, tax inclusion related to a threshold of business output outside local government levies of some types like for waste collection, higher for shops than houses, licences, etc.

On the face of it, there is a mushrooming idea or rolling out of a programme where more than 60,000 traders across the country are set to be registered in a formal digital system and included in an economic empowerment programme.

This is the brainchild of the National Economic Empowerment Council and was announced at midweek during a working meeting with regional secretariat officials as well as district executives.

The programme seeks to have marginalised groups of youth, women, the elderly and people with disabilities form production groups within their localities - and this for credit eligibility instead of catering for individual needs. It looks a good idea, if it works.

How correctly the credit programmes will be designed will depend on the bottom line as to what the government means to do.

If it seeks to bring together as

many of them as possible, and sparing fund managers the trouble of listening to individual projects, the layout as provided is workable.

It means that there is a general responsibility spread on each of their group members and answerable to the group as it is accountable collectively.

All this is plausible but introduces an antidote of failing to take the best lessons from experience that women-based collective initiatives work.

It is one thing to wish to target empowering citizens in groups and to actually do so with incomparable levels of returns or efficacy, a parameter of difficulty.

Things could likely have gone better by targeting helping women to uplift their households as they have family interest at heart. However, the social dogma that the husband is the head of a household leads to such cash being deviated to entertainment when it falls in male heads' hands. It is part of reality.

That the programme has already been introduced in 13 regions and will be pursued in more also shows that there is a rule of thumb modality that it will likely work, while the real intent is to show that the government cares.

How far the various groups will fare in the programme is anyone's guess, as it is possible that some provisions are included at least in the monitoring of certain groups, primarily to stem directing the funds into welfare instead of empowerment.

In retrospect, it is arguable if a lack of follow-up on project use will not amount to election influencing.

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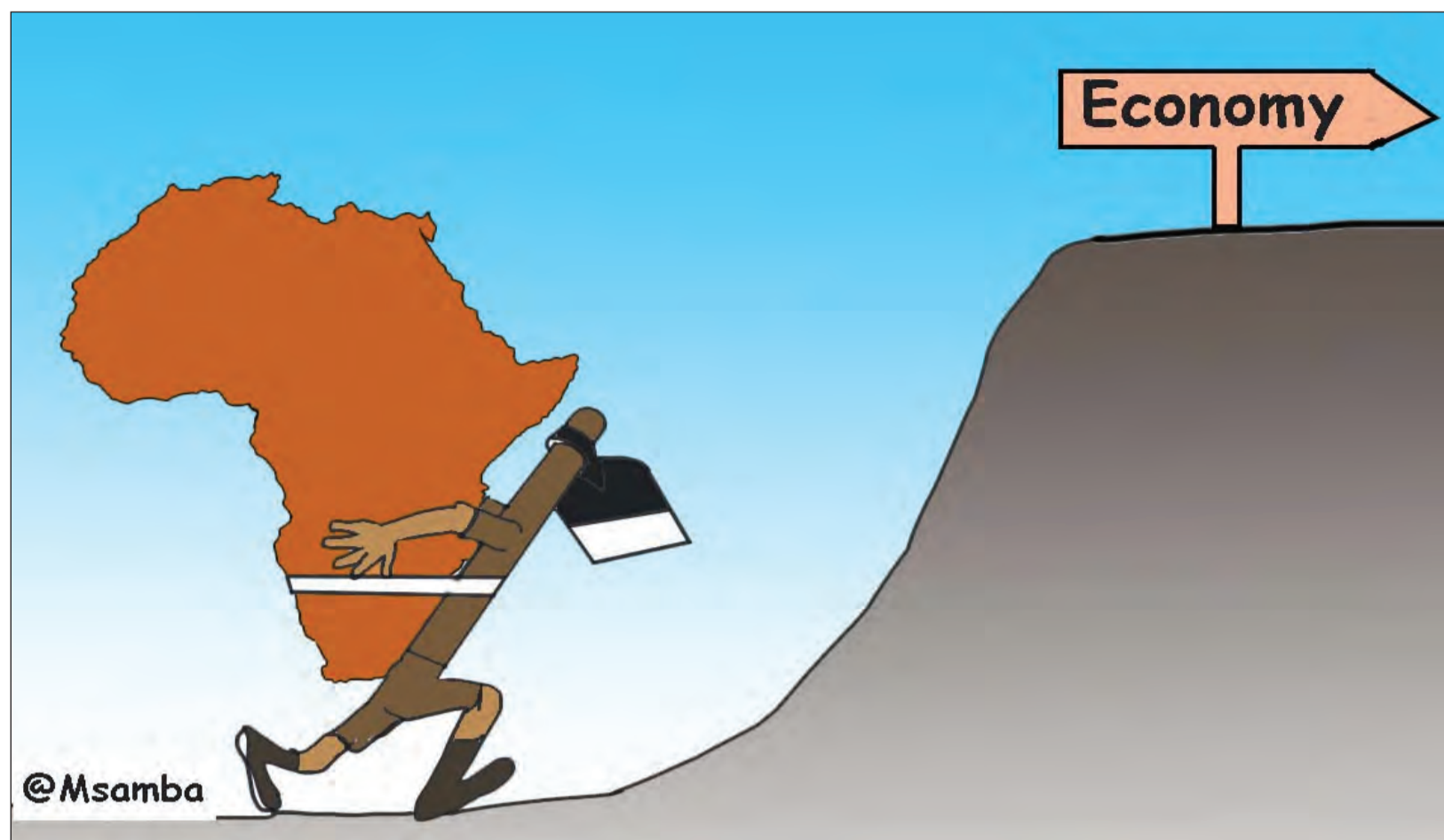
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Rural survival: Guardians of mother earth saving Mau, while revitalising native lands

GREAT RIFT VALLEY

THE Great Rift Valley is part of an intra-continental ridge system that runs through Kenya from north to south. A breathtaking, diverse mix of natural beauty that includes dramatic escarpments, highland mountains, cliffs and gorges, lakes and savannas. It is also home to one of Africa's greatest wildlife reserves—the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

It is the 400,000 hectares of the Mau Forest Complex that give life to this wondrous natural phenomenon. Located about 170 kilometres north-west of Nairobi, this is the largest indigenous montane forest in East Africa. It is also the largest of the country's five watersheds and a catchment area for 12 rivers that flow into five major lakes.

More than 10 million people depend on its rivers. Its magnificent portfolio of rare plants and animal species is unfortunately a magnet for illegal activities. Forest monitoring groups say a staggering 25 percent of the forest was lost between 1984 and 2020 and that overall, Mau Forest lost 19 percent of its tree cover—around 533 square kilometres—between 2001 and 2022.

"Paran Women Group is committed to restoring the Mau Forest. To stop the pace and severity of its destruction and degradation, we approached the government through the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and were allowed access to 200 acres of the Maasai Mau Forest block, which is one of the 22 blocks that make the entire Mau Forest Complex. There are 280 water catchments inside the complex," Naiyan Kiplagat, the executive director of the Paran Women Group told IPS.

"In January this year, we began our restoration efforts and have already covered 100 acres. At the moment, we have prepared 70,000 seedlings and intend to collect another 30,000 from women groups to reach our target of 100,000 tree seedlings, which will be planted once the rainy season begins to cover the remaining 100 acres."

In Maa, a language spoken by the Maasai community, Paran means 'come together to assist each other'. Paran Women Group is an organization comprised of women from the Maasai and Ogiek communities who are indigenous, minority ethnic groups.

The organization comprises 64 women groups and 3,718 members. United against dual marginalization and patriarchy, the group started small, in 2005 and continues to grow and expand their base and conservation activities.

Carrying the wisdom of their ancestors, they rely on indigenous knowledge and innovation in their conservation, afforestation, reforestation and all other land restoration efforts while promoting gender equality. Paran Women Resource centre is located in Eor Ewuaso, a remote rural village in



Paran Women Group's executive director, Naiyan Kiplagat, is working in the forest. The group are passionate guardians of the environment and promoters of gender equality. Credit: Joyce Chimbi/IPS

the Ololunga location of Narok South sub-county, Narok County, in the Rift Valley.

The women hold a title deed to the expansive piece of land. A notable achievement in a minority community where women have little autonomy and land is owned and controlled by men. They have another seven satellite resource centres within the expansive counties geared towards giving women access to productive resources.

These centres are a hub of knowledge and activities to promote conservation and livelihood activities such as sustainable agriculture, beekeeping, beadwork and briquettes for energy-saving cooking to release pressure from the embattled Mau Forest. More than 617 households are already using efficient, energy-saving stoves.

"We are conservationists with a passion for gender equality. Gender-based violence is prevalent in indigenous communities, such as the outlawed Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriages. The most recent incidence was of a nine-year-old girl. We are marginalized as a community in general and worse, our culture has few rights for women and girls. We help children stay in school by paying school fees from our income-generating activities," she says.

Patrick Lemanyan, a resident of Ololunga, says Paran women "rear and sell chicken and foods such as pumpkin, vegetables and sorghum. They also sell beadwork. Maasai beadwork is unique, beautiful and very marketable. In Nairobi, there is even the popular Maasai market for such beadwork and other Maasai items, such as sandals. The women here face no resistance from the community. We have suffered for many years from failed rainfall and we know that saving the forest is also about saving us as a community."

Naiyan says indigenous communities depend on natural resources such as forests, rivers and their biodiversity for their survival. The ongoing climate and biodiversity crises affect them the most as a community. Women have no assets and are therefore worse off.

"The Maasai's are pastoralists. During prolonged dry seasons, a man will take all the livestock with him and move from place to place for even three years, leaving behind his wives and children. The family is left behind with nothing because women own nothing," she says.

Naiyan, an Ogiek married to a Maasai, says the Ogiek have not fared any better. As hunters and gatherers in an ecosystem that has been destroyed by

human activity and climate change, they too are in a life-and-death situation and, are learning to pursue livelihood options outside of their indigenous lifestyle by keeping poultry for sale and farming. Men do not keep or concern themselves with poultry as it is considered beneath them. They keep large livestock such as cows and goats.

"The role of indigenous groups and more so women, in environmental protection cannot be over-emphasized. More so as women are able to combine conservation efforts with income-generating activities. They educate and support each other, and their children grow to school, breaking the debilitating cycle of poverty associated with minority groups due to historical injustices and inequalities," says Vesca Ikenya, an educator in Gender and Natural Resources.

Stressing that "indigenous people and local communities bring on board indigenous knowledge and leadership that only they possess as custodians of their own lands and waters and have had intimate interactions with their ecosystems since time immemorial. Each generation preserves and passes on this knowledge to the next. When indigenous and local communities take lead in conservation efforts, they never get it wrong. They understand which species grew where and when."

The Paran Women Group tree nursery is home to 27 indigenous species, including croton macrostachyus, syzygium cumini, prunus African and Olea africans. Of the 150,000 tree seedlings already planted this year, 112,500 have survived and are thriving.

According to 2021 International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and International Labour Organization joint report, indigenous peoples were responsible for protecting an estimated 22 percent of the planet's surface and 80 percent of biodiversity.

The Paran Women Group has not gone unnoticed and has won a series of international awards. In 2018, they received an award on rural survival from the World Women Foundation Summit; in 2020, they received the International Leadership Award from the International Indigenous Women's Forum; last year, during the COP28 in the UAE, they received the Gender Justice Climate Solutions and are preparing to receive yet another international award in October 2024.

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By Telesphor Magobe

Proportionality of punishment in effective criminal justice

LAST week, we briefly looked at corporal punishment in relation to Azam online TV's story of a schoolgirl who had been admitted to hospital after she was badly beaten up (got 70 canes) by teachers at school to the extent of failing to sit for her examinations. Although it was not said why she was beaten up like that, I said as a parent, I was astounded to hear from the schoolgirl and from a medical doctor who confirmed what had happened to her.

There are other forms of punishment which can help a schoolchild correct his or her behaviour, but not necessarily corporal punishment which inflicts pain on schoolchildren and in some cases corporal punishment causes bodily injury and

death. I advocate alternative forms of punishment which are educative and even productive like doing manual work proportionate to the offence a schoolchild has committed. It makes sense to challenge corporal punishment inflicted on schoolchildren and replace it with a more effective, educative and productive form of punishment that can help a schoolchild not only change, but also learn to work productively.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at a wave of abductions, rape, sodomy and killings of children and other people reported by both print and social media outlets. The other day I was listening to Radio Tumaini during a morning programme and various people called and aired their grievances. When listening to what people expressed, I felt that as society and people we are at a crossroads. We may ask two questions, 1) Why all this happens? 2) What causes all this?

In that morning, among men and women who called, included the one who said he was surprised to hear that children as young as nine months old were victims of rape. What puzzles most is that even close relatives

are implicated in rape incidents - that is - some children are reportedly raped by their own parents, close relatives or friends, let alone neighbours and strangers. During the programme it was also mentioned that one Member of Parliament (MP) had proposed rapists to be castrated. Some people said rapists and 'sodomists' should be executed in public.

There was a time I heard a person proposing that thieves should have their hands cut off. Imagine when walking around you meet people who have their limbs cut off and others rumoured to have been castrated! Then, when going a bit further, you find people in a queue awaiting public execution! What will you think of this?

Yet, in criminal justice, punishment is neither about revenge nor does it even equate with the offence committed to a person because no person can feel exactly in the same way as the other person feels, but about the prevention of the commission of similar crime or the omission of duty.

Black's Law Dictionary defines punishment in criminal justice as: "Any pain, penalty, suffering,

or confinement inflicted upon a person by the authority of the law and the judgment and sentence of a court, for some crime or offence committed by him [her], or for his [her] omission of a duty enjoined by law."

Article 13(6)(d) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (R.E. 2005) states that "no person shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment." This Article aligns with Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." This means punishment should be proportionate to the offence committed (and not too severe or too lenient).

Four theories that justify punishment are deterrence, rehabilitation, incapacitation (this renders offenders incapable of committing other offences by delaying their resumption of crime and decreasing crime rates) and retribution (this means the offender bears the consequences of the crime committed). Sowe et al. (2019) in an article titled "Justification for punishment in

criminal law" argue that "Punishment is always against the conduct of an offender and not against the person in his [her] individual capacity."

In relation to deterrence, the authors suggest that deterrence could be general or specific. They argue that "specific deterrence aims at discouraging crime by punishing offenders for their crime to convey to them that crime does not pay, while general deterrence seeks to dissuade potential offenders by the threat of anticipated punishment from engaging in unlawful conduct."

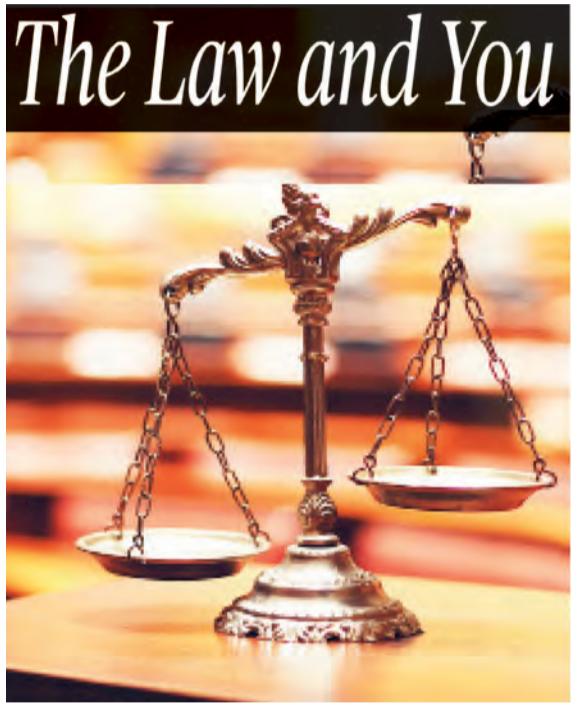
Furthermore, the authors refer to what is quoted as the reasoning of the Supreme Court of New Zealand in the case of R v Radich when the Apex Court stated: "... one of the main purposes of punishment ... is to protect the public from the commission of such crimes by making it clear to the offender and to other persons with similar impulses that, if they yield to them, they will meet...with severe punishment." Thus, deterrence, according to them, is the main purpose of crime.

In relation to rehabilitation, the authors suggest that it means reforming the personality and behaviour of offenders through well-established educational and or therapeutic treatment to ensure they return to society as complete, self-supporting and accepted members of society.

It suffices to say that amidst moral decadence we are challenged to engage in soul-searching to come to the root causes of our problems without escapism or looking for scapegoats.

Today's proverb: "Misfortunes never come singly."

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'Black tax': Why some young Africans want to stop sending money back home

♥SENDING money back home or to your extended family is such a common African practice that I absolutely hate," said Kenyan influencer Elsa Majimbo earlier this month in a now-deleted TikTok rant that sparked a furious debate on social media.

The 23-year-old, who shot to fame during the covid pandemic with her comedic videos, touched a nerve when it came to discussing with her 1.8 million followers what is known as "black tax".

This is when black Africans who achieve a modicum of success, whether at home or abroad, find themselves having to support less well-off family members.

Giving back is seen as an intrinsic part of the African philosophy of ubuntu, which stresses the importance of the family and community, rather than the individual.

The question for many is whether this is an unnecessary and unwelcome burden or part of a community obligation to help pull others up.

But Ms Majimbo, now based in the US, is pushing back against the practice.

In the video she said her father had supported members of the extended family for years and now they were looking to her for help. She turned her anger on one particular unnamed relative.

"You've been asking my dad for money since before I was born. I was born, I was raised, I grew up, now you're asking me for money - you lazy [expletive]. I'm not feeding your habits."

While some have agreed, others have taken issue with her position. It is not clear why the video was removed from TikTok and Ms Majimbo's management team did not respond to a BBC request for comment.

But for many, regardless of what they might personally think, it is just not possible to refuse to help relatives because of the sense of community in which they were raised.

There can be a sense of pride in helping take care of the family although it can become too much.

A former teacher in Zimbabwe in her 50s, who asked to remain anonymous, told the BBC that 30 years ago almost her entire first pay cheque of 380 Zimbabwe dollars went straight to her nine siblings.

"After I finished buying [school] uniforms, clothes and groceries, I had \$20 left," she told the BBC in a voice that suggested both honour and annoyance.

Although this meant she had to buy food on credit, she said that as the eldest child it was expected she would hand over cash the moment she began to start earning.

Her salary did not belong to her alone but to her family as well.

When she got married, her responsibilities extended even further. At one point, she had to take out a loan to pay her brother-in-law's tuition fees after she was pick-pocketed on her way to deposit a cheque at the bank. It took her two years to pay off.

Sandra Ajalo, a 28-year-old hairstylist in Uganda, is grateful for the help that relatives extended to her family when she was growing up.

Ms Ajalo and her three siblings were raised by a single mother and relatives assisted her with various things, from paying school fees, to groceries and even medical expenses.

"It's not a burden, it's a communal helping," she told the BBC.

But when she saw Ms Majimbo's video she understood where the social media star was coming from, especially as the Ugandan was now in a position to help other family members.

"It can be straining, it can be frustrating, but we need it. No man is an island. We have to help each other however we can."

Dr Chipso Dendere, an assistant professor in Africana studies at Wellesley College in the US, argues that the necessity of "black tax" is rooted in colonialism.



Comedian Elsa Majimbo

The system of oppression that concentrated resources in the hands of the colonial power or a tiny minority of settlers made it impossible for the majority to accumulate assets.

This "left many black families with no generational wealth", Prof Dendere said.

In many cases, after independence, rather than being upended, the inequalities were replicated.

Dr Dendere added that the payment of "black tax" can often become a "never-ending cycle" as the money sent to family members often only temporarily plugs a hole which will later re-open.

Another factor is that, unlike in richer countries, many African states are unable to pay for healthcare beyond the basics, provide a decent pension or cover tuition fees. As a result it falls on the most

well-off in a family to fork out for these expenses, Dr Dendere said.

"There is no pension fund from the state - we are the pension. Families are stepping in to do the job of the government. "We give because of ubuntu. We are forced to take care of each other."

In 2023, funds sent home by African migrants amounted to about \$95bn (£72bn), according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which is almost the size of the Kenyan economy.

For Africans abroad the strain can be even greater as people expect more due to a belief that those overseas make a lot of money.

Gabe Mutseyekwa, 35, is a Zimbabwean man who has lived in Germany for over five years. He put his foot down and

told his family he would stop sending monthly payments because it was preventing him from saving up for his own future.

His family did not react well - but they eventually came around.

"They realised that I was all alone and I needed to make something of myself," he said. At one point he sent home about €2,000 (\$2,200; £1,700) for a family emergency when he was still a student doing part-time jobs.

"There needs to be a balance between bearing this financial responsibility and your personal financial health," he told the BBC.

Many people have noted that family members can feel a sense of entitlement to your money especially when the person is rich.

This particularly irked former Nigerian footballer Mikel John Obi. Last year, he spoke about "black tax" during his appearance on the Rio Ferdinand Presents podcast.

"When you come from Africa, when you make money, it's not your money. It's not just your money. You have all these relatives, cousins, whatever you call it," he said.

He added that relatives kept having so many kids and expected him to take care of them.

While not everyone agreed with Elsa Majimbo's rant, it seems to have touched a nerve, especially among the younger generation.

But Dr Dendere argues that unless Africa can truly develop, "black tax will be here in perpetuity".

Rwandan president: China a reliable partner for Africa's development

KIGALI

CHINA has proven to be a reliable friend and partner, supporting Africa's development without imposing its will, said Rwandan President Paul Kagame ahead of his attendance of the ongoing Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in Beijing.

He made the remarks in a recent written interview with Xinhua. The following is the written interview.

Question: Over the past 20 years and more, under your leadership, Rwanda's GDP has grown at an average rate of nearly 8 percent, becoming one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa and even globally. What has enabled Rwanda to achieve such remarkable economic growth?

Answer: Rwanda's economic growth over the past two decades is the result of a combination of factors, including leadership, a strong commitment to good governance, and a focus on inclusive development. We have prioritized creating a stable and secure environment, investing in human capital, and fostering a business-friendly climate. Additionally, our emphasis on homegrown solutions, such as promoting unity and reconciliation, has allowed us to build a strong social fabric that supports sustainable development.

Question: Both Rwanda and China have achieved miraculous development under extremely challenging circumstances. What similarities do you see between the two countries in terms of national governance? Which places in China have you visited, and what are your deepest impressions of China's modernization?

Answer: Rwanda and China share a history of overcoming immense challenges to achieve significant progress. Both countries have shown resilience, determination, and a commitment to self-reliance. In terms of governance, we both prioritize long-term planning, social stability, and the well-being of our citizens. We have visited several places in China: Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Beijing, among others, and what impresses me most is the scale of development and modernization, particularly in infrastructure and technology, which serves as an inspiration for Rwanda's own development journey.

Question: How do you evaluate the achievements in the development of bilateral relations over the past 50 years? Especially in areas including poverty reduction, economy and trade, agriculture, green development, and digitalization, what results have been achieved?

Answer: We have deepened our cooperation with China across various fields, including trade, agriculture, green development, and digitalization. China has become one of Rwanda's largest trading partners, and our collaboration has led to tangible results, especially in poverty reduction and infrastructure development.

Question: In recent years, the two countries have carried out fruitful cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. How do you evaluate the role of this cooperation in promoting sustainable development and improving livelihoods in both countries? In your opinion, in which areas can the two countries further explore the potential for cooperation in the future?

Answer: The Belt and Road Initiative has played a crucial role in enhancing Rwanda's infrastructure and promoting sustainable development. Projects like roads in different corners of our country and in the city of Kigali, IPRC North in Musanze, and the Nyabarongo II Hydropower Plant have had a direct impact on improving livelihoods and supporting economic growth. Looking forward, we see potential for further cooperation in areas such as the digital economy, renewable energy, and agricultural modernization.

Question: Rwanda is known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills" with beautiful scenery and rich



Rwandan President Paul Kagame speaks during an interview in Kigali, Rwanda, July 3, 2023.

tourism resources. However, the number of tourists from China is still relatively low. You have mentioned on various occasions that Chinese are welcome to work, live, and travel in Rwanda. How do you think the governments and media of the two countries can better promote Rwanda?

Answer: Rwanda has much to offer in terms of tourism, and we are keen to welcome more Chinese tourists. To enhance mutual understanding and awareness, both governments and media can play a pivotal role. We should promote cultural exchanges, educational partnerships, and tourism initiatives. By highlighting the beauty of Rwanda and the hospitality of its people, we can attract more visitors from China, thereby strengthening our bilateral cultural ties.

Question: You have visited China multiple times and attended the 2006 and 2018 Beijing summits of the FOCAC in your capacity as president of Rwanda. In 2018, you mentioned at the forum that "The expanded cooperation framework presented by Chinese President Xi Jinping fully reflects our common understanding of the future of our community." Six years have passed; has the envisioned cooperation met your expectations?

Answer: The FOCAC has been a key platform for deepening the partnership between China and Africa. The expanded cooperation framework presented by President Xi in 2018 has indeed met our expectations, particularly in areas like infrastructure development and digital connectivity. Chinese tourists and entrepreneurs can now travel to Rwanda and receive visas upon arrival. As for this year's

summit, we look forward to further strengthening our cooperation, especially in new and emerging fields, ensuring that our partnership continues to benefit both China and Africa.

Question: Rwanda and China have both suffered significant disasters in history due to the interference of Western countries in our internal affairs. Even today, some Western countries still attempt to undermine China-Africa cooperation by fabricating false narratives such as "debt traps" and "new colonialism." What is your assessment of these claims? From your point of view, how should countries approach and cooperate with Africa?

Answer: The claims of "debt traps" and "new colonialism" are often unfounded and reflect a misunderstanding of the nature of China-Africa cooperation. Rwanda, like many other African countries, values its partnership with China, which is based on mutual respect and shared interests. Rather than being dictated by external narratives, we believe in evaluating partnerships based on their actual outcomes. Our approach to cooperation is one that emphasizes sovereignty, self-reliance, and the pursuit of win-win outcomes.

Question: In March 2013, shortly after President Xi took office as Chinese president, he visited Africa and for the first time put forward to the world a policy of sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith, and pursuing the greater good and shared interests. He vowed that China and Africa would always be reliable friends and sincere

partners. How do you comment on China's concepts regarding developing relations with Africa?

Answer: China's approach to Africa, characterized by sincerity, real results, amity, and good faith, resonates strongly with Rwanda's values. Rwanda had the honor to host President Xi in 2018 when I was Chair of the African Union Commission. This commitment speaks to the vigor and reliability of our relations. China has proven to be a reliable friend and partner, supporting Africa's development without imposing its will. This model of cooperation is one that we deeply appreciate and seek to continue.

Question: Currently, the voices of the Global South are becoming louder and louder on the international stage. The Chinese side emphasizes that China has always been a member of the "Global South" and will always belong to developing countries. China's vote in the United Nations will always belong to developing countries. How do you think China and Africa should strengthen unity and cooperation on the multilateral stage in the future?

Answer: As the voices of the Global South grow stronger on the international stage, it is essential for China and Africa to continue to strengthen their unity and cooperation. China's commitment to being a member of the Global South and aligning its interests with those of developing countries is commendable. Together, we can work to ensure that our collective voice is heard in multilateral forums, advocating for a more just and equitable global order.

Question: Have you been following "Chinese modernization"? Do you think China's development model can provide some inspiration for Rwanda? What are the challenges that Rwanda faces in localizing Chinese experiences?

Answer: The Chinese-style modernization is indeed something we observe with great interest. China's model of development, characterized by long-term planning, strong state involvement, and an emphasis on infrastructure and technology, offers inspiration for Rwanda. However, the challenge for Rwanda is to adapt these experiences to our unique context. Localization of Chinese experiences requires careful consideration of our cultural, social, and economic realities. Nonetheless, the principles of self-reliance, innovation, and strategic planning that underpin China's success are universally applicable and can guide Rwanda's development trajectory.

Question: This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi. Looking back on this tragic event, do you think the different ethnic groups within Rwanda have achieved reconciliation today? In the future, what measures will your government take to further heal ethnic conflicts, ensure national stability, and promote ethnic unity?

Answer: The 30th Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi is a solemn reminder of the darkest chapter in our history. My feelings are those of deep sorrow for the lives lost, but also immense pride in the resilience of the Rwandan people who have chosen the path of reconciliation and unity. Today, Rwanda has made significant progress in healing ethnic divisions through inclusive policies, justice, and promoting national identity over ethnic identity. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on building a cohesive society where all Rwandans feel valued and secure, ensuring that our nation remains stable and united.

Question: What is your vision for the development of Rwanda in the next ten years? On the global and African stage, what role do you hope Rwanda will play?

Answer: In the next ten years, I envision Rwanda becoming a middle-income country, with a diversified economy driven by innovation, technology, and high-value sectors. On the global and African stage, Rwanda aspires to be a leader in peacekeeping, environmental sustainability, and regional integration. Rwanda will continue to play a constructive role in African development, contributing to the continent's progress and standing as a strong advocate for African interests in international forums. *Xinhua*

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

FAO launches project to strengthen food safety systems in East Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), with funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB), has launched a four-year food safety project aimed at improving food safety standards in the East African region.

The regional strengthening of food safety standards for trade and public health promotion project will be implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The project aims to: develop the capacities of national food safety authorities for systematic monitoring of the quality and standards of domestic and imported food items; promote food safety protocols and harmonization across the region in furtherance of boosting regional/cross-border trade and the removal of unnecessary trade barriers in support of the operationalization of the AfCFTA; and develop the capacity of existing Bank-funded projects and value actors on food safety and standardization certification programs to enhance productivity, local processing, and market competitiveness.

During the project implementation, regulatory institutions that are part of the food safety ecosystem, laboratories, and other stakeholders will be provided with technical support to perfectly execute their mandate to ensure production, distribution, and sale of commodities safe for human consumption.

The FAO subregional coordinator for East Africa, Farayi Zamudzi, said food safety is a fundamental issue because unsafe products not only pose health risks but are also ineligible for export.

"The idea is to strengthen national systems for food safety. The question might be, Why food safety? Why are we focusing on that? Food safety is a fundamental issue because, according to us (FAO), if food is not safe, then we cannot really consider it food because it will make people sick. They are ingesting things that are not healthy. Secondly, it also has a very strong impact on trade. So if you are going

to trade in food commodities that are unsafe, that have pathogens, that have not been processed correctly, then it means your goods or your commodities are going to be rejected by the receiving countries. So that's why it's fundamentally important, both from a human health and food security point of view, but also from an economic point of view, because then it means the countries in the region will not be able to gain the revenue from trade that they could otherwise gain," said Farayi while speaking to reporters at the project launch in Kampala on Tuesday.

Food safety is a critical public health issue in Africa, significantly affecting agricultural competitiveness and trade. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), foodborne diseases cause 137,000 deaths and 91 million illnesses annually in Africa, accounting for one-third of the global burden. Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 125,000 deaths every year.

Unsafe food exacerbates malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations, and persistent food safety challenges hinder the economic potential of Africa's agri-food sector. The World Bank estimates that in 2016, food safety issues cost developing countries up to \$110 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses, with Africa alone losing \$16.7 billion annually.

In May last year, over 90 Ugandan registered trucks transporting maize flour and other products were held by the South Sudan Bureau of Standards in an isolated parking lot 7 kilometers into South Sudan and on their way to Juba from Nimule.

The South Sudan government said that the trucks had been impounded for carrying aflatoxin-affected maize flour, which is not fit for human consumption.

Samples that were conducted by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and witnessed by experts from the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat on 23 trucks carrying 27 assorted consignments, which included maize grain, milled maize (corn),



dry beans, sorghum grains, cassava flour, and finger millet grains, showed that indeed the commodities were contaminated with aflatoxins.

"Four out of eight consignments of maize grains failed with the highest levels of aflatoxin, which exceed the regulatory limits. One

out of twelve consignments of maize flour failed the aflatoxin test. Therefore, any commodities found on the market that do not conform to the required quality standards will be seized and destroyed by UNBS. The Bureau, together with other regulatory agencies, will intensify monitoring of exports at

the exit points to ensure that they conform to the required quality standards before leaving the country," the report produced by UNBS after the test reads.

Farayi said the challenge of unsafe food production is across the entire value chain for agricultural commodities.

"From production, the way we handle the food, the commodities after they have been produced, there are also issues around the way we process; there are issues around the way we package and distribute those commodities, even internally, but also for trade. So we are looking at the entire value chain. We need to focus on ensuring that food is safe and it's also conserved," she said.

The Commissioner of Animal Health in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF), Dr. Anna Rose Ademun, said the promotion of food safety protocols and standards as outlined in the project objectives will promote the export of agricultural products.

"How can we not be the biggest beneficiaries because, after setting up the food and agriculture authority, we will require standard protocols for managing all the activities, from the production of livestock, crops, and fish to their standards and processing, and we hope that this will promote trade of our products," she said.

She added food safety standards across the region will be harmonized, which will eliminate trade barriers.

"We will be having harmonized protocols so that if something is tested in Uganda, it can be exported to Tanzania without being retested."

The Assistant Commissioner for Agricultural Extension Coordination at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, Dr. Patience Rwamigisa, who represented the minister of agriculture, said the project is a testament to the commitment to both the Food and Agriculture Organization and the government of Uganda implementing Uganda's food systems pathway.

"It marks a significant step towards actualizing the game changers identified through the food systems strategic analysis and the strategic goals of the National Development Plan. I am optimistic that this project will significantly support our ongoing effort and establish the Food and Agricultural Regulatory Authority," he said.

Disease-free plant material provides African banana growers' peace of mind

By Special Correspondent

FOR most banana growers in sub-Saharan Africa, the source of their new plants is Du Roi Laboratory, a tissue culture laboratory that guarantees virus-free banana and sugarcane plants.

To obtain an export-ready banana plant takes six to ten months, depending on the stage at which the plant is taken and includes the five or six months of cell division by scalpel every four weeks, explains Suné Wiltshire, the facility's general manager.

This delicate work is done by a team of 56 laminar flow operators, all women, some of whom have over thirty years' experience, with a total of 150 Du Roi Lab employees.

The laboratory has the capacity to produce eight million plants annually and the waiting list is not long. The orders coming in from all over Africa and the Middle East (with the exception of countries like Egypt and Algeria where locally-grown plants must be used) as well as from the French West Indies, South and Central America are quickly dispatched to OR Tambo Airport. Wiltshire notes that it takes constant reinforcement to remind the logistics chain that this cargo should not be cooled but kept at room temperature.

Ninety-nine percent of South African and Mozambican banana production is built on plants obtained from Du Roi Laboratory in Letsitele, where the laboratory is surrounded by citrus orchards.

"Our main buyers are farmers and the nurseries supplying farmers," Wiltshire says. "We do supply agricultural cooperatives as well, but to a lesser extent."

Delicate work: division by scalpel every four weeks for the first five or six months of every plantlet's life

She remarks that bananas play a crucial role in food security in Africa. "Bananas are a staple food for millions of people, particularly in East and Central Africa due to their nutritional benefits, economic value and year-round availability. They serve as both a staple food and a key income source, contributing to the overall resilience of food systems in the region."

West Africa is a big market to which Du Roi Lab sends around 750,000 plants per year, primarily to Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Senegal. Recent civil strife in Cameroon, which had affected the farmers who'd been procuring Du Roi-bred plants since 2014, has abated and sales of banana plants have been returning to normal over the past year.

In a populous country like Nigeria, backyard-grown bananas still make up most of the available product.

Growers seldom request plantains, she notes, although they are plant-



Du Roi Laboratory has capacity to produce 8 million banana plants annually

ed and consumed all across Africa and the world.

"We only propagate plants which have the A-Gnome genes. Plantains have a B-Gnome and as such it poses a risk to introduce disease into the lab. We guarantee disease-free plants to our customers, and we virus index every plant by an accredited third-party laboratory to certify that the plants are disease-free. With plants with the B-Gnome, tests

can come back negative, but the tissue culture process can induce banana streak virus (BSV) which could be dormant in the plant tissue. We therefore decided not to take the risk and rather exclude plantains from our products."

Not much goes to Namibia, while farmers in its northern neighbour Angola would buy many more banana plants than they do currently if they could, Wiltshire remarks, but

as South African apple exporters also know: there's a scarcity of American Dollars in which most intra-African trade is conducted.

"Many people would like to buy banana plants, and could pay for it, but they're struggling to get the funds through. It helps them to set up a business entity in South Africa to manage capital flow," she says.

Two years ago, Du Roi Lab entered into a partnership with

Galittec in Honduras to establish a foundation block of Formosana, a variety highly tolerant to Panama disease (FOC TR4), bred in Taiwan (hence the name).

"Several South African and Mozambican banana growers at this stage are planting Formosana to evaluate its commercial viability and characteristics, as we do not currently have FOC TR4 present in South Africa.

Growers who are challenged with soils where Fusarium wilt is present are planting Formosana to trial its resistance to this strain. Preliminary results are showing great potential."

SAN FRANCISCO,

Knowledge is power. Gaza war supporters don't want students to have both 'weapons'

MONICAH Malih's story is about resilience, determination, and personal achievements. Fleeing conflict in South Sudan at 12, Monicah's journey took her from the harsh realities of refugee life to the prestigious role of the first-ever female refugee and non-Kenyan President of the University of Nairobi Students Association.

I was born and raised in South Sudan, where my family lived as nomadic pastoralists. From a young age, my life was marked by constant movement in search of pasture and water for our cattle. However, escalating conflict across the country gradually disrupted that life.

With nearly 18 million students on U.S. college campuses this fall, defenders of the war on Gaza don't want to hear any backtalk. Silence is complicity, and that's the way Israel's allies like it.

For them, the new academic term restarts a threat to the status quo. But for supporters of human rights, it's a renewed opportunity to turn higher education into something more than a comfort zone.

In the United States, the extent and arrogance of the emerging collegiate repression is, quite literally, breathtaking. Every day, people are dying due to their transgression of breathing while Palestinian.

The Gaza death toll adds up to more than one Kristallnacht per day – for upwards of 333 days and counting, with no end in sight. The shattering of a society's entire infrastructure has been horrendous.

Months ago, citing data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, ABC News reported that "25,000 buildings have been destroyed, 32 hospitals forced out of service, and three churches, 341 mosques and 100 universities and schools destroyed."

Not that this should disturb the tranquility of campuses in the country whose taxpayers and elected leaders make it all possible. Top college officials wax eloquent about the sanctity of higher learning and academic freedom while they suppress protests against policies that have destroyed scores of universities in Palestine.

A key rationale for quashing dissent is that anti-Israel protests make some Jewish students uncomfortable. But the purposes of college education shouldn't include always making people feel comfortable. How comfortable should students be in a nation enabling mass murder in Gaza?

What would we say about claims that students in the North with southern accents should not have



Student protesters at Columbia University, New York.

tors remain shaken by the closing weeks of the spring semester, when encampments, building occupations and clashes with the police helped lead to thousands of arrests across the country." (Overall, the phrase "clashes with the police" served as a euphemism for police violently attacking nonviolent protesters.)

From the hazy ivory towers and corporate suites inhabited by so many college presidents and boards of trustees, Palestinian people are scarcely more than abstractions compared to far more real priorities. An understated sentence from the Times sheds a bit of light: "The strategies that are coming into public view suggest that some administrators at schools large and small have concluded that permissiveness is perilous, and that a harder line may be the best option – or perhaps just the one least likely to invite blowback from elected officials and donors who have demanded that universities take stronger action against protesters."

Much more clarity is available from a new Mondo-weiss article by activist Carrie Zaremba, a researcher with training in anthropology. "University administrators across the United States have declared an indefinite state of emergency on college campuses," she wrote. "Schools are rolling out policies in preparation for quashing pro-Palestine student activism this fall semester, and reshaping regulations and even campuses in the process to suit this new normal."

"Many of these policies being instituted share a common formula: more militarization, more law enforcement, more criminalization, and more consolidation of institutional power. But where do these policies originate and why are they so similar across all campuses? The answer lies in the fact that they have been provided by the 'risk and crisis management' consulting industries, with the tacit support of trustees, Zionist advocacy groups, and federal agencies. Together, they deploy the language of safety to disguise a deeper logic of control and securitization."

Countering such top-down moves will require intensive grassroots organizing. Sustained pushback against campus repression will be essential, to continually assert the right to speak out and protest as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Insistence on acquiring knowledge while gaining power for progressive forces will be vital. That's why the national Teach-In Network was launched this week by the RootsAction Education Fund (which I help lead), under the banner "Knowledge Is Power – and Our Grassroots Movements Need Both."

The elites that were appalled by the moral uprising on college campuses against Israel's slaughter in Gaza are now doing all they can to prevent a resurgence of that uprising. But the mass murder continues, subsidized by the U.S. government. When students insist that true knowledge and ethical action need each other, they can help make history and not just study it.

IPS



In the United States, the extent and arrogance of the emerging collegiate repression is, quite literally, breathtaking. Every day, people are dying due to their transgression of breathing while Palestinian

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS AND WORD FIT - 169 -

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 16 indicating the starting positions for the clues. The grid is partially filled with black squares.

- ACROSS:**
- longest river in Africa
 - a large tuna, especially as an item of food
 - a pear-shaped fruit with a tough skin
 - cruel and oppressive Government
 - regard with great awe
 - a hot drink
 - calm, peaceful
 - covered or saturated with liquid
 - a country in West Africa
- DOWN:**
- a local inhabitant
 - a woody evergreen climbing plant, typically with shiny five-pointed leaves
 - a man of noble rank
 - a card game for two players, in which thirty-two cards are used
 - joined by having grown together
 - a boisterous girl
 - not two or more
 - relating to air
 - put, lay
 - mouse

A 10x10 grid for the word fit puzzle. Some cells are pre-filled with letters: Row 6, Column 8 has 'D'; Row 7, Column 8 has 'O'. The rest of the grid is empty.

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.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| TITI | NDOLA |
| SKOL | GUEST |
| ITALY | UTILITY |
| GENUINE | NILOTIC |
| UNIT | ENOKI |
| EOLIAN | PACIFY |

Twitter: @789437309 / felixmagezi@gmail.com

Last puzzle Solutions

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

B	O	S	S	M		
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O	R	A	N	G	E	R
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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

Radio One

BUSINESS



Money market funds dominate as Unit Trust assets cross Ksh 250 bn

NAIROBI

The value of combined assets of all Collective Investment Schemes (CIS), such as Money Market Funds and fixed income funds, operating in Kenya has crossed the 250 billion mark for the first time in the period ended June 2024.

CIC Unit Trust Scheme remained a leader by assets in the overall Unit Trust fund, taking up 26.3 percent of overall market share with assets totalling KSh 66.8 billion - a 7.9 percent increase from KSh 61.9 billion in the first quarter of 2024. Sanlam Unit Trust was the second largest collective investment scheme, with assets growing 26.7 percent to KSh 37.6 billion, taking up 14.8 percent of total market share.

Etica Capital more than doubled Assets Under Management, recording the highest growth of 149.2 percent to KSh 2.6 billion in June 2024 from KSh 1.02 billion in March 2024.

The British American Unit Trust Scheme saw the largest decline in Assets Under Management to KSh 28.5 billion in June 2024 from KSh 30.03 billion in March 2024. Orient CIS, Equity Investment bank and Amana Unit Trust Funds similarly experienced mild declines in assets under management by 0.6 percent, 4.4 percent and 0.6 percent respectively.

During the 2nd quarter of 2024, 2 new Unit Trust Schemes joined the pact, bringing the total number of active funds to 31 out of the total 51 approved collective investment schemes. Faulty Unit Trust Scheme and MyXeno Unit Trust Scheme each pooling KSh 50.7 million and KSh 16.1 million in assets under management.

In the period under review, the largest chunk of assets under management was invested in government securities at 39.2 percent with fixed deposits taking up 33.4 percent. The rest was invested in cash and demand deposits (13.9 percent), Listed securities (9.3 percent), Unlisted securities (3.3 percent), Im-movable property (0.4 percent), other CIS (0.3 percent) and Off-shore investments (0.2 percent).

Investment in listed securities saw the sharpest increase of 523 percent to KSh 23.7 billion invested in the same during the review period. However, Unit trust funds reduced their investments in government securities by 7 percent to KSh 99.7 billion from KSh 107.6 billion in March this year.

A Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) is an investment vehicle where money is pooled together from investors and invested in a wide range of assets and the portfolio collectively managed by a professional fund manager.

SPECIAL REPORT

Sand mining on riverbanks exposes people to homeless vulnerability - 6

By Francis Kajubi

AMINA Rashid (34) is among thousands of Dar es Salaam's residents who have tasted the pinch of illegal sand mining carried out in the city's riverbanks.

A mother of three is living in a three-room rented house at Kwa Gude suburb in Ilala district of the city after their house at IPTL Tegeta Street was in March this year washed away by rain water.

According to her, when she built the house with her husband in 2008, the Tegeta River runoff was over 60 meters away as required by Section 57 (4) of the Environment Management Act No. 20 of 2004.

But as days passed by with tremendous illegal sand mining, Tegeta's riverbank was slowly washed away, bringing her house even closer to the river.

"We legally secured the plot with all government documents. The River was about 100 meters away but today you can't tell that a house was built there;

In my opinion, illegal sand miners who are not obligated with planting enough bamboo trees along the riverbanks have led to my family's fate," she said.

She blamed the fact that the river has no retaining walls significantly contributed to the wash away of my house.

Her husband Ally Mziray (45) said that he now incurs a monthly rent worth 120,000/-.

"I used to live in my own house for 13 years after my wife and I had sweated away for three year in building the house that fetched 28mn/- but here I am today living as a tenant at this age," said Mziray.

According to him, his house was among the 16 houses that were washed away by the river waters leaving over 90 people homeless.

Habiba Chande (47), a widow who is living in her elder sister's house for six years now after her house which was built 100 meters away from River Ng'ombe in Sinza suburb of the city was washed away.

She blamed the government for not building retaining walls on the city's major rivers so as to prevent them from continuous erosion caused by storm waters.

Observation by this journalist has proved that sand mining on Dar es Salaam's riverbanks is accelerating landscape degradation thus widening surface runoff which has resulted in people's residential houses being washed away by floods.

Since authorities in Tanzania have allowed sand mining in riv-



Residential houses along the Tegeta River were washed out by rainwater. Photo: Francis Kajubi

erbeds, sand miners are required to plant bamboo trees along the riverbanks to prevent them from continuous widening of river channels.

This is not the case with the majority of legal and illegal sand miners operating in the city's river are not fully abiding to the existing regulations.

Geoffrey Mkinga, Manager Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) for Dar es Salaam region said that retaining walls for some of the City Rivers shall be built during the implementation of the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) phase two to commence before the end of 2024.

According to him, the World Bank (WB) funded second phase of DMDP fetches \$438 million and will be implemented over a period of six years. The project is expected to be implemented in all five district councils of the Dar es Salaam city.

"Among other amenities the project will cover construction of storm water channels covering 90 kilometers and three landfills. Storm water channels covering 67 kilometers were constructed in phase one of the project that fetched \$330.30 million," said Mkinga.

The budget speech by the Vice President's Office, Union and Environment 2024/25 tabled in the National Assembly in April 2024 states that Dar es Salaam city has been exposed to severe damage of rivers attributed to illegal sand mining.

"In the financial year 2023/24, a total of 37 permits for sand mining were issued in Dar es Salaam city after thorough inspection and professional evaluations which have significantly reduced illegal sand mining that causes damage to riverbanks in the city," reads part of the speech.

Andrew Mkule (32), a Secondary school teacher and resident of Dar es Salaam said that with the ongoing preparation of the National Development Vision Plan 2050, climate resilience issues must be among the top priorities.

"The government should set a clear roadmap of how the Vision will advocate for climate resilience programmes," said Mkule.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in its 2023 report dubbed: 'State of the Climate in Africa' states that the continent is increasingly shouldering a disproportionate burden from climate change effects, with rising costs for essential adaptation efforts.

The report reveals that African countries are losing an average of two to five percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to climate change-related impacts.

The WMO states in the report that, in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, climate adaptation initiatives costs will range between \$30 and \$50 billion annually over the next decade, representing two to five percent of the region's GDP.

The report which was officially released on September 2, 2024, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the United

Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology at the 12th Climate Change for Development in Africa (CCDA) Conference in Abidjan state that come 2030, up to 118 million Africans particularly those living on less than \$1.90 per day could face severe exposure to floods, drought or extreme heat if adequate response measures are not observed.

"This alarming projection threatens to undermine poverty alleviation efforts and stifle economic growth," reads the report in part.

African nations are urged to prioritize increased investment in hydrological services and national meteorological weather predictions alongside active dedicated implementation of the Early Warnings for All Initiative.

"The initiatives are essential to mitigating risks, building adaptive capacity, and bolstering resilience at local, national and regional levels, thereby supporting sustainable development goals," reads the WMO report.

WMO Secretary General, Celeste Saulo said in a circular statement that Africa has observed a warming trend since the past 60 years which has become more rapid than the global average.

"In 2023, the continent endured deadly floods, heat waves, heavy rains, prolonged droughts and tropical cyclones. These extreme events have had devastating impacts on communities and serious economic implications," said Saulo in the statement.

Agricultural entity boss wins Africa Food Prize

By Guardian Reporter

Tinotenda Mhiko, CEO of the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) of Zimbabwe, has been named the winner of the 2024 Africa Food Prize, receiving a \$100,000 award for his groundbreaking leadership and innovation in advancing food security through strategic irrigation initiatives, which is revolutionizing Zimbabwe's food systems.

Mhiko's visionary leadership at ARDA has been a driving force in overcoming some of Zimbabwe's most pressing agricultural challenges, such as recurrent droughts, erratic rainfall, and widespread land degradation.

His bold and innovative strategies have expanded the area under irrigation from 6,000 hectares in 2016 to a projected 15,000 hectares by 2025, positioning ARDA as a model of sustainability and profitability in African agriculture.

By upgrading irrigation infrastructure, integrating advanced technologies like drip irrigation and solar-powered systems, and diversifying

crop production; Mhiko through ARDA has significantly improved water use efficiency, boosted crop yields, and strengthened resilience to climate change.

These achievements have not only enhanced food security but also spurred economic development at a national level. Under Mhiko's vision, ARDA has also cultivated a culture of collaboration and innovation, engaging stakeholders and building partnerships with government bodies, private sector players, and international development organizations.

His work illustrates a holistic and adaptive approach to irrigation that addresses technical, economic, and environmental aspects, setting a benchmark for agricultural transformation in Zimbabwe and beyond.

The \$100,000 Africa Food Prize honors Africans who are spearheading transformative agricultural initiatives. It highlights bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to foster a new era of food security and economic opportunity.

This year's award not only celebrates individual excellence but



Tinotenda Mhiko (C), CEO Agriculture and Rural Development Authority poses for a photo after being awarded the Africa Food Prize. Left is Ibrahim Mayaki, AU special envoy on food systems, and right is Dr Dorothy Okello, Africa food prize committee member. Photo: Courtesy.

also emphasizes the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Africa's food systems.

In his acceptance speech, Mhiko stated, "I have worked with all classes of farmers over 15 years to improve productivity. Over time I have found

that the first step to achieving this is innovation. We have implemented impactful models alongside the use of technological innovations which have helped achieve this."

The announcement was made by former Nigerian Prime Minister Ibrahim Mayaki during the 2024 Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda. In his remarks, President Kikwete praised Mhiko for his exceptional contributions, stating: "This is an example of what transformative leadership looks like. Beyond the issues of science and innovation, there is a dimension of empowerment of farmers. You can see the impact of this vision in empowering farmers."

The Africa Food Prize recognizes groundbreaking work in agriculture and calls on governments, organizations, and individuals to support similar initiatives and invest in Africa's agricultural future.

Each year, the prize seeks nominations for individuals or institutions that are leading efforts to transform farming in Africa, with an emphasis on poverty reduction, nutrition security, and job creation.

Nominations are reviewed based

on criteria assessing the impact, scalability, and sustainability of agricultural programs. The Africa Food Prize is the preeminent annual award that recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions that are leading the effort to change the reality of farming in Africa.

The US \$100,000 prize celebrates Africans who are taking control of Africa's agriculture agenda. It puts a spotlight on bold initiatives and technical innovations that can be replicated across the continent to create a new era of food security and economic opportunity for all Africans.

Established in 2006, AGRA is an African-led and Africa-based institution dedicated to placing smallholder farmers at the core of the continent's burgeoning economy. AGRA's mission is to transform agriculture from a mere struggle for survival into a thriving business.

In collaboration with its partners, AGRA catalyzes and sustains an inclusive agricultural transformation aimed at increasing incomes and enhancing food security in eleven countries.

Uncertainty surrounds petrol supply from Dangote refinery

LAGOS

Three days after the NNPC Limited increased the pump price of petrol and Dangote Refinery announced the commencement of petrol distribution from the \$20 billion facility, queues at filling stations have failed to abate.

Checks in Abuja showed that very few stations were opened to customers despite the petrol hike which has seen black marketers selling the product N1,500 per litre.

To add to the supply challenge, Dangote Refinery has disclosed that NNPC which was made the sole off-taker of its premium motor spirit also known as petrol has not commenced the lifting of the product.

Dangote said it was still negotiating the terms of the contract with the national oil company.

Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer, Dangote Group, Anthony Chiejina in a statement on Thursday said the company is not in a position to determine the price of petrol as the sector is regulated.

"We would like to state that NNPC has not commenced lifting of refined Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol, from our Dangote Petroleum Refinery.

"Therefore, the issue of fixing the price of petrol lifted from our refinery does not arise, as we are yet to finalize our contract with NNPC.

"The PMS market is strictly regulated, which is known to all oil marketers and stakeholders in the sector; hence we can not



determine, fix, or influence the product price, which falls under the purview of relevant government authorities".

He urged the public to disregard the reports "as it is misleading and does not represent the true position in this matter.

"We are guaranteeing Nigerians of exceptionally high quality petroleum products that will be readily available all over the coun-

try." Bloomberg had reported that the Federal Government was reconsidering the decision to make NNPC the sole off-taker of petrol from the refinery. The report added that the move would allow the refinery to set the price for its petrol rather than having the government peg the rate.

Speaking on the continuing queues at filling stations, the Exec-

utive Vice-President, Downstream, NNPC, Adedapo Segun, said only unrestricted and competitive pricing of the product can end queues at the petrol stations.

Segun who appeared as a guest in a national television programme pointed out that at N897 per litre the government is still paying subsidies on the product.

According to him, "If you look in section 205 of the PIA, that's the

Act that gave birth to NNPC Limited, it tells you that petroleum prices or fuel prices were based on unrestricted free market conditions. And so, when you have a situation where fuel prices remain the same, that's what is unusual, you won't see that in other climes, where you have prices fixed for a long period.

"It's actually supposed to move in consonance with changes and market conditions. During the summer months, prices are high because it's a driving season, in the winter months, prices come down and things like that. So, that's what the PIA provides for; prices should move with the seasons."

He insisted that the downstream sector "should be free market, unrestricted market-based conditions...what's sustainable is the unrestricted free market pricing of PMS. That way, competition takes over, and Nigerians will get the best.

"Everyone will compete for market share, and the quality of service will improve. That feeling of entitlement by marketers or companies in the business will go away because they will compete against each other to serve consumers better."

Mr. Segun said despite the challenges NNPC was working hard with marketers to address the problem of scarcity in the country,

saying that the NNPC is working twenty-four-seven to solve the issue.

"We're working with all of the marketers. You know we have almost a thousand stations around the country, but that's not enough. We're working with all of the marketers, engaging with them to ensure that fuel stations open early and close late, and make sure that there's enough fuel in all of the stations. So, we are ensuring that deliveries are made to stations. We are doing our best to make sure that there are no diversions," he said.

But speaking to Vanguard, the Public Relation Officer, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association, IPMAN, Chief Chinedu Ukadike said marketers were yet to receive any allocation from NNPC.

He said: "Nothing has changed and we are still waiting. There is confusion everywhere and we are struggling to differentiate what is real and what is not. Nobody has received any load from Dangote. We are waiting for information so that we know what to do.

"We are still insisting that every marketer should get access to Dangote products whether you are a major marketer or independent, it should be equal opportunity for all", he added.



Visitors view an electric vehicle of BYD from China during the festival of motoring in Johannesburg.

Chinese electric vehicle makers eye potential of new expanding markets

JOHANNESBURG

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are ramping up their push into Africa, seeking to capture a growing market with untapped potential.

Chinese EV maker Neta Auto – a brand developed by EV startup Zhejiang Hozon New Energy Automobile Company – opened its first flagship store in Kenya in June. The company is aiming to open 100 stores across 20 African countries in the next 2 to 3 years, and sell more than 20,000 vehicles. In mid-June Chinese EV maker Xpeng Motors introduced its G9 and P7 models to the Egyptian market to expand its international sales – previously focused on Europe – further into the African and Middle Eastern markets.

In the same month, another Chinese EV manufacturer, BYD, signed a deal with EV tech company Ampersand, based in Kigali, Rwanda, pledging to strengthen its presence in Africa by increasing sales of new energy and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Ampersand boasts the largest charging networks in Rwanda and Kenya. Under the deal, it will purchase batteries from BYD to build around 40,000 electric motorcycles by the end of 2026. The development is part of a broader mission to electrify most of Africa's 30 million commercial motorcycles, the majority of which still run on fuel, said Ampersand.

BYD's batteries and manufacturing scale, coupled with Ampersand's market insights and technical product knowledge, is expected to accelerate the transition of Africa's commercial motorcycles from fuel to electric power.

Josh Whale, CEO of Ampersand, said switching the millions of taxis and delivery two-wheelers to EV energy represents one of the world's best value-for-money decarbonization opportunities. The new partnership with BYD will count signifi-

cantly toward its capacity to continue to provide sustainable, cost-effective, mass-market EV solutions, he added.

Huang Zhixue, head of automotive sales for BYD in the Middle East and Africa, believes BYD can meet South Africa's transportation needs and exceed customer expectations. The increasing focus on Africa is an attempt by Chinese EV manufacturers to diversify their international markets, said industry experts.

Electrifying commercial motorbikes is a good first step toward a larger goal of cutting dependence on gasoline fuels for transportation in Africa, Huang said.

According to the International Energy Agency, the penetration rate of new energy vehicles in Africa and the Middle East is less than 1 percent.

This presents a significant opportunity for Chinese EV manufacturers to leapfrog competitors by expanding product lines and enhancing brand recognition in these regions, said Lin Boqiang, head of the China Institute for Studies in Energy Policy at Xiamen University.

"Africa represents a largely untapped market with significant growth potential. With a rapidly growing population and increasing urbanization, the demand for vehicles is expected to rise sharply," he said.

"Chinese automobile manufacturers, with competitive advantages such as cost-effective production and a complete supply chain, are capable of offering vehicles at more competitive prices, making them more accessible to African consumers."

Supportive policies and investments from Chinese and African governments have further facilitated the entry of Chinese companies into the African market. Initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative have strengthened economic ties between China and Africa, creating favorable conditions for Chinese businesses, Lin added.

No light, no food, no fuel, Yoruba elders tell Tinubu

LAGOS

THE Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE) has told President Ahmed Tinubu, in an unmistakable term that Nigerians are "suffering deeply" under his administration asking him to meet short term needs of the people before pursuing a long term vision.

The elders' council through its Secretary General, Chief Oladipo Oyewole, stressed that millions of Nigerians living without food, fuel and light, President Tinubu needs to go back to drawing board and fashion out measures that will bring immediate comfort to the people.

YCE, in a statement, noted that it remains hopeful that Nigeria

will have a turnaround.

"However, going by scanty information available on Government pursuits and activities, there is, presently, a lot of suffering in the land."

"Be that as it may, we of YCE stand on our strong position that the interest of the masses to live a good life should be given full attention."

"Without regular supply of electricity and with the official announcement of increase in the price of petroleum products (PMS), the current hardship cannot but be increased in daily living by Nigerians".

"The Federal Government ought to immediately pursue every avenue to make available to our

people, the dividends of democracy. Not through distribution of palliatives (that does not seem to filter to the bottom) but by putting in place avenues to enhance proper and quality living through effective governance administration".

"Every Nigerian should be entitled to enjoy our common resources. Indeed, Nigerians are suffering deeply at this time.... no light, no fuel, no food"

"Mr. President should, without delay, revisit his drawing board to attend to the short term needs of Nigerians (the immediate needs of the people) whilst pursuing the long term vision of making Nigeria a better place for growth and for development".

"As Elders, we demand immediate succour for the people to boost the welfare of Nigerians so that all can live in comfort and harmony. As far as this elders council is concerned, a lot of administrative work by Government is (absolutely) required for the masses of this country to live, stay alive as respectable and responsible people".

"The Administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should do something quickly to ensure proper steering of its intentions to establish and install better governance in Nigeria. Infact, the Presidency should do all possible to alleviate the suffering of all Nigerians immediately and without delay".

SHANGHAI

China's metaverse-related industry is expected to grow fast in the next three years, thanks to continuing maturity and the application of key technologies including 5G, artificial intelligence, blockchain, cloud computing and virtual reality, according to an industrial report.

"Whether it's entertainment, social media, online education, telecommuting, or digital marketing, the metaverse can offer entirely new experiences and models in the years ahead," said Rupert Hoogewerf, chairman and chief researcher of Hurun Report.

Hoogewerf made the remarks after the Hurun Research Institute released a ranking report of 200 Chinese companies with the greatest potential in the metaverse in 2024 in Nansha district of Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, in late August.

"The metaverse is considered a strategic emerging industry and will accelerate the promotion of Nansha to become an innovation highland and emerging industry incubation highland in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," said Hoogewerf.

The report refers to companies based in the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. For the main list, companies considered have a value of \$1 billion or more.

"There has been a clear trend of metaverse-related businesses in the past three years, especially in the fields of education, finance, tourism and healthcare," said Hoogewerf.

Technology giant Huawei tops

Metaverse expected to grow across China



People visit the 2024 consumer technology and innovation exhibition at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre.

the list with the greatest potential in the metaverse for the first time, followed by Alibaba, Baidu, China Telecom and China Mobile.

Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen, Guangdong province, accounted for more than half of the total, with Beijing leading with 57 of Hurun's China metaverse 200 list, Shanghai 35, Shenzhen 29 and Guangzhou 15.

Metaverse, deemed as next-generation internet, is going to change production and human life in a profound way and advance the development of future industry, according to the report.

The metaverse involves the formulation of technical standards, the construction of platforms, the optimization of user experience

and the improvement of laws and regulations, according to Hoogewerf.

"These are not achieved overnight, but need to be achieved through continuous progress, as the development of the metaverse is not the single fight of a certain technology, but the co-evolution of technology clusters," he said.

Ten projects to address Kigali housing demands

KIGALI

The Government aims to deliver 150,000 new homes annually to meet the projected demand of 5.5 million homes by 2050. With the rising population, Kigali is in particular need of new urban residential apartments. The city alone requires 18,000 affordable housing units annually to meet the housing needs of its residents.

In response to this demand, here are 10 key affordable housing projects, as identified by the Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), that are expected to significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts:

Bwiza Riverside Homes
Located in Karama, Nyarugenge District, Bwiza Riverside Homes were inaugurated by President Paul Kagame in 2022. Developed by ADHI Rwanda Ltd, the eco-friendly homes are designed primarily for first-time home-owners, with options ranging from Rwf16 million to Rwf35 million per unit. The project aims to build 40,000 homes over the next 13 years, spread across five phases.

Rugarama Park Estate
Rugarama Park Estate, developed by Remote Group in collaboration with Shelter Afrique and the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD), seeks to build 2,000 homes on 42 hectares in the Nyamirambo sector.

The project is designed for mixed-income buyers, with prices ranging from Rwf12 million to Rwf35 million. It will provide housing for up to 14,000 residents and create hundreds of jobs during construction.

Kinyinya Park Estate Project

The Kinyinya Park Estate Project aims to build 10,000 modern homes in Kinyinya, accommodating 50,000 residents. This \$400 million project is a joint venture between the Development Bank of Rwanda, the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB), and other partners, with construction expected to be completed in five phases over five years.

Batsinda Project

Targeted for salaried workers, the Batsinda Project offers subsidised housing, with the government covering 30% of the total cost. Prices range from Rwf 20 million to Rwf 30 million. The first phase will deliver 548 housing units in Kinyinya sector.

Busanza Housing Estate

Busanza Housing Estate, located in Kanombe sector, Kicukiro District, is designed to house families relocated from Kigali's largest informal settlement areas, including Kangondo I, Kangondo II, and Kibiraro I.

Vision City Project

Vision City is a multi-phase housing project in Gacuriro, Gasabo District. Developed by Ultimate Developers Ltd for the RSSB, the project's first phase consists of 504 units, with plans for a total of 4,500 homes. The second phase, set to deliver 1,500 sustainable homes, began in November 2023 and aims to create a comprehensive urban environment with

essential amenities such as healthcare, schools, supermarkets, and entertainment venues.

Masaka Housing Project

Masaka Housing Project, run by Remote Estate, will offer 278 housing units in five categories, including apartments, semi-detached buildings, townhouses, luxury villas, and commercial buildings. Buyers can pay 20% of the total cost in five instalments, with prices starting at Rwf30 million for a three-bedroom house.

Riverside City Estate

Located in Gahanga, Kicukiro District, Riverside City Estate is set to build 100 affordable homes in its first phase, with prices below Rwf50 million. Each house will feature three rooms, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, and parking for two to three cars. A second phase will add 200 more homes, along with essential amenities such as a nursery school, health center, and supermarket.

Ndera Housing Project

The Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) is leading a project to build 1,300 affordable homes in Ndera, with prices starting at Rwf27 million. The project will target employees with incomes ranging from Rwf261,000 to Rwf1.2 million per month and is expected to be completed at a cost of Rwf60 billion.

Isange Estate

Isange Estate, located at Rebero Hill in Kigali, is being developed by Imara Properties. The first two phases have delivered 30 housing units, with more planned.

Designed to be environmentally friendly, the estate offers flexible payment options, including instalments, and features homes with three to four rooms. Residents will also enjoy a panoramic view of Kigali and access to nearby amenities like the Kigali Cultural Village.

It was previously reported that the upgrading of Biryogo, Agatare, Kiyovu, and Rwampara informal settlements in Nyarugenge District is set to be replicated in other districts of Kigali city, officials have said.

The revelation was made in a progressive report of a \$10 million project dubbed "Agatare Upgrading Project" that is upgrading informal settlements in Nyarugenge District.

The slums were part of different informal settlements in the city that have been said to be in need of upgrading.

The approach seeks to upgrade such slums while 'minimizing recurrent eviction of dwellers' and thus enables the city to deal with the high housing demand in the city as the residents are facilitated to refurbish their houses.

After the pilot phase, City of Kigali officials said that the project is going to be replicated in ten cells of Nyarugenge District, three cells of Kicukiro District and two cells of Gasabo District.

Most of these unplanned settlements do not have basic infrastructure such as roads, pedestrian ways, drains, street lights, electricity, water and others that are needed to facilitate people's daily business.



Tens of housing units at Bwiza Riverside Homes in Karama, Nyarugenge District.

Agatare Upgrading Project which started in 2018 has overhauled informal settlements in Biryogo, Agatare, Kiyovu, and Rwampala areas that are said to host more than 83 per cent of the over 26,000 residents of Nyarugenge Sector in Nyarugenge District.

The area is part of what is widely known as Nyamirambo suburb.

The district that is inhabited by 220 people per hectare also serves as the Central Business District (CBD) where the slums are adjacent to.

The project has been upgrading the settlements by setting up basic infrastructure such as water, roads, disaster control infra-

structure, electricity and others to pave the way for residents to upgrade their houses and do businesses.

So far, according to the Kigali city's report, 6.64 kilometres of roads with water channels, and street lights have been constructed to facilitate 15,000 residents.

At least 2.5 kilometres of drainages have been built to protect 2,000 residents from floods while 6.2 kilometres of pedestrian ways are to serve 3,000 residents in daily movements for businesses.

"The basic infrastructure is said to have increased traffic of clients and eased transport of goods while commercial buildings have also been revamped to help business-

ness," the assessment indicated.

Besides upgrading the slums, the City of Kigali says, the project is also mulling setting up infrastructure to cater to the social welfare of dwellers.

The social facilities were selected after collecting views from the parents and kids. The facilities will also help boost their talents in playing different sports including basketball and football.

With the improvement of basic infrastructure, the city says, some investors have already established storied-commercial buildings to boost doing business in the area while others have expressed their interest in establishing other new modern

business facilities.

Area residents previously struggled to get parking spaces and often had to leave their cars unattended. However, with basic infrastructure, the residents easily get parking places close to their homes.

The city has also eased the process of refurbishing residents' houses and also set up basic infrastructure by providing upgrading permits in the suburb under the project. With the upgrading and basic infrastructure, the value of houses and land properties is also expected to go up and boost property owners' income.

Kigali city seeks to have 90 per cent citizens in the capital having access to decent housing by 2050 under the new city master plan to be implemented from 2020 up to 2050.

This requires citizens' participation in the planning and implementation while even those who rent can rent at affordable prices depending on their financial capacity.

The new master plan introduces a flexible and incremental approach to city development as it seeks to accommodate 3.8 million populations in 2050 from the current 1.6 million populations.

The new master plan has allowed flexibility in building affordable residential houses whereby it will also allow improvement of unplanned settlements without necessarily relocating residents.

Auxiliary residential units are allowed where a house owner can annex other small houses in smart ways that can help low income earners.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 7 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 AI Jazera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:35 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17:00 Shamsanzu za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera
SUNDAY 8 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 AI Jazera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:30 Usafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Haikufuma	20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera					
MONDAY 9 Sept	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Aya ya Jami	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Usafiri Wako rpt	13:30 Shikabamba	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Shikabamba	14:20 Mjuzi Zaidi	14:55 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera					

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TUESDAY 10 Sept	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Aya ya Jami	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Usafiri Wako rpt	13:30 Shikabamba	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Shikabamba	14:20 Mjuzi Zaidi	14:55 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera			
THURSDAY 12 Sept	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap: Laws of love	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:25 Jagina	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Watoto wetu	10:30 Shamba lulu	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Ripoti maalum	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 AI Jazera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa						

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FRIDAY 13 Sept	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Kipindi maalum:	11:20 Kipindi maalum: TMDA	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 AI Jazera	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt:	13:30 Maisha ni nyumba	13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema	14:30 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera																			
SATURDAY 14 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 AI Jazera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle	13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Haikufuma	17:00 Shamsanzu za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Haikufuma	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45 Art and Lifestyle	22:15 ITV Top 10	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera																	

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SUNDAY 15 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 AI Jazera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Soap rpt: Laws of love	11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt:	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:30 Usafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Haikufuma	20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizengwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 AI Jazera																			
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WORLD

President Xi meets African leaders over bilateral ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday met with the presidents of Burundi, Liberia, Somalia and the Republic of Congo in the Chinese capital.

Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye, Gambia's Adama Barrow, Liberian leader Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Madagascar's Andry Nirina Rajoelina, Somalia President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and the Republic of Congo leader Denis Sassou Nguesso are in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

China, Congo ink agreements

The Chinese leader held a welcome ceremony for Sassou Nguesso, who is on a state visit to China, and held talks with him.

During their talks, Xi congratulated the Republic of Congo on becoming the African co-chair of FOCAC.

The summit's outcomes will benefit all African countries that have diplomatic ties with China and advance China-Africa cooperation to new heights, Xi said, adding that the outcomes are of great significance for guiding the development of China-Africa ties and achieving modernization for both sides.

China will work with the Republic of Congo to better play their leading role as FOCAC co-chairs and to show the firm resolve of China and Africa to jointly build an all-weather community with a shared future for the new era, he said.

China supports the Republic of Congo in diversifying its economy and encourages Chinese companies to participate in

key infrastructure and regional connectivity projects in the country, Xi said.

He said China is willing to enhance international cooperation with the Republic of Congo in global governance and other areas.

Sassou Nguesso said many Chinese companies have participated in projects across various sectors, such as fisheries and infrastructure, in the Republic of Congo, and contributed to the country's economic and social development.

He expressed gratitude for China's strong support for Africa's development, saying the Republic of Congo is ready to work closely with China to implement the outcomes of this summit.

After the talks, the two heads of state witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements in areas such as Belt and Road cooperation, the digital economy, human resources and news media.

The two sides issued a joint statement. Before the talks, a welcoming ceremony was held at the Great Hall of the People.

China-Burundi ties elevated

During their talks, the Chinese and Burundian presidents announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi said China-Burundi relations have stood the test of changes in the international landscape. Continuously promoting bilateral relations is in the interests of both countries and is of exemplary significance for Global South countries to unite and strengthen themselves.

He expressed the hope that the two countries will take the implementation of the summit outcomes as an opportunity



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan pose for a group photo with President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso and his wife Antoinette Sassou Nguesso during a welcoming ceremony in the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People prior to the talks between Xi and Sassou in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

to further enhance their relations.

Sino-Liberia strategic partnership

President Xi and Liberian President Joseph Nyumah Boakai jointly announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

The Chinese and Liberian people have shared weal and woe in jointly fighting Ebola and COVID-19 in recent years, and sincerely cooperated in national development, adding new substance to bilateral relations, said Xi.

He called for strengthened exchanges and dialogue, and mutual support on issues involving their respective core interests and major concerns to safeguard the national sovereignty, security and development interests of both countries.

China is willing to support Liberia in infrastructure construction within its capacity and step up bilateral cooperation in maritime transportation, agriculture, resources and other fields, he noted.

As members of the Global South, China and Liberia should work with other developing countries to jointly uphold fairness and justice, and promote the development of global governance toward a more just and equitable direction, added the Chinese leader.

China, Somalia elevate ties

The Chinese and Somali presidents announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

Meeting Somali President Mohamud, Xi said China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Somalia in areas such as economy, trade, fisheries and human resources training.

China will continue to provide assistance to international peacekeeping operations in Somalia and support the country in enhancing its capabilities of independent development, counter-terrorism and maintaining stability, he said.

Mohamud expressed gratitude to China as it has supported Somalia in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and promoting economic development.

Somalia aspires to security and stability, and regards China as a reliable and trustworthy partner and friend, Mohamud said, adding that his country hopes to constantly deepen friendship and cooperation with China.

During the summit, the two sides signed bilateral cooperation documents covering fields such as radio and television.

Xinhua

Summit draws roadmap for China-Africa joint efforts in modernisation drive

BEIJING

THE 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has produced concrete outcomes, charting a roadmap for China and Africa to work concerted to pursue modernization, which is poised to enhance South-South cooperation and drive global development.

The summit from Sept. 4 to 6 in Beijing is the largest diplomatic event hosted by China in recent years. As one of the major outcomes of the summit, China announced Thursday that it will jointly advance modernization with Africa by implementing 10 partnership actions over the next three years.

The actions cover mutual learning among civilizations, trade prosperity, industrial chain cooperation, connectivity, development cooperation, health, agriculture and livelihoods, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, green development and common security. China has pledged 360 billion yuan (about 51 billion U.S. dollars) in financial support to implement these actions.

African leaders hailed China's commitment to strengthening cooperation and deepening its friendship with Africa at the opening ceremony of the summit.

"China has been a true partner in our fight against poverty and pursuing prosperity," said Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan. She said China's genuine commitment toward Africa has been instrumental in achieving the common development goals.

At the FOCAC's ninth ministerial confer-

ence held on the eve of the summit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the rise of the Global South represented by China and Africa is profoundly influencing the development of human society, and that the summit will set a new milestone for the Global South to move forward together toward modernization.

Liu Yuxi, special representative of the Chinese government on African affairs, said that since its inception in 2000, the FOCAC has yielded impressive results, having become a banner leading international cooperation with Africa and deepening Global South cooperation.

Through the FOCAC, China and Africa maintain high-level mutual trust, adhere to win-win cooperation, engage in rich and diverse exchanges, and adapt cooperation in various fields to the changing times, Liu added.

According to economists and experts, the partnership actions effectively align with Africa's modernization goals.

For instance, to boost trade, China will voluntarily and unilaterally open its market wider. China has also decided to give all the least developed countries (LDCs) having diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines.

The move is expected to greatly facilitate two-way flow of Chinese and African products and help strengthen the position of African products in international trade, said Li Hongfeng, dean of the School of African Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

To boost industrial chain cooperation,



Journalists attend a press briefing at the media center for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing Sept. 3, 2024. Xinhua

China will foster industry cooperation growth clusters with Africa, push forward the Pilot Zone for In-depth China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation, and launch an "African SMEs empowerment program."

To promote connectivity, China is prepared to carry out 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa and promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Li said that in recent years, China and Africa have deepened their cooperation in traditional sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, capacity building, talent cultivation and technology transfer. At the same time, the cooperation has also expanded into forward-looking areas such as

green economy and digital economy.

"Looking ahead, I believe China-Africa economic and trade cooperation will continue to rise to new heights alongside Africa's industrialization," Li said.

Mwangi Wachira, former World Bank economist and advisor to the Kenyan government, said that the lack of modern ports, power infrastructure, and national and cross-border highways has hindered Africa's modernization. However, with infrastructure projects driven by FOCAC and China's long-standing focus on development, Africa is now better positioned to achieve its industrialization potential, he noted.

Xinhua

Russian army's sacred duty, gas transit, dollar: Putin addresses EEF plenary session

VLADIVOSTOK

PROTECTING Russia's border regions from Ukrainian attacks is the sacred duty of the Russian Armed Forces, President Vladimir Putin said at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).



The Russian president stressed that the country was not against transiting its gas through Ukraine but could not force Kiev to do anything in this regard. Putin also noted that Moscow's issue with the dollar stems from the fact that it was "denied" settlements in this currency. On a positive note, he drew attention to decreasing inflation in Russia.

TASS has gathered the key statements made by the president during the discussion.

The Kursk Region

By attacking the Kursk Region and other border areas, Ukraine wanted to distract Russia from its offensive in Donbass.

This strategic gambit failed as Kiev severely weakened itself in other directions, while the Russian army only accelerated its offensive. The Ukrainian armed forces' losses are so great that the country's army may soon lose its ability to fight. "The enemy is suffering heavy losses - both in manpower and equipment."

Protecting Russia's border regions from attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces is the "sacred duty" of the Russian Armed Forces. The number of contract servicemen has "sharply increased" after the Ukrainian attack on the Kursk Region.

Ukraine strikes NPPs

Ukraine's strikes on the Zaporozhye and Kursk nuclear power plants are "blatant terrorist attacks."

"One can only imagine what would happen if we gave a tit-for-tat response, what would happen to this part of Europe."

Settling the Ukraine conflict

In settling the Ukrainian crisis, Russia will seek "guarantees that could work at least to some extent."

The West and the Kiev authorities abandoned the 2022 Istanbul agreements on the settlement in Ukraine in favor of trying to deal a strategic defeat to Russia, which "is not working."

Russia has never refused to negotiate on Ukraine, but will not do so based on "some ephemeral demands, only on the grounds of those documents that were agreed and actually initiated in Istanbul."

Moscow and Kiev managed to agree on the settlement of the conflict in March 2022 in Istanbul. The only reason the agreements did not go into force was because the West put a stop to the process.

Russia will always defend its interests and the interests of people in Ukraine who espouse the Russian language and traditions.

The dollar

Russia is not pursuing a dedollarization policy: "We did not refuse to settle accounts in dollars. We were denied settlements, and we just have to look for other opportunities. That's all."

The West already realizes that it has made a mistake by foolishly pushing countries to abandon the dollar.

The Russian economy

The Russian economy is already the fourth-largest in the world, while the gap between China and the US is widening. It is developing steadily, but "one must always strive to reach new milestones."

Russia's GDP growth for the first half of 2024 is 4.6%, with the rise expected to eclipse 2023's by year's end.

Inflation in the country is now on the decline, although it recently exceeded 9% with a target of 4%.

The Russian authorities are already "cooling" the situation on the lending market and in the economy as a whole by raising the key rate and canceling certain preferential mortgage programs.

BRICS

Countries of the Global South account for more than half of global GDP, while BRICS countries account for a third. "Priorities in the use of certain currencies are naturally changing as well."

Telegram CEO Pavel Durov's case

The Russian authorities have never had any problems with Telegram founder Pavel Durov, unlike other countries.

US election

It is the American people who will determine the winner of the US presidential election, so Russia does not need to talk about who it prefers or doesn't prefer.

India needs to stand ahead to find solution for water crisis for world - PM Modi

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday launched the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative', speaking at the inauguration the PM said that the country with an always visionary and comprehensive approach, needs to stand ahead to find solutions to battle with the water crisis for the whole world.

Stating a Sanskrit quote, PM Modi (pictured) said, "It is said that all the living beings have originated from water and their lives depends on

it. That's why water donation and saving water for other is the biggest form of donation and the same thing was told by Rahim Das also. The country whose thinking and approach was visionary and comprehensive since past times; it needs to stand ahead in the world to find solutions for water crisis."

Highlighting the Gujarat floods and several other natural calamities that most part of the countries faced during this monsoon season, PM Modi said that almost all parts of the nation faced hav-

oc of the rains.

PM Modi said, "Today, from the land of Gujarat, an important initiative is being launched by the Ministry of Jalshakti. Before that, from the past several days, around all parts of the nation faced severe rains, hardly there will be any region which didn't see the destruction from water. I was Gujarat's CM for long time, but I haven't seen such heavy downpours in most districts. But this time, Gujarat faced huge problem, all the departments were engaged to bear these con-



sequences of nature. But its Gujarat's and the public's demeanour that they move forward with unity in such situ-

ations. There are still parts of the nation which are bearing the havoc of heavy rains."

Extending his wishes to all those who were participating in the initiative, PM Modi emphasised that water conservation is not just a policy; rather, it's a practices which exhibits our generosity and responsibility.

"Water conservation is not just a policy, it's a practice, and there is generosity and responsibility in this practice. When future generations will examine us, our steps and behaviour towards water will be

the first parameter. Because this is not just a question of resources; rather, it's a question of life and future, That's why, for the sustainable future, of the 9 resolutions we have put forward, water conservation is the first one. I am happy to share that through public participation; one more meaningful step is being taken. On this occasion, I extend my wishes to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Gujarat Government and people from all over the nation participating in this initiative," said PM Modi.

Citing the example of Gujarat and his effort when he was the Chief Minister of the state, PM Modi assured that we can overcome the crisis of the water despite numerous obstacles.

He further took a jibe at the then-opposition in Gujarat and said they used to laugh at us for our SAUNI scheme, claiming that the pipes were laying would end up supplying air instead of water but the success of our labour is now evident for the whole world.

ANI

Macron nominates former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as new PM

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has nominated former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as the new prime minister, the Elysee announced on Thursday.

Macron has tasked Barnier with forming a unified government to serve the country and the French people, the Elysee said in a press release.

Born in 1951, Barnier is currently the oldest prime minister in the history of the Fifth Republic. The handover from the youngest Prime Minister Gabriel Attal took place at around 6:30 p.m. local time (1630 GMT).

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Barnier said that as the new prime minister, he intends to address "the challenges, the anger, the suffering, and the sense of abandonment and injustice" that the country is currently experiencing.

He noted that there would be "changes and ruptures" during his time serving as head of government.

Stating that the French people expect a prime minister who speaks honestly about financial debt, ecological debt, and France's influence in Europe, Barnier stressed that he would "act more than talk."

To address France's urgent issues, Barnier said it would require "a lot of listening and respect towards all the political forces in the government." "Because I have learned that good ideas come from everywhere, and elsewhere," he added.

According to the Elysee, Barnier's nomination came after an unprecedented cycle of consultations. Macron ensured that the future government led by Barnier would meet the conditions of being "as stable as possible and give themselves the



Newly appointed Prime Minister Michel Barnier (R, front) attends a handover ceremony at the Hotel Matignon in Paris, France, on Friday. French President Emmanuel Macron has nominated former Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as the new prime minister, the Elysee announced on Thursday. Xinhua

chance to unite as broadly as possible," the press release added.

On July 16, Macron accepted Attal's resignation but asked him to remain in charge of a caretaker government until a new cabinet is formed.

In the two rounds of legislative elections held on June 30 and July 7, Macron's centrist coalition finished second with 163 seats, trailing the left-wing parties' alliance, the New Popular Front (NFP). The NFP secured a relative majority with 182 seats in the 577-member National Assembly.

Macron's nomination of Barnier from the right-wing party The Republicans (LR) was criticized by the left-wing par-

ties, who expected an NFP candidate in line with the election results.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, head of the far-left party La France Insoumise (LFI), said that the nomination shows Macron has decided to "officially deny" the results of the snap legislative elections. The prime minister should come from the NFP alliance, he added.

Meanwhile, the First Secretary of the Socialist Party Olivier Faure said that Barnier's nomination brings "democratic denial to its peak," emphasizing that the LR only came fourth in the legislative elections.

As a pro-European politician, Barnier's nomination has not met with opposition

from the French far-right party National Rally (RN).

The RN's ex-President Marine Le Pen said on her X account that she and her party members would be "attentive" to the project that the new prime minister would implement.

Along with Le Pen, the current RN President Jordan Bardella said that the new prime minister should "respect" the 11 million voters who chose the RN in the legislative elections.

"We reserve all political means of action," Bardella said on his X account, urging Barnier to address issues such as purchasing power, security, and immigration.

Former French President Francois Hollande, who is now a Socialist Party deputy, said on X the RN has given a form of "approval" for Barnier's nomination.

Barnier's first urgent mission is to form a government capable of completing a draft budget for 2025 before Oct. 1 and submit it for voting in a National Assembly that has so far been hostile towards the right-wing prime minister.

Once his government is formed, Barnier will need to outline his overall policy plan detailing what he intends to do as prime minister.

His general policy will determine whether the far-right party RN, led by Jordan Bardella, will initiate a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly against Barnier, like the left-wing parties' alliance NFP has announced to do.

Barnier was elected to the French National Assembly in 1978, becoming the youngest deputy at that time in France. Elected as president of the departmental council of Savoie, he led the city of Albertville to win the hosting of the 1992 Winter Olympic Games.

EU officials focus on serving US energy interests, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW



EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's statements about cutting off energy cooperation with Russia make it clear that the EU is aligning itself with Washington, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"The passion with which von der Leyen rushed to continue the 'crusade' against the European Union's Russian energy imports indicates that the newly appointed members of the European Commission, backed by the most Russia-hating member states, intend to continue to be guided first and foremost by Washington's interests," the diplomat pointed out.

According to her, Brussels no longer sees the need to conceal the obvious: "the main goals of the energy policy that the European Commission is imposing on EU member states are to contain Russia and implement political orders from the overseas 'puppet masters,' primarily, by obediently serving the interests of US businesses."

Zakharova went on to say that for decades, stable and fairly-priced energy supplies from Russia had served as a support for Europe's industrial development and economic prosperity.

"Brussels' one-sided and politically-motivated rejection of long-term, mutually beneficial cooperation with our country is the only thing that has put Europe's lasting prosperity at risk, tangibly escalating the issue of energy and economic security," she stressed.

Zakharova noted that the EU distorted facts and spread direct disinformation to portray Russia as an unreliable energy supplier.

According to the diplomat, the European Union has been extremely clear about its goal, which is to undermine the capacity of Russia's energy industry, "without worrying about consequences not only for consumers in EU countries but also for global energy security."

Lavrov says his only meeting with Kuleba lacked constructiveness

MOSCOW

THE only meeting of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with then Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba that took place on March 2022 in Turkey lacked anything new and constructive, Russia's top diplomat said.

Verkhovna Rada Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk said on September 4 that Kuleba, who had led the country's Foreign Ministry since March 2020, submitted his resignation. On Thursday, the parliament approved it in a vote.

"The only time I saw him on the case was at a diplomatic forum in Antalya. This is an annual event organized by Turkey. Mevlut Cavusoglu was then foreign minister, he called and said he really wanted me to arrive, because the Ukrainian side, Dmitry Kuleba in particular, proposed the Turkish one an idea of meeting with me," Lavrov said in an interview with RBC.

"They asked that this meeting be not one-on-one, rather in the presence of the Turkish minister. Given that we had hardly ever engaged

in dialogues, I clarified how serious it was. Very serious, they assured me, for Kuleba said he really had something to convey."

The minister noted making an exception while visiting Antalya - there were no plans to participate in this diplomatic conference, because it did not fit into the schedule. "But the Turks asked insistently, and I reported to the Russian president that the Ukrainian colleagues were going to give us something."

The three of us met in Antalya in a private room," the Russian foreign minister continued. "Mevlut Cavusoglu opened the meeting, then passed the floor to Dmitry Kuleba, as to the initiator. Reading in good English from the list, he announced the things we have been hearing day by day since the beginning of the special military operation, even before it started." According to Lavrov, "nothing new or constructive was yielded."

"The actual work was carried out by delegations. Our side was headed by Vladimir Medinsky, the Russian presidential aide, the Ukrainian side lead by David Arahamiya, the senior member of the pro-presidential Servant of the People party [in the Ukrainian parliament]. The rest is history," the Russian foreign minister said. "They met several times in Belarus, then finally agreed in Istanbul on the basis of the principles put forward by the Ukrainians. These principles remain relevant today. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said many times that if they seek negotiations, then let Vladimir Zelensky cancel the decree prohibiting them at least."

Security guarantees

Lavrov recalled that the Istanbul prin-



ciples guaranteed Ukraine's non-accession to NATO, preserved its non-aligned status and described security guarantees for Ukraine to feel safe.

"Ukraine's non-accession to NATO is part of guarantees provided by Russia. These principles remain in force," the minister said. "At least we are ready to return to them, but surely with the new realities to be taken into account, as more than two and a half years have passed since that moment. Russian President Vladimir Putin told about these realities while giving his speech in the Foreign Ministry on June 14. He set out a way of settling the situation between Ukraine and Russia and the West."

Details of the meeting

Lavrov added that during the meeting Kuleba delivered nothing except the official position. "Later I asked Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu where the very message he [Kuleba] wanted to convey was. The latter was also surprised," the Russian foreign minister pointed out. "Personally, I had not thought there might be any possible negotiation. The negotiation process is underway. By that time it took place in Belarus. Let's proceed from the fact that all the details could be discussed there, I told them."

Canadian opposition party says election more likely after ending deal with Trudeau

OTTAWA

AN early Canadian election is more likely now that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has lost the support of the opposition New Democratic Party that was helping keep him in power, the party's leader said on Thursday.

Jagmeet Singh spoke after pulling his unconditional support for the minority center-left Liberal government on Wednesday, forcing Trudeau (pictured) to seek new alliances to stay in office until a federal vote that must be held by end-October 2025.

Polls show the Liberals would lose badly to the official opposition right-of-center Conservatives amid increasing voter fatigue with Trudeau, who first took power in November 2015, and unhappiness over high prices and a housing shortage.

Trudeau suffered a fresh blow on Thursday when close aide Jeremy Broadhurst, who was set to run the Liberals' election campaign, announced he was quitting.

In a statement posted on X, Broadhurst cited the desire to spend more time with his family. But the Toronto Star cited Liberal sources saying Broadhurst did not think Trudeau could win.

Singh said the NDP ended the 2022 deal to automatically back Trudeau after achieving much of what it wanted in terms of increased social spending from the government.

"I've ripped up the agreement with Justin Trudeau, and I know that means that an election is now more likely as a result. We are ready to fight an election whenever it happens," he told reporters in Toronto.



But he also said his left-of-center party - which has traditionally enjoyed union support - was unhappy that the Liberals had last month forced railway employees back to work, a move he called "a horrible decision".

Trudeau's government is safe for the time being, since it can only be defeated if the opposition parties unite and back a no-confidence vote.

Singh side-stepped questions on whether he would vote to topple Trudeau, saying his party would decide this on an issue-by-issue basis. The NDP is the fourth-largest party in the House of Commons elected lower chamber.

The Conservatives, who say there is no difference between the NDP and the Liberals, are likely to try to force as many confidence votes as possible to put pressure on Singh and keep the Liberals on the back foot instead of governing.

Singh's party faces a dilemma in the coming months. If Singh backed Trudeau or abstained on a confidence vote, it would allow the Conservatives to continue portraying him as weak. If he voted to bring Trudeau down, it would trigger an election at a time when polls show weak support for the NDP.

Agencies

In rare move, Georgia arrests father of teen suspected in school shooting

ATLANTA

GEORGIA state officials on Thursday arrested the father of the 14-year-old suspected in a school shooting that killed four people and wounded nine others on Wednesday, saying the father knowingly allowed his son to have the murder weapon.

Colin Gray, 54, was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter, two counts of second-degree murder and eight counts of cruelty to children, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said.

"These charges stem from Mr. Gray knowingly allowing his son Colt (pictured) to possess a weapon," Chris Hosey, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, told a press conference.

Colt Gray, 14, has been charged with four counts of felony murder and would be tried as an adult, officials said. His arraignment is set for Friday morning before a Georgia Superior Court judge in Barrow County by video camera.

Georgia state and Barrow County investigators say the younger Gray used an "AR platform style weapon," or semiautomatic rifle, to carry out the attack in which two teachers and two 14-year-old students were killed.

It remained unclear exactly how the son came into possession of the weapon.

Investigators have yet to comment on what may have motivated the first US campus mass shooting since the start of the school year.

The shooting at Apalachee

High School in Winder, a city of 18,000 some 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Atlanta, revived both the national debate about gun control and the outpouring of grief that follows in a country where such attacks occur with some regularity.

Officials identified those killed as two 14-year-old students, Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo, and two teachers, Richard Aspinwall, 39, and Christina Irimie, 53.

Two teachers and seven students were wounded in the attack, some of whom have been released from the hospital, Barrow County Sheriff Jud Smith told reporters.

"The nine injured, I am very happy to say, will make a full recovery," Smith told reporters.

Parents held responsible



The charging of the father could represent a new strategy in America's halting attempt to control the epidemic of school shootings.

In April, the mother and father of a Michigan teen were sentenced to between 10 and 15 years in prison after a jury

had convicted them of manslaughter after their son shot and killed four classmates. It was believed to be the first time parents were held legally responsible for their children's action in a school shooting.

Experts and gun safety advocates said the Michigan case was an important step in holding gun-owning parents more accountable for school violence carried out by their children.

In Georgia, both of the Colts were interviewed in May 2023 by officials in a neighboring G County in connection with online threats about carrying out a school shooting made on the gaming social-media platform Discord, according to investigators.

The Grays told the Jackson County Sheriff's Department

they had not made the threats. The father also said he had hunting guns locked in a safe in the house and his son did not have access to them.

Jackson County investigators closed the case after being unable to substantiate that either Gray was connected to the Discord account, and did not find grounds to seek the needed court order to confiscate the family's guns, according to police reports released by the sheriff's office on Thursday.

"This case was worked, and at the time the boy was 13, and it wasn't enough to substantiate," Jackson County Sheriff Janis Mangum said in an interview. "If we get a judge's order or we charge somebody, we take firearms for safekeeping."

In the Michigan case, Jen-

nifer and James Crumbley, the parents of Ethan Crumbley, who in 2021 shot and killed four classmates at Oxford High School, were found guilty of not securing guns in their home and of ignoring warning signs that their son was mentally disturbed.

Studies by the US Department of Homeland Security have shown that around 75 percent of all school shooters obtained their weapons at home.

The shooting was the first planned attack at a school this fall, said David Riedman, who runs the K-12 School Shooting Database. Apalachee students returned to school last month; many other students in the United States are returning this week.

Dodoma Jiji eye first win after relocating home matches to Babati

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji Football Club remain optimistic about securing positive results as the Premier League resumes, despite being forced to temporarily relocate their home matches to Tanzanite Kwaraa Stadium in Babati, Manyara Region.

This move follows the suspension of their home ground, Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma, by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) due to its failure to meet required standards.

Dodoma Jiji, who have had a slow start to the season with one loss and one draw, will kick off their new home campaign against Namungo FC on September 12.

The club's Information and Communications Officer, Patrick Semindu, confirmed the temporary relocation but reassured fans that they plan to return to Jamhuri Stadium after the match against Namungo FC.

"We've temporarily moved to Kwaraa Stadium in Manyara Region while essential repairs are being made at Jamhuri Stadium. These are minor repairs, and we expect to return in time for our match against Simba on September 29," said Semindu.

Meanwhile, head coach Mecky Maxime emphasized the team's continued preparation for the upcoming clash with Namungo FC. Despite the logistical challenges, Maxime remains confident that his team can deliver a strong

performance.

"We are working hard to ensure we're ready for the match against Namungo FC. It won't be easy, but we're determined to bring joy to our fans," Maxime said.

Both teams are eager for a win to improve their standings, with Dodoma Jiji looking to secure their first victory of the season. Namungo FC, on the other hand, enter the match on the back of two consecutive losses against Tabora United and Fountain Gate.

Their recent struggles have raised concerns about their form in the league.

The two teams have a history of tightly contested matches. In their last encounter in December 2023, Namungo FC claimed a narrow 1-0 victory in Lindi, while their return match in Dodoma ended in a draw in May 2024.

This background adds intrigue to the upcoming fixture, as both sides aim to capitalize on previous performances.

Maxime expressed confidence in his squad's readiness for the challenge.

"We know Namungo is also looking for a win, but we're prepared to face them. The good news is that all our players are in good condition," he added.

With both teams desperate to secure points, the stage is set for a compelling match as Dodoma Jiji and Namungo FC battle for early-season momentum in the Premier League.

Simba coach Davids backs young striker Mashaka amidst fierce competition

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



SIMBA SC coach Fadlu Davids has reassured young striker Valentino Mashaka of consistent playing time this season, despite fierce competition from other forwards in the squad.

Davids believes Mashaka (pictured) has the potential to become one of the league's top strikers, citing his natural goal-scoring instincts.

Mashaka has already showcased his talent, netting in consecutive league matches against Geita Gold and Fountain Gate.

The 18-year-old striker, who joined Simba this season from Geita Gold FC after scoring seven goals last season, has quickly made an impact at the Msimbazi-based club.

Simba strengthened their attack with the signings of Steven Mukwala and Leonel Ateba.

Mukwala, who scored 14 goals for Asante Kotoko in Ghana, has already opened his account for Simba, scoring in two Premier League appearances.

Ateba, acquired from USM Alger on the final day of the transfer window, has yet to feature in a competitive match but impressed by scoring in a friendly against Al Hilal Omdurman.

"We've outlined a development plan for Mashaka, and it's confidential. He needs to continue working hard, and his

chances will come. Our strikers, including Mukwala and Ateba, have shown their ability to score. We're now focused on our upcoming match against Al Ahly Tripoli," Davids said.

Speaking on the challenge ahead, Davids shared his familiarity with the atmosphere at Al Ahly Tripoli's stadium, saying it will be a positive test for Simba.

"I've experienced their atmosphere before, and it'll be a good challenge for us. Our players are prepared, and we'll resume training once everyone returns from international duty," he added.

Simba's preparations for their CAF Confederation Cup campaign continue with a friendly match today against JKT Tanzania at the KMC Complex.

This match serves as part of their build-up to the crucial tie against Al Ahly Tripoli, with the first leg scheduled for September 15 in Libya and the return leg at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on September 20.

The winner will advance to the group stage.

Davids aims to use the friendly to fine-tune his squad, noting that the controlled environment will ease player pressure by limiting fan access.

Simba recently drew 1-1 with Al Hilal in another warm-up match as they continue to gear up for the continental competition.

Uganda Olympic runner's horrific death is the latest in violence against female athletes in Kenya

By GERALD IMRAY

OLYMPIC runner Rebecca Cheptegei's horrific death after being doused with petrol and set on fire by her boyfriend has again brought to the fore Kenya's harrowing history of domestic violence against female athletes.

Her killing follows the deaths of at least two other high-profile female runners in cases of domestic violence in the last three years in a region that has produced dozens of Olympic and world champions.

***What happened to Cheptegei?**

Cheptegei, who was from Uganda, died on Thursday at age 33. Police say Cheptegei's boyfriend poured a can of petrol over her and set her on fire during a dispute on Sunday. She suffered 80% burns on her body and died in a hospital in the town of Eldoret four days later.

The boyfriend was also burned in the attack and is being treated at the same hospital. No criminal charges have yet been announced against him.

Cheptegei competed in the women's marathon at the Paris Olympics less than a month ago, finishing in 44th place. She lived in western Kenya's famous high-altitude training region that draws the best distance runners from across the world and had recently built a house there to be close to the training centers.

***Agnes Tirop**

The brutal slaying of Kenyan star runner Tirop in the same region in 2021 led to an outpouring of anger from fellow athletes and prompted the East African country's athletics authorities to acknowledge the scourge of domestic abuse as a major problem.

Tirop was one of Kenya's brightest talents when she was stabbed to death at her home in Iten, the other world-renowned distance-running training town in Kenya, alongside Eldoret. Her husband, who was on the run, was arrested days after the killing and has been charged with murder. His court case is still underway.

Like Cheptegei, the 25-year-old Tirop had just competed at an Olympics – the 2021 Tokyo Games – and had set a new world record in the 10-kilometer road race in another competition a month before she was killed. Her body was found with stab wounds to the stomach and neck, as well as blunt trauma injury to her head.

In the weeks after Tirop's death, current and former male and female athletes, spoke out over what they said was a long-running problem of domestic abuse against female athletes in the region. Some marched through the streets of Iten to demand better protection for female athletes and stricter laws against abusers.

Other Kenyan athletes like Ruth Bosibori, a former African champion in the steeplechase, and Joan Chelimo, a marathon runner, said Tirop's killing had emboldened them to talk about their own abusive relationships.

Both said they had escaped violent partners that made them fear for their lives.

***Damaris Muthee**

Just six months after Tirop, another runner was killed. Kenyan-born Muthee, who competed for Bahrain, was found dead in a house in Iten after being strangled. Her decomposing body had been there for days before it was found, authorities said at the time.

A male Ethiopian runner with whom she was in a relationship was charged with murder. Muthee, who was 28, had a young child from another relationship.

The cases of domestic abuse in Kenya's running community are set against the country's overriding high rates of violence against women, which has prompted marches by ordinary citizens in towns and cities this year.

Activists say successful female athletes may be especially vulnerable in instances when their partners want to control their money and assets in an impoverished region and the women refuse and push back.

Police said Cheptegei was killed in a dispute with her boyfriend over the land she had just built a house on.

***Samuel Wanjiru**

One of Kenya's best male athletes also died in what authorities said was a domestic dispute in 2011. Wanjiru was 24 and at the time the reigning Olympic marathon champion. He fell to his death from a balcony at his home during an argument with his wife.

He had been arrested a year earlier and questioned by police for allegedly threatening to kill his wife with an assault rifle. He denied the allegations.

Although Kenyan authorities ruled Wanjiru died after falling or jumping from the balcony, his family claimed that he was killed. **AP**



File – Hellen Obiri, Rosemary Monica Wanjiru and Agnes Jebet Tirop, from left to right, all of Kenya, compete in the women's 10,000 meter race during the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019. (AP Photo)

Kagera Sugar coach eyes recovery after consecutive defeats

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar head coach Paul Nkata has vowed to turn around his team's performance after enduring a tough start in the Tanzanian Premier League.

The Ugandan tactician has suffered two consecutive defeats, losing to Singida Black Stars and Young Africans in his first two matches in charge.

Nkata attributed the losses to his team's lack of preparation and the strength of their opponents.

"We were outplayed and faced tough competition," he admitted. "We need to improve our performance and adapt to the demands of the league."

The former Villa SC and Express FC coach took over at Kagera Sugar following the departure of Fredy Felix 'Minziro.'

His debut match saw the Bukoba-based side lose 1-0 to Singida Black Stars, followed by a 2-0 defeat to defending champions Young Africans, both on home turf. Now, with an away match against Tabora United looming, Nkata is rethinking his strategy.

Though he acknowledges that a poor start is far from ideal, Nkata remains determined to turn things around and prevent further losses.

"We've lost our first two matches, but we're determined to bounce back," he said. "Our players are working hard, and I'm confident we can secure a positive result against Tabora United."

Before their next league match, Kagera Sugar will play a friendly against Geita Gold on September 10 in Geita.

Nkata believes this match will boost his players' confidence and help them prepare for the crucial clash against Tabora United.

"The friendly will allow us to regain our rhythm and make necessary adjustments," he explained.

Reflecting on the team's opening matches, Nkata acknowledged the difficulty of facing two of the league's strongest sides early in the season.

"We played against two strong teams. We gave our best, but they outplayed us on both occasions," he admitted.

Despite the challenging start, Nkata believes his players have the potential to compete at a high level and secure victories, especially against opponents of a similar caliber.

"If we face teams closer to

our level, we can definitely get good results," he said. "We're using the break to strengthen our squad and refine our approach."

The coach emphasized the importance of avoiding another away defeat in their upcoming match against Tabora United.

"We don't want to drop more points away from home. We're preparing diligently to ensure we achieve a positive outcome," he stressed.

Nkata's determination to improve Kagera Sugar's fortunes is clear, as he works to build a competitive team capable of achieving the club's goals.

"I'm doing everything I can to create a winning team. I believe we can meet the expectations of the club and its supporters," Nkata concluded.

Ronaldo reaches 900 career goals - the numbers behind the landmark

By Gary Rose

CRISTIANO Ronaldo reached a significant milestone on Thursday by scoring the 900th goal of his illustrious career.

The 39-year-old struck for Portugal in their Nations League game against Croatia, putting them 2-0 up.

It prompted an emotional celebration by the forward, as he dropped to his knees by the corner flag in tears.

The goal was his 131st for his country, while he has also scored at club level for Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and current club Al-Nassr.

*Scoring for more than two decades - Ronaldo's goals

Such is Ronaldo's longevity that if someone was born when he scored the first competitive goal of his career they would now be 21.

He struck a double for Portugal's Sporting on 7 October 2002, at the age of 17 years eight months and three days in a 3-0 win against Moreirense.

He then moved to Manchester United, scoring 118 goals in 293 games for the Red Devils before joining Real Madrid in 2009 for a then world record 94m euros (£80m).

In nine years at the Spanish giants he scored 450 goals before making the move to Italy to join Juventus.

He added another 101 goals to his tally during his three years with the Italian club before returning to United, where he would score 27 goals in 54 games.

But a return to the Red Devils did not have the fairytale ending and in 2023 he made the move to Saudi Arabia with Al-Nassr where he has got 68 goals and counting.

*Is Ronaldo the top scorer ever?

There is no central database to establish men's football's all-time top scorer, but Ronaldo was already leading the way for official games at a high level.

The Czech football association says Josef Bican, who played in Czechoslovakia and Austria, scored 821 goals in official matches. Elsewhere his tally is placed at 805 - but those include reserve-team and non-official international goals.

Brazil legends Pele and Romario separately claim to have scored more than 1,000 goals each, but filter out friendlies and those numbers drop down to the 700s.

Unofficial statisticians RSSSF, say Pele (769), Romario and Ferenc Puskas (both 761) are the players nearest to Ronaldo at the elite end of football.

Lionel Messi, Ronaldo's long-time rival has scored 867 career goals to date.

*I want 1,000 - Ronaldo not done yet

Time is not on Ronaldo's side since he is now 39, but the veteran is determined to keep on playing until he has reached the incredible figure of 1,000 career goals.

Speaking to his former Manchester United team-mate Rio Ferdinand in an interview on his YouTube channel, Ronaldo said he was confident he could hit the milestone within the next couple of years.

BBC

'An exciting future' but Germany 'need patience'

By Constantin Eckner

EURO 2024 was not just a historic tournament because Europe's nations played for the prestigious Henri Delaunay Trophy for the first time in a unified Germany, but it also marked the end of an era for the national team.

Four stalwarts - Ilkay Gundogan, Thomas Muller, Manuel Neuer and Toni Kroos - have now retired from international football, meaning Germany will look very different when they face Hungary in Saturday's Nations League opener (19:45 BST).

The quartet have made a combined 451 appearances over the past decade - an era including Die Mannschaft's World Cup win in 2014.

But success has been sparse in recent times, with Germany failing to progress past the group stages twice in the last four major tournaments and losing to Spain in the Euro 2024 quarter-finals.

After a miserable few years, Julian Nagelsmann's side showed glimpses of recovery in the summer but, with the old guard hanging up their boots, can his new-look team return to the top of the world game?

Kroos and Gundogan served as key figures in Nagelsmann's midfield at the Euros, while Neuer kept his spot as starting goalkeeper.

Although Kroos was 34 when the tournament started, he was Germany's midfield anchor and playmaker. The retirement of the six-time Champions League winner will create a hole that might be hard to fill.

All four players were major leaders within the team, regardless of potentially slowing with age.

It speaks for itself that Manchester City jumped at the opportunity to bring Gundogan back after his sudden departure from Barcelona last month.

BBC

New Club World Cup explained: Format, teams and why it's controversial

By Nick Akerman

THE first edition of Fifa's new Club World Cup format will take place at the end of this season from 15 June until 13 July.

Football's governing body has sought to ramp up interest in a competition that is currently considered little more than a footnote on the European campaign, with the Champions League winners often facing a trip across the globe against vastly undermatched opposition.

The last 11 iterations have been won by Europe's representatives, with Brazilian club Corinthians interrupting the monopoly by beating Chelsea in 2012. Fifa is aiming to reignite interest, expanding the seven-team tournament into a controversial 32-team spectacle that will significantly impact competing clubs' time for recovery.

Here's everything you need to know.

*What is the new format?

The most familiar way to approach the new format is actually pretty simple. Fifa is replicating the World Cup at club level, expanding to 32 teams who will play in eight groups of four before progressing to the knockout rounds.

The top two from each group will qualify for the round of 16, competing in single-match knockouts until a winner is crowned in the final. There will be no third-place play-off.

Clubs from six federations will compete, including 12 from Europe. South America will send six teams, with four each from Asia, Africa and Concacaf (North and Central America, Caribbean). Oceania will enter one side, as will the host nation, which in 2025's case is the United States.

*Which teams will play in 2025?

The majority of the teams for the 2025 edition are already decided, with two slots remaining. Criteria is based on the period between 2021 and 2024, with continental champions and those who rank highly on the confederations club ranking invited to take part.

Qualified as continental champions:

- Al Ahly (EGY) - 2020/21, 2022/23 and 2023/24 CAF Champions League
- Wydad (MAR) - 2021/22 CAF Champions League
- Al Hilal (KSA) - 2021 AFC Champions League

Qualified via ranking:

- ES Tunis (TUN) - CAF ranking pathway
- Mamelodi Sundowns (RSA) - CAF ranking pathway
- Ulsan HD FC (KOR) - AFC ranking pathway
- Bayern Munich (GER) - UEFA ranking pathway
- Paris Saint-Germain (FRA) - UEFA ranking pathway
- Inter Milan (ITA) - UEFA ranking pathway
- Porto (POR) - UEFA ranking pathway
- Benfica (POR) - UEFA ranking pathway
- Borussia Dortmund (GER) - UEFA



Manchester City won the last Club World Cup of the previous format (Getty Images)

- Urawa Red Diamonds (JPN) - 2022 AFC Champions League
- Al Ain (UAE) - 2023/24 AFC Champions League
- Chelsea (ENG) - 2020/21 UEFA Champions League
- Real Madrid (ESP) - 2021/22 and 2023/24 UEFA Champions League
- Manchester City (ENG) - 2022/23 UEFA Champions League
- Monterrey (MEX) - 2021 Concacaf Champions Cup
- Seattle Sounders (USA) - 2022 Concacaf Champions Cup
- Club Leon (MEX) - 2023 Concacaf Champions Cup
- Pachuca (MEX) - 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup
- Palmeiras (BRA) - 2021 CONMEBOL Libertadores
- Flamengo (BRA) - 2022 CONMEBOL Libertadores
- Fluminense (BRA) - 2023 CONMEBOL Libertadores

Remaining spots to be decided:

- 2024 CONMEBOL Libertadores winners
- One team from the host country (USA)

*Why is it controversial?

Many clubs already face difficult-to-navigate schedules, especially in Europe, where elite players may have to work through a domestic season that includes multiple national cups, the Champions League and an international tournament in the same calendar year.

While the new Club World Cup format will take place in a year that doesn't feature an international summer tournament, it will mean some players only receive a significant rest period once every four years.

Fifpro, the body that represents professional footballers across the globe has moved to bring legal action against Fifa. The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) subsequently joined the legal action, with chief executive Maheta Molango speaking strongly on the importance of breaks for players.

"Everyone across football knows

that the fixture calendar is broken to the point that it has now become unworkable," said Molango.

"There are too many emerging instances across football where the rights of players, and the legal implications of decisions by governing bodies and competition organisers, are seen as something that can just be ignored.

"Players are not being listened to and they want to see action. As their union, we have a duty to intervene and to enforce their legal rights as employees. Ultimately, that time has now come."

Premier League CEO Richard Masters also criticised Fifa for failing to consult clubs on the changes, saying players are concerned for their well-being.

"The feedback we have from players is that there is too much football being played...if you pour more liquid into the cup that's already full, it will overflow," said Masters, reported by The Athletic.

Fifa president Gianni Infantino appears unphased by the criticism, labelling the legal fight as a "futile debate that's really pointless," per The Athletic.

There have also been questioned raised about how the tournament will handle contracts due to expire during the Club World Cup. Many player contracts in Europe run to 30 June, right in the middle of the tournament, potentially causing problems for those who become free agents.

Disruption from the transfer market is also likely, though Fifa has made clear that players will be unable to represent two clubs in the competition.

THE INDEPENDENT

England's new coach may only have two games to prove he's up to the job

MANCHESTER, England

A NEW era for England's soccer team begins today. How long it will last is unknown.

Interim head coach Lee Carsley takes charge of his first game for the national team against Ireland after Gareth Southgate stepped down following the European Championship.

Carsley, who stepped up from coaching the Under-21s, will take up the role for the upcoming UEFA Nations League games against Ireland and Finland, but could remain in the position for longer if the search for Southgate's permanent successor extends beyond the next international break in October.

In that time, the 50-year-old Carsley may even put himself in the frame.

"He's a great manager tactically, man-management is great. ... I feel like it suits him perfectly," said Morgan Gibbs-White, who has been called up for Carsley's first squad.

Gibbs-White, a Nottingham Forest midfielder, was part of England's

Under-21 European Championship winning squad, which Carsley coached to the title last year.

Southgate ended his eight-year reign as England manager after the loss to Spain in the final of Euro 2024. He led the team to back-to-back Euros finals and the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2018 but failed to end England's wait for a first trophy since the World Cup in 1966.

The English Football Association has set a high benchmark for his replacement and said in July it had already identified several candidates.

It said the job was to "win a major tournament and be consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the world."

The FA said its next head coach would have "significant experience of English football, with a strong track record delivering results in the Premier League and/or leading international competitions."

Former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was quickly mentioned as a potential contender,

though he has said he wants to take a year out after stepping down from his position at Anfield at the end of last season.

The closing date for applications was Aug. 2, but with no candidate in place ahead of England's first games since the Euros, Carsley was given the job on an interim basis.

While Carsley has no experience as a Premier League manager, he is respected for his work developing young players, having been part of

Manchester City's successful academy.

England's success at the U21s Euros last year was the first time since 1984 that it had won the competition. Whether the FA would consider that among the "leading international competitions" it wants its next head coach to have experience in remains to be seen. But Carsley is in position and will know Southgate's own ascension to the job came after he was initially named as interim in 2016.

That makes the games

against Ireland and Finland potential auditions for him to put forward his credentials. Saturday's game is in Dublin. Finland visits Wembley Stadium on Tuesday.

He is without star players like Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Cole Palmer, but has picked some exciting young talent.

Gibbs-White, Angel Gomes and Noni Madueke - all uncapped - were part of that U21s Euro-winning squad, along with Anthony Gordon and Levi Colwill.

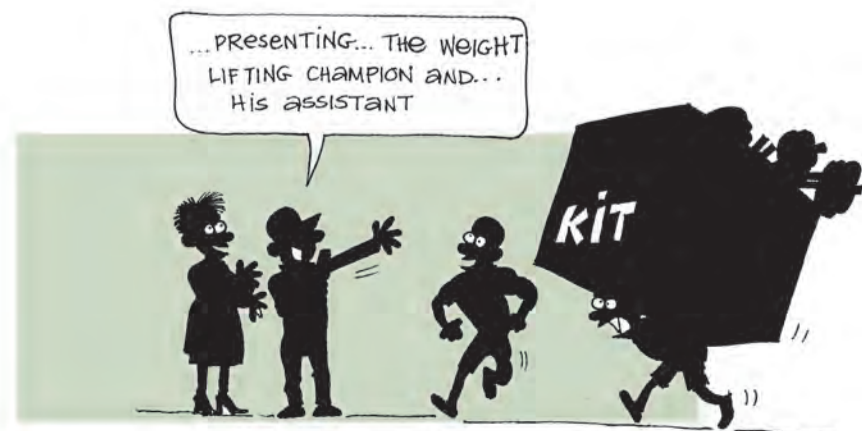
Gomes describes Carsley's style as "very attacking, but also (with) a huge emphasis on defense."

He also speaks highly of Carsley's personal touch.

"He's a very fair coach. He's very, very honest and direct in his approach and he's very close to the squad," Gomes said. "It helps as a player when a coach takes interest in a player, not just on the pitch, but off the pitch."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

New Club World Cup explained: Format, teams and why it's controversial

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Moroccan giants Wydad AC now tempt Yanga with big offer for Mzize



By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA national soccer team (Taifa Stars) and Young Africans striker Clement Mzize continues to attract attention from elite clubs across the continent, despite his current club's decision to hold on to him.

Recent reports suggest that Moroccan giants Wydad Athletic Club have made an offer of USD 500,000 for the 20-year-old forward.

Wydad, the three-time CAF Champions League winners, have also reportedly proposed that Young Africans could travel to Morocco for pre-season

next year, with all expenses covered by Wydad.

The offer includes several performance-based conditions.

If Mzize (pictured) wins the top scorer award in

Morocco, or if he helps Wydad AC win the Botola (Morocco's top-tier league), the Moroccan Cup, or the African Football League, Young Africans would receive additional compensation.

Furthermore, Wydad have offered financial incentives for every goal Mzize scores in the FIFA Club World Cup, scheduled to take place in the United States next year, with each goal bringing Young Africans around USD 300,000.

Wydad believe they have presented a "very tempting" offer and are awaiting a response from the Jangwani Street-based team.

The Casablanca-based club, currently under the management of former Mamelodi Sundowns coach Rhulani Mokwena, has a long-standing reputation in African football.

Both Wydad AC and South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs expressed interest in signing Mzize a few months ago.

Young Africans reportedly rejected a formal bid of \$200,000 from Kaizer Chiefs, signaling that the club values Mzize far higher.

Since joining Young Africans' senior squad, Mzize has thrived under former coach Nasreddine Nabi, significantly improving his confidence and finishing abilities, making him an essential asset to the team.

Young Africans have also bolstered their squad with new signings this season, creating a dynamic and competitive environment. Prince Dube, a promising forward, has already adapted well to the team's playing style. Jean Baleke is eagerly awaiting his debut, while Kennedy Musonda, a familiar face from last season, is expected to make significant contributions.

Amid the transfer speculation, Young Africans' president, Hersi Said, has also emphasized Mzize's importance to both the club and the national team. The president praised Mzize's development under the guidance of coaches Nabi and Miguel Gamondi, highlighting his undeniable potential.

Before the latest offer, Young Africans extended Mzize's contract until 2027, demonstrating their commitment to keeping the young striker.

However, the substantial offer from Wydad may spark debates among fans and club leadership, with some advocating for capitalizing on the opportunity given Mzize's homegrown status.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zole Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONIGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zole Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zole Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

AFCON 2025 qualifiers:

Angola snatches shock late victory over Ghana; Burundi beats Malawi 3-2

AFP

AN added-time goal from substitute Felicio Milson gave Angola a shock 1-0 victory over Ghana in a 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Kumasi on Thursday.

When the Black Stars failed to clear a low cross, the visitor pounced with Serbia-based Milson pushing the ball past goalkeeper Lawrence Ati-Zigi from close range on 93 minutes.

Home supporters hurled dozens of plastic bottles onto the pitch after the final whistle to express their anger at the Group F matchday one result.

It was the first loss suffered by four-time African champion Ghana at the Baba Yara Stadium since 2000.

Ghana included six Premier League players in the starting line-up as it sought to atone for embarrassing group-stage exits from the 2022 and 2024 Cup of Nations tournaments.

But a notable absentee was 120-cap midfielder Andre Ayew, 34. 'Dede' was overlooked by coach Otto Addo as he is currently clubless after being released by French Ligue 1 outfit Le Havre.

The Black Stars, who last won the competition in 1982, had more shots at goal and possession and passed more accurately, but could not break down the Angolan defence.

Angola reached the 2024 Cup of Nations quarter-final before bowing out to eventual runner-up Nigeria, and share the Group F lead with Sudan, who beat Niger 1-0 on Wednesday.

In matchday two, former champion Sudan is away to Angola on Monday and Niger hosts Ghana the same day.

Another unexpected result was Burundi winning 3-2 away to Malawi in Group L in Lilongwe with Mokono Eldhino snatching the 87th-minute match-winner.

Malawi twice equalised before suffering a loss that immediately puts it on the back foot in a mini-league completed by 2022 champion Senegal and Burkina Faso, who were to meet later yesterday.

Faouzi Benzarti, a 74-year-old starting his fifth stint as Tunisia coach, had to wait 98 minutes before Ferjani Sassi netted to deliver a 1-0 Group A victory over Madagascar in Rades.

French second-tier forward Louis Mafouta scored twice as the Central African Republic -- one of 10 countries yet to qualify for the finals -- overcame Lesotho 3-1 in El Jadida.

The Group B fixture was switched to the Moroccan coastal city because the national stadium in Bangui does not meet international standards.

There were 10 qualifiers set for later yesterday with title-holders the Ivory Coast and former winners the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Zambia and Senegal debuting.

Tanzania's cricketers set for ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA's senior men's cricket team is ready to battle for participation in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, as it is set to take part in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A slated for September 21-26 in Dar es Salaam.

The Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, as revealed by Tanzania Cricket (TCA) Media and Communication Officer Atif Salim, would feature six teams battling it out in league format.

Salim mentioned the participating teams as Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, and hosts Tanzania.

The TCA official pointed out that Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) are the venues set to host the week-long showdown.

Tanzania's senior men's team is expected to open its campaign in the Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A by confronting Mali at the UDSM venue on September 21.

The day would also have Lesotho locking horns with Malawi at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue with the clash starting at 9.30 a.m.

Cameroon would also get their campaign underway the same day, confronting fellow West African side Ghana.

Tanzania would, on the following day, face the Southern African side of Lesotho, whereas Cameroon would play against Mali, and Ghana would take on Malawi.

The top two sides in the Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, as disclosed by Salim, would secure qualification for the following phase of the qualifiers.

Cricketers making Tanzania's senior



Promising Tanzanian cricketer Laksh Bakrania is one of the cricketers selected for the senior men's side set to battle it out in the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A slated for September 21-26 in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

team are skipper Abhik Patwa, Ally Mpeka, Amal Rajeevan, Akhil Anil, Khalid Amiri, Harsheed Chohan, and Johnson Nyambo.

Jumanne Mohamed, Kassim Nassor, Laksh Bakrania, Mohamed Yunus, Mohamed Kitunda, Sanjay Thakor,

and Zafar Khan are the other cricketers on the squad.

Mohamed Simba and Seif Athuman have been earmarked as reserves for the team.

The 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup would be the 10th edition of the ICC

Men's T20 World Cup.

It is scheduled to be hosted by Sri Lanka and India from February to March 2026.

The tournament's competitors are the 12 teams that qualified before the Regional Qualifiers.

The squads are South Africa (Africa), United States and West Indies (Americas), Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India (co-host), Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (co-host) from Asia.

The list further has East Asia-Pacific's Australia and New Zealand, and Europe's England and Ireland.

Sri Lanka and India directly qualified for the tournament as co-hosts.

They would be joined by the top eight teams from the previous edition who get qualified automatically.

Since India finished in the top eight in the previous edition, the best three teams (other than the ones already qualified) from the ICC Men's T20 International Rankings would also qualify for the tournament.

The remaining eight teams would be decided by regional qualifiers, consisting of three teams from Asia and the East Asia-Pacific region combined, two pieces from Africa and Europe, along with one team from the Americas region.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A would be the second continental showpiece to have taken place in Dar es Salaam this season.

The city had previously hosted this year's ICC Men's U-19 Cricket World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 2 from August 2-11 and the showdown was gallantly won by the hosts, Tanzania's junior cricketers.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

OUR STRUCTURES NEED MAINTENANCE...

...AND RENOVATIONS

