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## US Congress team hails Ngorongoro ecosystem



Cosmas Kulinje (R, kneeling), a Singida municipality resident with disability, airs his grievances during a special 'talking-&-listening clinic' Singida regional commissioner Halima Dendego (L) hosted for members of the public yesterday. To the RC's left is Singida regional administrative secretary Dr Fatuma Mganga. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

A GROUP members of the United States Congress arrived here yesterday to view conservation sites, an initiative likely to attract many foreign tourists.

Bruce Westerman, chairman of the House of Representatives committee on natural resources, said the legislators will examine how US conservation policies contribute to conservation and tourism development in Africa.

The congressional team is visiting some attractions, especially Ngorongoro Crater, expressing initial positive impressions with sustainable conservation efforts helping to increase the number of major wildlife attractions like rhinos, lions, leopards, elephants and buffalos.

He particularly lauded the conservation authorities for the care and protection of rare wildlife such as rhinoceros, in their natural habitats, asserting that the team seeks to witness conservation efforts in African countries.

"The tour is geared at how US conservation policies can positively influence conservation and tourism growth in African countries," he said.

Dr Elirehema Doriye, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Au-

The tour is geared at how US conservation policies can positively influence conservation and tourism growth in African countries,

thority (NCAA) commissioner said the government has heavily invested to ensure that tourist attractions in Ngorongoro are protected.

NCAA is seeking to develop new tourism products, to attract visitors pursuing tourism, research and learning on the conservation of wildlife resources, he said, noting that NCAA works with specialised organs to combat poaching, thus raising the number of animals in the park.

Victoria Shayo, the NCAA head of conservation, tourism and community development, told the delegation that sustained conservation efforts has enabled the crater ecosystem to be listed among world

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## MV Kigamboni grounding upsets Ferry boat users

By Guardian Reporter

KIGAMBONI residents have called upon the government to look for an alternative ferry to reduce congestion in the currently operating MV Kazi.

They raised their concerns following suspension of MV Kigamboni services yesterday as the suspended ferry is being placed in maintenance until December, on the basis of a briefing by the Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Service Agency (TEMESA).

A check at the ferry yesterday met some Kigamboni residents using the services

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## EABC, stakeholders demand regional tax harmonisation

By Guardian Reporter

THE East Africa Business Council (EABC) has appealed to governments to fast track harmonization of East African Community (EAC) macro-economic goals.

John-Bosco Kalisa, the EABC executive director, issued this appeal at a webinar yesterday on the pre-budget 2024/25 scenario, focusing on convergence and divergence of tax proposals across the EAC trading zone.

He urged harmonisation of

domestic taxes to improve the business predictability of the zone, thus boosting intra-EAC trade and investment, noting that Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda share a common corporate tax rate of 30 percent.

Rwanda offers a marginally lower rate at 28 percent, which he said could influence decisions of major companies in relation to location of large investments.

Tanzania and Uganda offer simpler structures for withholding taxes with a flat rate or a tiered system of up to 20

percent, with Rwanda's rate anchored at five percent and 15 percent.

Adrian Njau, the EACB trade and policy advisor, said that Tanzania and Kenya offer lower rates for service or management fees for residents (five percent) unlike the rate for non-residents, set at 15 percent.

Uganda by contrast sets six percent for residents and 15 percent for non-residents, with Kenya applied a five percent rate for residents and 20 percent for non-residents.

Rwanda has a flat rate of 15 percent, he said, noting that these differences are not aligned with the EAC protocol on the free movement of services, as service providers offering cross-border services are treated as non-residents.

They hence need to take account for different withholding tax rates when pricing their services, with an impact on services intra trade and competitiveness, he stated.

Value added tax (VAT) on

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## UNICEF: Acute hunger stalks 181m under-fives

By Special Correspondent

AROUND 181 million children worldwide under the age of five - or one in four - are experiencing severe child food poverty, according to a new report by the UN children's organisation, UNICEF.

The report says that 65 percent of acutely hungry children

live in just 20 countries, 59m being found in sub-Saharan Africa, a third of the total.

"Child Food Poverty: Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood" analyses the impacts and causes of dietary deprivation among the world's youngest people in nearly 100 countries, and across income groups.

It warns that millions of chil-

dren under the age of five are unable to access nutritious and diverse diets to sustain optimal growth and development in early childhood and beyond.

UNICEF classifies children who obtain two of eight defined food groups are considered to be in severe child food poverty, with four out of five children in this situation fed

In many contexts, cheap, nutrient-poor and unhealthy ultra-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages are aggressively ...

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Azam unveil fifth signing, forward Adam Omar

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Team banks on new signings to bolster CAF Champions League campaign





## UNICEF: Acute hunger stalks 181m under-fives

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only breast milk or adding a starchy staple, such as rice, maize, or wheat.

UNICEF says meals for young children should include not only fresh fruits and vegetables, but also nutrient-dense foods such as eggs, fish, poultry, or meat.

Without a nutritious and diverse diet, they are 50 per cent more likely to experience wasting, a life-threatening form of malnutrition.

UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell said that children living in severe food poverty are children living on the brink. This can have an irreversible negative impact on their survival, growth and brain development, she stated.

The report warns that the effects of growing inequities, conflicts and the climate crisis have pushed food prices and the cost of living to record high levels.

Nearly half of all cases of severe child food poverty are among poor households where income poverty is likely to be a major driver, the report noted, elaborating that about 97m children, or 54 per cent, live in relatively wealthier households. They still suffer due to poor food environments and feeding practices, causing food poverty in early childhood, it explains, pointing out that food systems that fail to provide children with nutritious, safe, and accessible options compound the crisis.

Similarly, families' inability to afford nutritious foods and parental inability to adopt or sustain

positive child feeding practices contribute to living on the brink, she said.

"In many contexts, cheap, nutrient-poor and unhealthy ultra-processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages are aggressively marketed to parents and families and are the new normal for feeding children," the report declares.

These unhealthy foods and beverages are consumed by an alarming proportion of young children experiencing food poverty, displacing more nutritious and healthier foods from their daily diets, it says.

UNICEF urged governments, development and humanitarian organisations, donors, civil society along with the food and beverage industry to take urgent action to end child food poverty.

It wants them to transform food systems so that nutritious, diverse and healthy foods are the most accessible, affordable and desirable option for caregivers.

UNICEF also urges them to leverage health systems to deliver essential nutrition services to prevent or treat malnutrition in early childhood, including support for community health and nutrition workers to assist parents and families on child feeding and care practices.

It also wants them to activate social protection systems to address income poverty through social transfers (cash, food and vouchers), in ways that are responsive to the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable children and their families, it added.



Independent National Electoral Commission chairman Judge Jacobs Mwambegele addresses leaders of political parties in Dar es Salaam yesterday on improvements to the national Permanent Voters Register expected to start in Kigoma Region - this July 1. Photo courtesy of INEC

## US Congress team hails Ngorongoro ecosystem

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Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The zone has a mixed heritage of conservation and human history, as Olduvai Gorge and Laetoli in the precincts of the region are vital for reconstruction of human history.

It is an area characterized by geological formation and ancient landscape relics at times described

as rock tourism, at the UNESCO Ngorongoro-Lengai Global Geopark which covers rocky hills, lengthy underground caves, lake basins, a hominid discovery site, and the active Oldonyo Lengai volcano.

Peter Makutian, the NCAA chief tourism officer said the ecosystem has a number of attractions, with an online entry noting that in the Ngorongoro conservation area, 23 km northeast of Olmoti Crater and

Ngorongoro Crater, is where the lake-filled Empakao is found.

It forms part of an exciting ecosystem including attractive wildlife, the craters, lake as well as the historical spots of ancient hominids, conserved as the Olduvai and Mary Leakey museums.

The zone has interesting shifting sands and the plains of Ndutu, while Mount Olmoti is of interest to climbers, after the Kilimanjaro and Meru

mountains.

Last week, the government said that it has recorded an increased number of local and foreign tourists from 2021 to 2023 resulting in a 36 percent revenue surge.

The number of foreign tourists increased by 96 percent from 922,692 in 2021 to 1,808,205 in 2023 while local visitors increased by 152 percent from 788,933 tourists in 2021 to 1,985,707 in 2023.



Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni (L) has a word with a Burundi Immigration Department officer at Manyovu in Buhigwe District, Kigoma Region, on Thursday during a routine Tanzania-Burundi border inspection tour. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

## MV Kigamboni grounding upsets Ferry boat users

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complaining over the safety of ferries and the time they spend waiting for a single working ferry to ply from one side to the other.

John Mwendapole said that the government should look for a private operator to complement the ferry services to facilitate smooth transportation services.

TEMESA needs to make regular maintenance of the ferries to avoid inconveniences as relying on just one ferry to offer services is not advisable in safety precautions.

"The government takes too long to repair the ferries. It is an indispensable public utility hence the need to ensure it operates accordingly," he said.

Hawa Rajabu (56), also a resident there, said that the two ferries seem to be old and largely unfit to provide services.

"If the government has failed, it is better to get an investor to run the service. The government could oversee safety while obtaining taxes," he urged, pointing out that Kigamboni area has had far more people in recent years.

Said Hassan, a regular passenger, complained over the time spent to cross from Kigamboni to the Ferry fish market at Magogoni, saying it eats into daily schedules of work.

"I have lived in Kigamboni for 12 years; we have often experienced such transport challenges. I run a business at the city centre whereas I need to open it at around 6:30am," he stated, asserting that the ferry delays cost him significant numbers of customers.

Mwanahamisi Bakari said that one needs to pray whenever one climbs the ferry boats. "The government has been delaying its maintenance, thus posing a safety risk to passengers."

Alfred Mgweno, the TEMESA acting head of marketing and public relations, said that MV Kigamboni will undergo major repairs to ensure better services and improved safety guarantees.

The work is expected to be completed by December, a routine exercise as the ferry boats are put to maintenance every five years, he stated.

Residents can also use the Nyerere Bridge as an alternative way to and from the city centre, he added.

## EABC, stakeholders demand regional tax harmonisation

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local goods and services shows disparities, with Tanzania applying a variable rate of 18 percent on most items, along with a reduced rate of 15 percent on certain essential goods.

By contrast Uganda and Rwanda maintain a standard rate of 18 percent while Kenya has a significantly lower rate of 16 percent.

Excise duties on services remain a complex issue in the EAC as Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya have specific rates for various services, whereas Tanzania charges telecommunication companies and payment service providers at 17 percent, with money transfer services taxed at 10 percent.

In Uganda, telecommunication firms face a 15 percent charge, while pay-to-view television services are taxed at five percent. Kenya applies a 15 percent charge on telecommunication services

and a 20 percent rate for specified fees and charges levied by financial institutions, he said.

Excise duties on services in Rwanda are generally set at 15 percent, except for telecommunication services, which are taxed at 10 percent, he said.

Tax advisory firms called for alignment of the budgetary cycle in EAC partner states for timely engagement of the private sector, to draw up fiscal proposals to improve the trade and investment environment.

Experts at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), an audit firm, assert that the private sector's proposals on Tanzania's budget include streamlining tax administration processes.

These involve clarifying dispute resolution procedures, expediting VAT refunds and aligning objection admission timelines. Notably, there's a call for tax reforms to support small

and medium enterprises (SMEs), including a reduction of the corporate income tax (CIT) rate to 25 percent and exempting SMEs from the skills development levy (SDL).

Additionally, proposals advocate for progressive reductions in social security contributions over five years and exempting certain items from value added tax (VAT) to spur environmental conservation.

Moreover, there's a push to modernize the Excise Duty Act, with quick wins like reducing excise duty rates on telecommunication services and clarifying VAT thresholds for digital services.

"These proposals reflect a concerted effort to stimulate investment, foster entrepreneurship, and improve the competitiveness of Tanzanian businesses," the director affirmed.

Kenya's Finance Bill 2024o pro-

posals are likely to impact cross-border trade in replacing the Digital Service Tax with a six percent significant economic presence tax, as it could increase costs for foreign digital service providers.

The introduction of a motor vehicle tax and removal of certain tax exemptions may raise operational costs for foreign investors and businesses involved in infrastructure and green bond projects, he said.

For the Uganda Financial Bill of 2024, measures like the waiver of penalties and interest for outstanding taxes will encourage compliance, potentially attracting foreign investments by reducing the tax burden on businesses.

Similarly, the introduction of capital gains tax on non-business asset disposals and withholding taxes on interest payments and commissions might increase costs, he elaborated.

Recent tax developments and

proposed changes in Rwanda's Financial Bill showing a reduction in the corporate income tax (CIT) rate from 30 percent to 28 percent will decrease tax burdens for companies. The move stands to free up more capital for investment or expansion, he stated.

The webinar brought together over 150 notable stakeholders, including EAC partner states officials who discussed harmonizing taxation and monetary measures in the zone.

Traditionally, EAC ministers of Finance and Planning hold pre-budget consultations to agree on various tax measures before jointly unveiling their national budgets.

These consultations are a milestone in harmonizing the tax regime across the EAC, which has not yet been fully realized especially regarding domestic taxes like value added tax (VAT), excise duty and income tax, he added.





Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro shows journalists in the city yesterday what he said included toy firearms as well as knives and machetes commonly used in committing crime. He also touched on two motorcycles and bags stuffed with various narcotics, all impounded during a crackdown by police officers that began this April – with 13 suspects arrested. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## Police in Dar nab 13 for alleged drug supply, use

By Guardian Correspondent

POLICE in Dar es Salaam have arrested 13 people in various parts of the city for allegedly engaging in transportation, distribution and use of illicit drugs.

Addressing reporters in the city yesterday, Jumanne Muliro, Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander, said the arrests were made in a special operation conducted by the force as part of its strategy to fight criminal acts in the region.

He said that the suspects have been caught with various illicit drugs, including cannabis and khat and two motorcycles which are suspected to be used in the illegal business.

“On May 21 this year, during a patrol at Kipunguni area of Ukonga in Ilala District, officers nabbed four over drug abuse. The suspects were also engaging in various criminal acts such as robbery,” he said.

The suspects were also found with seven toy pistols, two AK47 toy and other tools which were allegedly used to implement their crimes.

He said the force would continue to heighten efforts and focus on preventing criminal incidents by closely monitoring all groups of people, especially those who use drugs.

On road safety, Muliro said the force would continue to monitor, arrest and bring to court drivers who do not comply with road safety rules and regulations to prevent avoidable accidents.

In addition, he explained that from April to May 2024, a total of 67 motorcycle offenses were recorded, involving riders not having a license, overloading passengers and riding motorcycles while drunk, while 21 drivers were brought to court and others were fined on the spot.

He said that six motor vehicle drivers were arrested for driving while drunk, out of which two were brought to court and the other four were fined. Muliro called on the public to continue to cooperate with law enforcers by providing correct information that can help officers arrest criminals.

## Presidential aides left out in State House in mini-shuffle

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday announced a mini-shuffle of government officials in a shake-up which saw her inner circle of aides being posted outside State House.

The changes saw Director of Presidential Communications Zuhura Yunus being appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities).

Yunus became the first woman

to broadcast on the BBC's 'Diraya Dunia' programme before she later moved back to Tanzania and appointed Director of Presidential Communications at State House.

A statement issued by Chief Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka on Thursday evening said President Samia also appointed Felister Mdemu to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups in charge of gender issues and women.

Before her appointment, Mde-

mu was an assistant to the President in charge of community development.

Amon Mpanju has been appointed to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups in charge of community development and special groups.

The Head of State appointed Maswa East CCM legislator Stanlaus Nyongo to become deputy Minister of State in the President Office (Planning and Investment).

In the changes, Petro Itozya has

been appointed Kisarawe District commissioner while Fatma Nyangasa has been transferred from Kisarawe to Kondo District.

Dr Hamis Mkanachi has been transferred from Kondo District to Urambo District, replacing Elibarik Bajuta who will be assigned other duties.

Reuben Chongolo who was serving as Songwe District Administrative Secretary has been transferred to Mufindi District to serve in the same position.

Frank Sichwale has been moved from Mufindi District to Songwe.

The Head of State has also appointed and transferred district executive directors whereby Musa Kitungi becomes the new DED for Mafia District. Kaleka Kasanga has been appointed DED for Shinyanga District.

Kisena Maguba has been transferred from Shinyanga District Council to become Municipal Director for Kigoma Municipal Council, replacing Mwantum Mgonja whose appointment has been revoked.

Teresia Irafay has been transferred from Mlele District Council

to become new DED for Hanang District.

Shaban Mpendu has been appointed DED for Babati Town Council while Sigilinda Mdemu has been appointed DED for Mlele District Council.

Upendo Mangali has been transferred from Babati Town Council to become DED for Sumbawanga District Council.

President Samia has also appointed three High Court Judges. The appointed judges are Nehe-mia Mandia, Projestus Kahyoza and Marium Omary.

## Nchimbi asks youth to stay away from drugs

By Henry Mwangonde, Mwangi

CCM Secretary General Dr Emanuel Nchimbi has warned youth against engaging in drug abuse, saying the malpractice is threatening to weaken the country's human resources.

Speaking in Mwangi District, Kilimanjaro Region during a public rally yesterday, Dr Nchimbi said drug abuse was among key challenges that the country grapples with, especially among youth.

“Majority of the youth are undergoing treatment in various hospitals who do not even reach 10 percent of those affected,” he said.

Dr Nchimbi called upon parents and guardians to ensure they fulfil their obligations of following up on their children so that they become good citizens to serve the nation.

“The best way to save youth from drugs is to create a good environment for them to refrain from the trap,” he said.

Speaking after arriving in Tanga Re-

gion at Mombo in Korogwe District, Dr Nchimbi called upon Tanzanians to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's endeavours to bring about development.

“We should all rally behind to support our President and support her initiatives by playing our part in all the segments that we are given,” he said.

The SG said there are African leaders who misuse public funds to feed their families and personal matters, saying President Samia is doing the opposite by ensuring that Tanzania develops.

Responding to a request by Korogwe rural constituency MP Timotheo Mnzava who requested that Mombo Township be promoted to a municipal Council, Dr Nchimbi said he would engage the government to ensure that the area is promoted.

Speaking on development activities in the area, the legislature said the government has sent 2.3bn/- to the constituency in the last three years.



Legislators Musa Sima (R, Singida Urban), Ramadhani Ighondo (L, Singida North) and Miraji Mtaturu (Singida East) exchange views at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city yesterday. The Union legislative body is currently in ordinary session in the national capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Leaders interested more in power than in ending conflicts - UN official

By Special Correspondent

LEADERS in many conflict areas are more interested in power and political rivalries than in listening to the needs of their people, improving their lives and ending the fighting, the United Nations humanitarian chief has told The Associated Press.

In an interview in Wednesday, Martin Griffiths said humanitarian workers in conflict-torn countries see the consequences of this failure every day when they often put their lives on the line to help millions of people who are hungry, displaced and caught in violence.

That has been brought into sharp relief in Gaza,

where over 200 relief workers have been killed.

The eight-month-old Israel-Hamas war in Gaza does remind the world of the willingness of some key nations to engage to try to end conflict, said Griffiths, who is preparing to step down this month after three years as undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator.

“There's no lack of political diplomacy on Gaza,” he said. “It's just not working well enough. But the efforts that have been made by a whole range of governments to support the Palestinian people tells us it can be done,” he said.

Griffiths called Israel's criticism “quite a reach,” stressing its obligations as an occupying power to protect and provide civilians with life essentials. “Hamas has an obligation not to have started the October 7 events, which have led to this particular iteration of the terrible Palestinian tragedy.”

Griffiths also said it's academic whether Israel is carrying out a full-blown military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah or not – because it has uprooted a million Palestinians “and it's full-blown enough to have stopped almost all aid going into southern and central Gaza.”

He said he and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will attend a conference Tuesday in Amman, Jordan, co-hosted by the U.N., Jordan and Egypt aimed at speeding emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The outgoing humanitarian chief also noted that climate is now rivalling wars as a driver of humanitarian needs, “so it's a world with two scourges.” He cited more threats of famine today than in many previous years – from the Horn of Africa to conflict zones like Sudan and Gaza – as well as major climate events, including floods in Libya and Pakistan.

Despite increased hu-

manitarian needs and the United Nations paring down its annual budget to help 188 million of the 300 million people in need worldwide, he said the U.N has only received 17 percent of funds at mid-year. That's the lowest in years. The U.N dropped its budget from about \$56 billion last year to \$49 billion.

Griffiths said donors – largely countries but also some foundations, companies and others – have cut funding because of expenses like the increasing cost of living and rising energy prices. But he also said a lot more needs to be done to increase aid, from tapping new donors and engaging with the private sector to ending

wars and dealing with hundreds of millions of people displaced worldwide.

As examples of the failure of dialogue, he pointed to February 2022 when “Russia simply decided to invade Ukraine to reassert what it saw as its goals – it wasn't a negotiation, it was an invasion.”

And in Sudan, he said two generals working together in a transitional process toward civilian rule decided one day in mid-April 2023 “to take their country to war and to destroy the livelihoods of so many of their people.” They didn't negotiate, he said, “they simply decided that the gun was more effective than dialogue.”

“We have lost our passion for peace and the absence in this divided geopolitical world for political diplomacy to be the central part of how we end wars, which is something I deeply regret,” Griffiths said.

David Miliband, president of the International Rescue Committee, a leading humanitarian organization, praised Griffiths for being a partner in “tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges,” including wars.

“Martin has worked tirelessly to put the voices of civilians inside Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan at the negotiation table and on the international stage,” Miliband told AP.





A Tanzania Renewable Energy Association official (3rd-L) briefs visitors to the agency's pavilion at the ongoing Renewable Energy Week exhibition in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## AfDB, Intel to offer AI training in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and technology giant Intel have formalized their cooperation to transform the African digital ecosystem.

The partnership aims to equip three million Africans and 30,000 government officials with Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills.

Sealed at the recent AfDB Annual Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya, the deal will help create a critical mass of Africans proficient in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills to accelerate growth and productivity and position Africans as contributors, not just consumers of 4IR.

The training will address socio-economic challenges and boost productivity in key growth sectors such as agriculture, health, and education, thereby disrupting traditional growth cycles.

Bienvenu Agbokponto Soglo, Director of Government Affairs Africa and IGA CTO Liaison at Intel stated, "Intel looks forward to furthering its collaboration with

African governments to make advanced technologies such as AI accessible to all, breaking down barriers related to geography, gender, and ethnicity, and enabling widespread participation in the digital economy."

The partnership will also support African countries, regional economic communities, and continental organizations in developing harmonized policy and regulatory frameworks in AI, 5G, Wi-Fi 6E, data and cloud.

Ousmane Fall, AfDB Acting Director of Industrial and Trade Development, underscored the importance of digital skills for Africa's youth.

"With advancements in digital technology, our world is rapidly evolving, and so is our youthful population, projected to reach 830 million by 2050. To develop skills on a large scale and at the necessary speed, we need everyone's cooperation," he said.

He said the bank is thrilled to collaborate with Intel to work towards the shared commitment to shape the digital future of Africa and empowering youth.

## Maternal, neonatal deaths decline due to investment

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbulu

THE number of women delivering in health facilities has increased due to efforts made by the government and stakeholders to improve health infrastructure, equipment and services, it has been said.

Dr Ahmad Makuwani, Acting Chief Medical Officer, made the statement here

yesterday at a stakeholders' meeting to discuss initiatives to further improve access to quality health services.

He said currently, 81 percent of women deliver in health facilities, something which shows positive change in peoples' mindsets being triggered by major investment in the health sector.

He named regions which have greatly succeeded to combat maternal and new-

born deaths as Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Tabora and Manyara.

Dr Makuwani said the achievements in the regions have been stimulated due to implementation of the Safer Birth Bundle of Care (SBBC) programme, reaching various hospitals in the country.

The SBBC consists of innovative clinical and training tools for improved labour care and newborn resuscita-

tion, integrated with new strategies for quality improvement to reduce newborn deaths, stillbirths and maternal deaths.

The health expert further said that in 2018, only 14 hospitals had newborn wards but due to increased investment, the number of hospitals with the wards has increased to 241.

He said the government's goal is to ensure that health facilities from the village level have ambulances while also equip-

ping dispensaries with enough workers, equipment and medicines.

Dr Felix Bundala, Assistant Director for Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at the Ministry of Health, said that maternal deaths have decreased by over 70 percent in Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Tabora and Manyara regions where the SBBC programme is implemented.

Dr Bundala said that deaths

in the areas always occurred due to lack of knowledge among service providers. After receiving training through the SBBC programme, things improved and the number of maternal and newborn deaths decreased drastically.

Dr Paschal Mdoe, Executive Director of Haydom Lutheran Hospital (HLH) in Manyara Region, said the programme involved only regions with a high rate of maternal deaths,

reaching 30 health facilities.

He said that SBBC was on progress since service providers are well trained to offer advanced care for mothers and newborns.

Dr Mdoe said that in the first phase, 300,000 pregnant women and infants benefited and in the second phase, 600,000 people are expected to be reached with the number of health facilities also increasing to 150.

## TMA partnership to curb fishing boats drowning in Lake Victoria

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Meteorological Authority (TMA) has partnered with Environmental Management and Economic Development Organisation (EMEDO) to provide fishers with timely weather forecast information to shield them from disasters.

Under the partnership, EMEDO will be providing small scale fishermen in Lake Zone regions with daily weather forecasts from TMA so that they become aware of weather conditions each day before going to Lake Victoria waters to fish.

Speaking during a media training workshop early in Dar es Salaam this mid-week, TMA Public Relations Manager Monica Mutoni said the aim of the project is to influence change of mindset, behaviour and practices that lead to drowning incidents.

The main targeted groups of the project are fishers, children and women fish processors, she said.

Mutoni called for effective engagement of journalists in spreading public awareness

on drowning prevention in the country.

Arthur Mgema, EMEDO Project Manager, said the organization partnered with TMA through its Lake Victoria Drowning Prevention Project which covers Nyamagana and Ukerewe districts in Mwanza Region, Muleba in Kagera Region and Musoma District Council in Mara Region.

"We believe that when fishers get informed about bad weather conditions before going to fish it would prevent accidents," he said.

He said that the project came after the organisation had conducted situational analysis of drowning in communities around Lake Victoria.

The analysis established that Beach Management Units (BMUs) have not been tough on ensuring that fishers have safety tools such as life jackets.

"Even those who have life jackets rarely wear them, arguing that the jackets do not make them flexible enough to cast fish nets into water. The small-scale fishermen were also not getting weather information, particularly those in peripheral areas," he said.



Kigoma regional administrative secretary Hassan Kaigwa stands as facilitator at a sensitisation seminar held in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality earlier this week. The focus was on how people can benefit from Government and other bonds instead of directing their money into dubious informal systems. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

## Zambia still grappling with severe drought affecting over one million

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA is still grappling with a severe drought after it was declared a national disaster at the end of February, affecting over 1 million people in 84 of the 116 districts being affected.

According to the government's crop assessment data, the drought has destroyed 983 765 hectares of maize crops, the country's staple food, with production declining by nearly 50 per-

cent and the lack of rainfall is devastating crop and animal production.

Poor access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene worsens in drought conditions. Coupled with food scarcity and resulting malnutrition, people are at higher risk of infectious diseases like cholera, diarrhea and acute respiratory conditions.

"Recognizing the link between drought and health, the Ministry of Health is

leading the health cluster of the response. Working with the Disaster Mitigation Management Unit and partners, we are actively mobilizing resources to help prepare for any public health threats associated with the effects of drought," said Dr Kalangwa Kalangwa, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health.

He said: "Through targeted interventions and community engagement, we are committed to protecting the well-being of the affected

population, ensuring access to essential health services and clean water, especially in affected districts."

As part of a wider UN multi-hazard preparedness and response plan to support government efforts, WHO is working closely with the government through the Ministry of Health to implement mitigation measures, this includes ensuring enough health supplies and equipment, strengthening disease surveillance and

reporting, enhancing risk communication and community engagement and training healthcare workers and community volunteers in readiness and response strategies for disease outbreaks.

The plan estimates the need for US\$38.65 million to respond to the ongoing cholera outbreak, targeting 10.5 million people in 38 districts and providing immediate humanitarian assistance and early recovery support

for 475 000 food-insecure people over a period of nine months.

"We stand in solidarity with the government of Zambia during this challenging drought emergency. We are offering our support to mitigate the health impacts, safeguard the well-being of communities, and reinforce resilience. We are ensuring that interventions are put in place to strengthen our preparedness and response systems to provide emergency

assistance adequately and boost preventive measures and sustainable recovery," said Dr Nathan Bakayita, WHO Representative to Zambia.

In mid-April, government launched a humanitarian appeal to mobilize around US\$ 30 million to provide humanitarian support, recover lost livelihoods and build resilience for over 1 million households at risk of food insecurity, acute malnutrition, and disease.



## AU, ILRI network to make informal food markets safe

NAIROBI

THE African Union and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have joined forces to design the first-ever guidelines to help African governments improve food safety in informal food markets.

This is important because estimated 70 per cent of Africa's urban households buy food from informal sources such as street vendors, kiosks and traditional market sellers, recent studies have found.

Starting on June 7, the new guidelines will aim to help African governments engage with and improve regulatory oversight of informal food markets, which are vital sources of affordable food and income for millions in Africa. Silvia Alonso, an epidemiologist at the institute, said improving food safety in the informal markets will help improve the health of the people and the countries' economies.

"A large portion of those informal markets have been rather neglected," said Alonso. "So,

we felt that is a gap area that we need to start paying attention to. If we address food safety in informal markets, we are not only contributing to improving food safety across the continent, but also, indirectly, we will help with other outcomes and objectives, such as nutrition security, access to jobs, decent work, and equitable food systems."

The World Bank has reported that unhealthy practices in the informal markets cost African governments an estimated \$16 billion in productivity losses annually.

Contaminated foods cause at least 91 million illnesses and 137,000 deaths each year, according to the World Health Organization.

The ILRI has embarked on training informal market food handlers and producers in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Cecilia Chepkemol, a milk vendor in Eldoret in the Rift Valley region, is one of hundreds of people trained in her area. Chepkemol said she had very little knowledge of how to keep milk safe for consumption.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards acting director general Dr Ashura Katunzi opens a meeting on food safety held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. From-L: TBS acting director of standards development, Bahati Samilani; Industry and Trade ministry senior commercial officer Festo Kapela; and TBS acting director of quality control Amina Kitindi. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## World Food Safety Day: TBS seeks safe production systems

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has appealed to traders to strengthen systems for production of food products to protect people's health and access export markets.

Dr Ashura Katunzi, TBS Acting Director General, made the appeal in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a stakeholders' debate to mark World Food Safety Day that is celebrated worldwide on June 7, each year.

She said the government through its institutions implements several initiatives to deal with food safety

risks and strengthens the food safety control system, including increasing monitoring and coordination of cross-cutting issues and communication between the government, food traders and the society in general.

"Safe food is everyone's responsibility. So, I call on every stakeholder to participate fully in this debate to discuss how each stakeholder is prepared to deal with emergencies caused by food contamination or the effects of eating unsafe food," she said. She said that everyone in their position has the responsibility to assess risks that can cause food con-

tamination and its effects as well as set up infrastructure to deal with the situation in case it happens.

Dr Katunzi said consumers also have the responsibility to understand the risks of food safety and the environment that causes food contamination, the effects of eating unsafe food, providing information on unsafe food as well as understanding how to deal with incidents caused by eating unsafe food. She said the theme for this year's celebration is 'Safe Food: Prepare for the unexpected' which warns about the importance of being prepared at all times to face risks that

may affect food safety.

"For that reason, stakeholders are encouraged to build capacity in preventing, deciding and dealing with emergencies caused by unsafe food because the effects of unsafe food are dangerous, including health and economic hazards," she said.

She said consumption of unsafe food has been associated with various diseases as well as health challenges such as poor growth in children, poor nutrition for adults and children, as well as an increase in infectious and non-infectious diseases.

In addition, she said according to

the statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), it is estimated that every year one person in every 10 people gets sick from eating unsafe food in the world, adding that 420,000 people who get sick die.

Festo Kapela, Senior Business Officer, Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that food safety is a long chain and each stakeholder must fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that food does not cause health harm to consumers.

TBS Acting Director of Quality Control Amina Yasin called on all stakeholders in the food chain to fulfil

their responsibilities to ensure that they prevent risks from the time the food is produced in the farm until it reaches the final consumer.



**For that reason, stakeholders are encouraged to build capacity in preventing, deciding and dealing with emergencies caused by unsafe food**

## Rising cocoa prices hit chocolate market in SA

JOHANNESBURG

THE rising costs of cocoa and sugar, driven by unfavourable weather conditions and supply chain issues, are significantly increasing chocolate prices globally.

Thabile Nkunjana, a senior economist in the markets and economic research division of the National Agricultural Marketing Council, says this trend is particularly impactful in South Africa, which relies heavily on imported cocoa and chocolate products.

In the near future, some consumers may cut back on their chocolate consumption or temporarily switch to other "pleasure" providers due to the high cost of sugar and cocoa on a global scale.

Unfavourable weather in West Africa, which provides at least 70 per cent of the world's cocoa, and increased sugar prices as a result of supply issues are the factors driving up cocoa prices, and consequently chocolate prices across the world.

A kilogramme of cocoa was selling for 7.09 USD in March 2024, up from 2.75 USD in March 2023, a 158 per cent year-over-year increase. Month-over-month, the price increased by 28 per cent, from 5.56 USD in February 2023 to 7.09 USD in March 2024.

As of March 2024, the average price of a kilogramme of cocoa globally increased from 3.28 USD in 2023 to 5.68 USD.

Another component in the making of chocolate is sugar, whose prices have been

noticeably higher since the middle of 2023. By the end of March 2024, sugar prices were 5 per cent higher year over year globally, despite a monthly decrease of 5.3 per cent.

According to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Brazil's significant exports affected global sugar prices in March. Nonetheless, ongoing worries about the Brazilian crop, which was badly impacted by protracted dry weather, exacerbated seasonal patterns and restrained the price decrease.

South Africa is the biggest importer of cocoa and cocoa preparations from Africa. Imports rose by 21 per cent annually in 2023 to R3.4 billion from R2.8 billion the year before.

Due to the lack of domestic cocoa production, the country imports significant amounts of chocolate as well as materials like cocoa paste, oil, fat, butter, or powder that are used to make chocolate at a global price.

For example, South Africa's imports of chocolate alone increased by 20 per cent to R2.3 billion in 2023 from R1.9 billion the previous year. Belgium, Italy, Germany, the UK, and Poland are the main suppliers.

On the other hand, chocolate paste, a necessary component in the production of chocolate, increased in value from R286.2 million to R385.3 million in 2023. This was a 35 per cent rise, and the leading African suppliers of cocoa paste to South Africa were Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

Cocoa prices have been rising in recent years in part due to production challenges



All manner of garbage lies abandoned just next to a filling station along a street in Dar es Salaam's bustling Buguruni suburb, as witnessed yesterday afternoon. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

from the main producers which include Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Among the major problems cocoa producers have experienced recently include increased fertiliser prices because of the conflict in Ukraine, restricted access to financing, and poor infrastructure.

Environmental activists are also exerting more and more pressure in connection to the increase in the cocoa industry. Increased deforestation and biodiversity loss from top growers globally are said to be consequences of cocoa production. Producers of palm oil are under the same

pressure.

Chocolate lovers may anticipate price increases in the medium term, and weather is the greatest hope to keep prices in check because it should get better as anticipated by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society from Colombia.

Due to current prices, obtaining and processing cocoa is relatively expensive for South African chocolate makers, who rely on imports of the cocoa bean.

The price of chocolate will probably climb even further because of the in-

crease in cocoa prices. As a result, to recoup their production costs, chocolate processors will be forced to offer their products at outrageous rates.

For various reasons, however, this might not be entirely beneficial for manufacturers of chocolate. Since chocolate is not necessarily a need, consumers can cut back on its consumption or temporarily quit purchasing it.

Producers could suffer from this and risk their profitability, capacity to stay in business, or worse, their ability to keep workers.

SEOUL

## Korea promises to help Africa uplift agriculture

KOREA plans to open more agricultural support centres in Africa to help countries in the continent bolster their rice production.

Seoul has said it is determined to raise the continent's food sustainability and end chronic food shortages and starvation, according to the state-run agricultural research institute, Wednesday.

The Rural Development Administration (RDA) said it will expand its network of technical support centres across the continent by additionally opening offices in Cameroon and Tanzania.

"African nations have been increasingly inquiring about whether it's possible to set up a new local KOPIA centre in their countries," RDA Administrator Cho Chae-ho said on the sidelines of the 2024 Korea-Africa Agricultural Conference in Seoul, referring to the Korean Partnership for Innovation of

Agriculture.

"Some 10 African nations have expressed hopes to work with us to improve their local agricultural capabilities. Such responses are fuelling our roles further in Africa," he said.

Cho said that cooperation between Korea and Africa in developing agriculture is important for food security and economic development in Africa. He added that the conference will serve as a foundation for the continent's sustainable agricultural development.

"I hope that the agricultural sectors of Korea and Africa will continue to develop together," he said.

The event, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, was joined by presidents of Comoros, Zimbabwe and Madagascar and ministers from nine other

African nations who all arrived in Seoul days before to renew their diplomatic ties with Korea.

Kim Hwang-yong, the RDA's director general for technology cooperation bureau, said that the RDA's growing cooperation with African nations has become a model for economic growth and social stability to countries seeking strategic economic growth.

"It remains our mission to lead our partner nations to sustainable, self-reliant agricultural development through developing new breeds of crops most suitable for their local soils, propagating those new crops throughout the continent and training local experts with technical support," Kim said.

The RDA, a state-run research institute under the food ministry, has been investing in developing tech-

nologies and educating workforces to improve the agricultural industries for farming sectors in regions not necessarily limited to Korea.

KOPIA and its 22 centres worldwide well represent the agency's diplomatic efforts. In Africa, its offices have been established in Kenya, Algeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Senegal, Zimbabwe and Ghana. KOPIA centres in each country tackle local soils and natural environments to introduce new, most suitable breeds of rice, vegetables, fruits and livestock that produce high yields in as short a period as possible. The centres are driven by two goals: "no poverty" and "zero hunger."

KOPIA Kenya Centres has been transferring technologies for poultry and seed potatoes to local farmers since 2020. The technologies concern vaccination, feed formulation,

disease-free seed potatoes and nematode control, having resulted in local farmers seeing increased revenues. In Ethiopia, KOPIA has provided 27 farms with poultry facilities and greenhouses and transferred modern agricultural technologies, enabling female farmers to improve their profitability. In Uganda, new water management technologies for orange farming allowed farms in Teso District to see orange production increase by 2.7 times despite drought, and their revenues have more than tripled.

Rice farms in Senegal and Ghana saw new rice seeds jointly developed by KOPIA and local researchers, and the new seeds, guaranteeing improved productivity, have been distributed to over 50 local farms in each country. In Zimbabwe, KOPIA Zimbabwe Center was behind intro-

ducing new maize varieties that are resilient against drought and launching its production over 100 hectares of farmland by 13 local farms.

Kim said that KOPIA has set goals for rice yields in seven African countries until 2027. Under the campaign Rice Seed Production Improvement for Africa (RiceSPIA) and its activities based on technical training, equipment support and seed production management, the RDA aims to yield 2,400 tons of rice over 200 hectares of land in Ghana, 1,800 tons of rice over 150 hectares in Guinea and 1,680 tons of rice over 140 hectares in Uganda. Cameroon, Gambia, Senegal and Kenya are also targeted by RiceSPIA with different figures under the same goal.

"We began testing RiceSPIA in six African countries in 2023 with a goal of altogether yielding 2,040 tons of rice in the first year," Kim said. "At the end of the year, we saw 2,321 tons, 14 per cent more fruitful than the goal."





Muheza district administrative secretary Mohamed Mfaki (L) has a word with doctors and nurses shortly after arriving at the Samia Suluhu Hassan District Hospital earlier this week for an official tour. Third right is the hospital's Medical Officer In-charge, Dr Gerald Kazumba. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## UNICEF introduces nutrition programme in Nigeria to combat child malnutrition

By Special Correspondent

In several Nigerian communities in the Northeastern Gombe state, UNICEF is training thousands of women to boost their families' nutrient intake.

Tubers and grains are grown in home gardens, allowing families to spend less on food, thereby alleviating chronic malnutrition afflicting the region, especially its children.

More than a dozen women gathered this week in the village of Poshereng, where they are learning at least 200 recipes they can prepare with crops like cassava, orange-fleshed sweet potato, maize and millet.

Hauwa Bwami, a 50-year-old widow and mother of five, nearly lost her grandson to kwashiorkor due to improper nutrition and lack of awareness. Now she grows enough nutrient rich food that sustains her family.

"I have my grandson, he was malnourished and suffered from kwashiorkor. UNICEF came and saw his condition. They taught me how to prepare food with sweet

potatoes and soya beans so that he would not have Diarrhea. They taught us how to prepare nutritious food with vitamins," Bwami told the AP while at the training.

Tucked in a semi-arid region with limited rainfall in recent years, the Kaltungo community is mostly made up of farmers with agriculture the only source of income for most families.

While malnutrition is generally slow to bring death, studies have also shown it weakens the immune systems over time and sometimes heightens the chance of death from other diseases.

In Nigeria, many malnourished children never even make it to the hospital before dying often because of a lack of money to afford treatment or because of a lack of health facilities in remote areas.

Africa's population of more than one billion people is one of the most afflicted with malnutrition mainly due to conflict, climate crises and rising food prices. The continent accounts for one-third of the global burden and 13 of the 20 most affected countries, according to UN estimates.

## South African President joins key party meeting on new government formation

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa met with senior officials of the African National Congress (ANC) on Thursday to decide how to go about forming a government after the party lost its 30-year grip on power and left a post-election deadlock.

The party's National Executive Committee was meeting in Johannesburg to work through a split within the party's ranks over which direction to take.

ANC lost its long-held majority in last week's vote but remained

the biggest party, and now needs some form of agreement with others to run Africa's most industrialized country.

ANC has indicated it's leaning toward a government of national unity that would bring together many of the political parties in a broad agreement, rather than a direct coalition with the main opposition, the Democratic Alliance, or DA.

"We want to bring everybody on board," ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula said before Thursday's meeting, which was likely to last all day.

Mbalula said a government of national unity was being proposed to the NEC to decide on, but he expected there to be debate and disagreement.

ANC is the party that was once led by Nelson Mandela and freed South Africa from the apartheid system of white minority rule by winning the country's historic first all-race vote in 1994.

It had seen a gradual decline in its support over the last 20 years as South Africa struggles with high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The National Executive Com-

mittee that includes more than 80 of the ANC's top officials is expected to be the body to decide on which direction it will take.

There is no guarantee that all the other parties will accept the idea of a government of national unity, even as South Africa's political leaders are under some time pressure to decide on the way forward as the newly elected Parliament must sit for the first time by June 16, with one of its first priorities to elect a president.

The South African president is seeking a second term in office, and the agreement being sought

will also decide if Ramaphosa is re-elected.

South African elections decide how many seats each party gets in Parliament and lawmakers then elect the president. Because ANC only won 40 percent of the vote and lost its parliamentary majority for the first time, it needs others to join with it to re-elect Ramaphosa for his final term.

A coalition between ANC and the centrist DA had been touted as the likeliest option to co-govern South Africa as the two would hold a clear majority after

DA won the second biggest share of the vote with 21 percent.

But that has met resistance from grassroots ANC structures as well as some of its political allies, like South Africa's congress of trade unions.

DA could also be opposed to a wide-ranging agreement involving many political parties given it has insisted it will never work with two of them—the new populist MK Party of former President Jacob Zuma and the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters.

They won the third and fourth biggest shares of the vote.

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## UN mission steps up efforts to maintain peace in South Sudan

JUBA

THE United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said on Thursday it has stepped up efforts to maintain peace in Malakal town, Upper Nile State, following the death of several people last week due to violence.

UNMISS said it will continue to support efforts to protect civilians and maintain calm through intensive patrols and engagement with affected communities.

Nicholas Haysom, special representative of the UN secretary-general and head of UNMISS, said in a statement issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, that the situation is currently calm but fragile.

“We appreciate the coordination and close partnerships with national, state and local authorities which played an important role in ensuring that further escalations in violence do not take place and that people are able to resume their daily activities safely,” Haysom said.

The clashes erupted on May 30 between the Dinka and Shilluk communities over the disputed Akoka

area, with armed Dinka men attacking and killing four Shilluk fishermen who were under civilian protection.

Traders, truckers seek protection from attacks in South Sudan

In retaliation, the Shilluk community moved out of the UN Protection of Civilians Site and killed a driver belonging to the Dinka community in Malakal town.

The UN mission commended the swift and ongoing responses by state authorities and government security forces to reduce tensions and keep communities safe.

UNMISS said its working closely with government partners and has proactively deployed peacekeepers in and around the UN Protection of Civilians Site in Malakal to make sure displaced people are secure.



**We appreciate the coordination and close partnerships with national, state and local authorities**



Mbomole Spices Group entrepreneur Dastan Daffa (C) briefs Muheza district executive director Dr Jumaa Mhina (L) on the use of spice products. This was at one of the booths at the Trade and Tourism Exhibition held in Tanga city earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Egyptians struggle with first bread subsidy cut in decades

CAIRO

A QUADRUPLING of the price of subsidised bread has made it harder than ever for Gamal Ahmad and millions of other Egyptians to get by.

The 64-year-old pensioner was struggling to make ends meet even before Egypt's government, facing a rising wheat import bill, increased the price of subsidised small loaves of flatbread for the first time in decades on June 1.

The loaves are available to more than 70 million people and are vital for the poorest. Even though they are still heavily discounted, the increase to 20 piasters (\$0.0042) per

loaf from five piasters is one that many households can ill afford.

“We can't handle any more [price increases],” said Gamal, who is also worried about cuts to subsidised utilities that the government has announced.

“There are still gas, electricity and water bills. All prices are rising,” he said.

The impact of the price increase will be felt by millions because the subsidised loaves are a staple for much of the population of about 106 million.

“Of course, the price hike impacts me,” pensioner Mohamed Abdelaziz said as he shopped for subsidised

bread in central Cairo. “We are barely getting by.”

He said he had to keep on working to supplement his 2,000-pound (\$42.46) monthly state pension and take care of three unmarried children.

Increasing the price of the subsidised bread was a politically sensitive decision that had been put off for years in a country where cheap bread is important for many because poverty is widespread.

The price had been kept steady since the 1980s despite repeated rounds of austerity reforms, with the government wary of facing a public backlash. An attempt to change the

subsidy system sparked riots in 1977. Instead of increasing the price, the government had previously tried to restrict eligibility and reduced the weight of the loaves.

About two-thirds of the population benefit from bread subsidies, which are based on income and include an allowance of five loaves per day. The monthly bill for a family of four could now rise to 120 pounds from 30 pounds in a country where the minimum monthly wage is 6,000 pounds following a 50 percent rise in March.

Price of subsidised bread jumped 300 percent to 20 piasters (\$0.0042) from 5 piasters in Cairo

An Egyptian man is helped by another person, as he carries bread on a wooden rack to be sold to customers after the price of subsidised bread jumped 300 percent to 20 piasters (\$0.0042) from 5 piasters in Cairo, Egypt June 3, 2024.

The government acted now with annual inflation running at 32.5 percent in April after hitting 38 percent last September. Egypt also faces a large debt servicing bill and allowed a sharp currency devaluation in March, when it shifted to a flexible exchange rate system.

Egypt is often the world's largest importer of wheat, and traders say the price change is not expected to

change the quantity of state purchases in the short term. The collapsing currency and rampant inflation have caused the cost to the government of procuring wheat from abroad to surge.

Supply Minister Ali Moselhy says the new price represents just 16 percent of the cost of making the bread, which has been driven up by the weakening of Egypt's currency and rising global wheat prices.

The government is allocating about 125 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.65 billion) for bread subsidies in its 2024/25 state budget, up from 91 billion last year, according to Moselhy.



Seeking to catch fish in muddy waters at the Buguruni Bridge section of Dar es Salaam's Msimbazi River in style - using mosquito nets... Correspondent Mirajji Msala captured this scene yesterday.

## Deadly tornadoes tear through SA's province

DURBAN

AT least 11 people have died and more than 50 others injured after tornadoes tore through parts of South Africa's coastal province of KwaZulu-Natal mid-week, authorities said.

The devastating storms caused major damage, particularly in the town of Tongaat, in northern KwaZulu-Natal, where footage from ravaged neighborhoods showed debris from dozens of wrecked homes.

“The damage is quite huge,” said Nomusa Dube-Ncube, the premier of KwaZulu-Natal, noting that the casualty numbers could rise.

The South African Weather Service confirmed that at least two tornadoes struck the province on Monday afternoon, causing “significant damage.”

“The first tornado occurred between Newcastle and Utrecht over the western interior of KwaZulu-Natal,” it said in a statement on Tuesday.

A larger tornado developed later around Tongaat and moved east to the coast near Westbrook and Ballito, where it caused further destruction.

The provincial government stated that temporary shelters have been provided for families displaced by the storms and that those injured are receiving treatment in hospitals.

“South Africa does experience tornadoes from time to time,” the weather service explained, especially “when large and intense weather systems affect the country.”

KwaZulu-Natal has a history of extreme weather conditions that have caused multiple casualties.

In 2022, more than 300 people were killed in the province after heavy rains caused severe flooding, damaging homes and roads in what provincial authorities described as “one of the worst weather storms” in South Africa's history.

## Russia's top diplomat promises more support for Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU

RUSSIA'S Foreign Minister on Wednesday pledged more support to Burkina Faso in fighting militant groups as he pressed his whirlwind tour of West Africa in an attempt to fill a vacuum left by the region's traditional Western partners.

Sergey Lavrov spoke at a news conference in the country's capital of Ouagadougou while on the third leg of his latest Africa trip, after Guinea and the Republic of Congo.

Russia is seeking to shore up support from the re-

gion amid Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. A number of African countries in recent years have expressed growing frustration with their traditional Western partners such as France and the United States.

“Russian instructors have been working here and their number will increase,” Lavrov said, adding that Russia has been helping train Burkina Faso's military and law enforcement personnel. “We have supplied and will continue to supply military equipment to help strengthen Burkina Faso's defence capability and allow it to eliminate the remaining terrorist

groups.” Lavrov said he appreciated the “objective and fair” position of Burkina Faso on the war in Ukraine. “For our part, we are ready to provide our support for the just cause of Africans who are trying to free themselves from neo-colonial influence.”

Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation of 20 million, has been ravaged in the past eight years by violence from extremist groups loosely affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, and from the fighting between government forces and the militants.

The country also went through two coups in just 10 months, the second last year after which a military

junta threw out French forces and turned to Russia for security support. However, the junta has struggled to contain the security and humanitarian crisis.

Burkina Faso has topped the list of the world's biggest neglected crises for the second year in a row, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council. A record 6.3 million out of 20 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2024, the aid organization said, with many on the brink of starvation. Two million people remain internally displaced, about 60 percent of them children. Many have been traumatized, but resources to help them are scarce.



SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2024

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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## WFP handing of NFRA \$22m to buy maize is important act

REPORTS that the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) intends to spend US\$22 million on the purchase of 60,000 tonnes of maize from farmers from July 15 to 20 after an accord with the World Food Programme (WFP) look routine. However, there is more to it than meets the eye.

The respective cabinet minister has said that the maize will help save the now idle harvest, admitting that a good part of the previous year's harvest is headed for the waste bin as natural fertiliser when it is thrown away.

The one irony was in the blame throwing at that event. There was a suggestion that the WFP order and NFRA support came in the wake of 'intervention' by brokers, meaning private buyers seeking to purchase the grain for nearby markets.

At one point, it appeared that the non-tariff barriers to grain trade at the regional level had been removed, but that did not last.

As soon as private traders were seen having an impact in urban markets, where maize flour was picking up in price, all this was put on ice and only grain purchasing agents can buy maize.

The real news was that, as the minister noted, the government is genuinely determined to save last season's harvest from being wasted.

Accordingly, NFRA is preparing contracts for purchases and selecting purchasing centres before setting prices.

That's exactly how the cereals bureaucracy and its urban support base wish things to run - as it amounts to foreclosure of a working grain market in the country, especially for maize.

There will be a natural cycle of production and harvesting for the local

market rather than commercial trajectory at the farm level as obtained earlier.

But hailing the cooperation with WFP would evidently be one thing if it was just a matter of unloading tonnes of maize from the granary or even placing an order for the next harvest. The idea of saving a large portion of a crop lying in households almost rotting is evidently an altogether different matter.

Just what is likely to be the level of maize farming this year or how many farmers would have sought crops where interference by regulators is minimal is hard to say.

In that it appears that our country is headed for more rainfall rather than dry periods or outright drought, this fear of inability to see a stable commercial set-up for maize in particular may not spell shortages in future.

But we are clearly missing the regional market for grain, distressing farmers, even if this is also likely to have a positive input for the wider reform pressures.

Were it that there was a working grain market at the local level working in harmony with the regional one, efforts to resettle youths in agriculture could possibly work.

But with grain being allowed to rot away as opening the market may cause price rises and elected officials fear for their support base, the BBT drive will be limited to non-cereal options, complete with speculative ups and downs - just like in the current talk on avocados.

The perishable nature of food crops, including grains, underlines the need to exercise care and vigilance in handling them. And this points to the importance and relevance of the NFRA-WFP 'partnership'.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## Debts



## EU visa restrictions on Ethiopians highlight even further strains in migration relations

By Margaret Monyani

SINCE 29 April, the European Union (EU) has imposed temporary restrictions on Schengen short-term visas for Ethiopians. These include prohibiting multiple entry visas, longer processing times, and eliminating waivers for certain documentary requirements and visa fees.

The European Commission said the action was due to a "lack of response from the Ethiopian authorities regarding readmission requests," and shortcomings in organising "voluntary and non-voluntary return operations," (the latter is how the EU describes deportation).

The restrictions raise concerns about the efficiency and fairness of the EU's migration policies. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nebiyu Tedla said the developments were "incompatible with acceptable diplomatic practices" and asked the EU Council to reconsider the "unfair" restrictions.

In 2017, the EU and Ethiopia agreed on admission procedures for the return of Ethiopians from EU countries. Although this agreement was never made public, a leaked statement revealed that similar arrangements were later made between Ethiopia and Norway and Switzerland.

Since then, two EU-Ethiopia working group meetings and two technical meetings organised by the EU Commission have taken place to facilitate implementation of the 2017 procedures. In 2018, the EU and Ethiopia reached a non-binding agreement on the readmission of Ethiopians without visas or the legal right to remain in the EU.

In 2019, 1,395 Ethiopians staying illegally in EU member states were issued return decisions, but only 215 travelled home - an average return rate of 15%. Member states submitted 985 readmission requests to Ethiopian authorities, who issued 41 travel documents - an issuance rate of just 4%.

The overall return rates from the EU are low. Last year, over 83,000 people were returned to countries outside the EU, which the European Commission says is a return rate of 19% - not much higher than Ethiopia's return rate of 15% in 2019.

Most people residing unlawfully in the EU initially enter through legal means via airports, but overstay their visas. These numbers far exceed those who arrive by sea or land seeking asylum or other opportunities. Only about one in three people ordered to leave the EU do.

### Punitive perspectives

If the problem is overstaying, efforts should focus on finding solutions to this



A passenger displays an Ethiopian passport and an Ethiopian Airlines boarding pass as he sits inside ET314 flight to Eritrea's capital Asmara at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 18 July 2018. Reuters

legitimate concern. Instead, the EU's new measures unfairly target Ethiopians travelling for legitimate reasons, such as education, family reunification, medical treatment or business. Individuals shouldn't be held accountable for their government's actions. Imposing additional hurdles on those who enter the EU legally doesn't address the root causes of irregular migration, but punishes those following the law.

This punitive approach contradicts the principles of good migration governance and contrasts with the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which advocates for accessible and efficient legal migration channels. Experts say for the New Pact to be effective, the EU must critically re-evaluate readmission agreements to return rejected asylum seekers to their home countries or safe third countries.

These agreements must respect international law, particularly the non-refoulement principle, which prohibits returning individuals to a country where they may face persecution, torture or serious harm.

### Reintegration measures

The Ethiopian government needs to address the socio-economic costs of reintegration and protect its emigrants. The country's growing engagement with its diaspora for economic and political reasons has influenced its stance on admitting returnees from the EU. Ethiopia is willing to repatriate its citizens detained in countries like Saudi Arabia, Yemen or Libya, viewing their return from inhumane detention conditions as

a humanitarian protection measure.

However, Ethiopian officials don't see rejected asylum seekers in the EU who are awaiting deportation as being in similarly dire conditions, so don't prioritise their return on humanitarian grounds. Ethiopian officials also feel the EU hasn't offered significant incentives, such as development funding, as part of its return agenda, so they are less inclined to help with the return of rejected asylum seekers or irregular migrants.

### Cracks in partnership

Even so, why is the EU targeting Ethiopia with these latest restrictions? Past Institute for Security Studies analysis has suggested that the stance of the African Union and most African countries is not to accept forced returns. While the EU's restrictions could be a tactic to pressure Ethiopia into compliance, it also reflects a history of significant EU investment in Ethiopia on migration governance - with minimal results.

The longstanding EU-Ethiopia partnership, including the 2016 Migration Partnership Framework, raised expectations. However, the framework failed to meet its goals despite substantial EU financial support. The EU criticised Ethiopia for inadequate returns, while Ethiopian officials felt the focus on migrant returns overshadowed broader cooperation.

The new restrictions could indicate a worrying future trend. The EU's move is symbolic, demonstrating its resolve in handling non-

compliant countries and setting a precedent. If successful, it could be applied to other African nations, increasing disparity and leading to a more fragmented migration landscape.

The European Commission is apparently using visa rules to pressure countries to cooperate with deportation procedures. This isn't new - agreements with Sahelian countries such as Libya and Tunisia show that the EU rewards countries that cooperate on migration governance, and penalises those that are reluctant to comply.

Last July, a European delegation signed a memorandum of understanding with Tunisia that included measures to combat irregular immigration in exchange for increased immigration controls and facilitation of voluntary returns. Between 2014 and 2020, the EU allocated over €700-million to Libya for the same reasons.

The EU's migration policies must be consistent, fair and effective. Rather than resorting to punitive measures, it should engage in constructive dialogue with Ethiopia to address concerns about irregular migration and foster cooperation. By aligning its actions with its stated goals, the EU can promote a balanced, humane migration system that respects individuals' rights and supports legal migration pathways.

Margaret Monyani, Senior Researcher, Migration, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)



By Telesphor Magobe

## Time for Tanzania to abolish death penalty sentence

LAST week, we briefly looked at rape, which is a criminal offence in Tanzania by virtue of sections 130 and 131(I) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022). Rape is a disgrace to society because it lowers human dignity and turns a woman into an object of sexual gratification. Although an offender when found guilty of the offence is imprisoned for life, sometimes when it comes to the proof of rape things may turn upside-down especially when the victim is a minor. Yet, in the eyes of the law sympathy for the victim does not help, but cogent evidence.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AFCHPR) recent judgement in the matter of Nziyiyimana Zabron (applicant) v United Republic of Tanzania (respondent state) delivered in Arusha on June 4, 2024. The applicant is a national of Burundi who was resid-

ing in Tanzania when he was charged with murder and sentenced to suffer death by hanging.

He was on death row in Butimba Central Prison in Mwanza. However, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Aggrieved by both the conviction and sentence, he lodged an application to AFCHPR, challenging the violation of his rights in connection with proceedings before domestic courts and Articles 4 and 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter).

In relation to the right to life under Article 4 of the African Charter, the AFCHPR said the African Charter had been violated through the imposition of the mandatory death sentence under section 197 of the Penal Code which constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of the right to life.

"In arriving at this find-



ing, the Court relied on its now established case law that the right to life is breached under Article 4 of the African Charter in instances where the judicial officer is deprived of the discretion to mete any other penalty than the death sentence once the offence of murder is established. The Court reiterated its finding that, in such circumstances, fairness is not upheld while imposing the death sentence, thus making the latter contrary to the right to life in the meaning of Article 4 of the African Charter."

In relation to the violation of the right to dignity under Article 5 of the African Charter, the Court said the

applicant was sentenced to death by hanging and reiterated its previous jurisprudence that held that hanging as a method of implementing the death penalty constitutes a violation of Article 5 of the African Charter as it constitutes a form of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Although the AfCHPR declined to quash the applicant's conviction and order his release on the basis that the establishment of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt for murder had been unimpeachable, it ordered Tanzania to revoke the death sentence meted against the applicant, and remove him from the death row.

It further ordered Tanzania to remove the mandatory death penalty from its statute book within months of the notification of the judgment, and take all necessary measures, within one year of the notification of the judgment, for the rehearing of the case on the sentencing of the applicant through a procedure that does not allow the mandatory imposition of the death sentence and uphold the discretion of the judicial officer.

Punishment for the offence of murder in Tanzania is provided for section 197 of the Penal Code, which

states "A person convicted of murder shall be sentenced to death." Section 26(I) states that "When a person is sentenced to death, the sentence shall direct that he shall suffer death by hanging: Provided that, if a woman convicted of an offence punishable with death is alleged to be pregnant, the court shall inquire into the fact and, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that she is pregnant the sentence to be passed on her shall be a sentence of imprisonment for life instead of a sentence of death."

Although the death penalty has been criticised worldwide, Tanzania is among the 23 countries categorised as "abolitionist in practice", meaning that despite its statute book prescribing death penalty it has not executed any prisoner on death row at least for 10 years. Last month during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's grant of amnesty to 1,082 prisoners countrywide, among them were 20 prisoners on death row whose sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment.

A positive move towards granting some prisoners on death row an amnesty and commuting their sentences to life imprisonment

started during the fifth phase government under President John Magufuli. It should continue and ultimately erase the death penalty from the statute book. According to a report of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC, 2023), the last execution in Tanzania was under President Ali Hassan Mwinyi in 1994. "No execution warrant was signed by President Benjamin Mkapa, President Jakaya Kikwete, and President John Magufuli."

However, the latter is reported to have commuted nearly all death sentences to life imprisonment in 2020. Yet, by December 2021, according to LHRC (2023), there were at least 24 new death sentences. Amnesty International (AI) report of May 2023 says by December 2022, 112 (two-thirds) countries worldwide had abolished the death penalty, while 55 countries still retain the death penalty. Nine of them have the death penalty only for the most serious crimes and 23 countries have the death penalty in their statute book, but have not executed any prisoner on death row for at least 10 years.

'As delicious as forbidden fruit—as a dream'

• The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at [t22magobe@gmail.com](mailto:t22magobe@gmail.com)

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

## Personal protective equipment: Crucial aspect in ensuring safety at workplaces

THE use of protective gears commonly referred to as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by workers is a crucial aspect which ensures safety at workplaces. The practice cannot be ignored in construction, mining, industrial and manufacturing production sectors.

Employees working in the above mentioned sectors are exposed to a number of hazards that could cause injury or illness if they do not wear protective gears. The use of PPE can help and protect workers from accidents.

It is important for workers to use protective gears as they protect them exposure to hazardous substances such as chemicals, radiological, electrical faults, mechanical and many others.

Health experts are concerned that wherever care is not taken on the spot, these substances can lead to respiratory problems and cancer deflections which ultimately results into cuts, bruises, amputations of extremities and even deaths while working with heavy machinery.

There are many types of protective gears which are used for protection against any dangerous harm on human bodies. The most important ones include structures for head protection such as hard hats and bump caps.

Structures for eye protection include safety glasses, welding helmets and face shields. There are also those structures that are used for hearing protection such as ear-plugs, and those used for leg as well as arm protections.

All these are important to ensure the safety of workers while implementing their various noble duties in respective places. The use of protective gears are basically to reduce risks associated with working conditions by eliminating hazards or controlling them so that workers are not exposed to any kind of dangerous materials.

In hospitals, there are



special protective gears used by health practitioners such as disposable clothing that helps in creating a barrier between blood, bodily fluids, or respiratory secretions.

In some cases, wearing gloves or masks is compulsory as among the containment measures being undertaken as a precaution to curb with the prevalent pandemic.

Medical doctors, nurses and other staff in hospitals including patients and visitors uses such protective gears wherever necessary to prevent themselves from contact with infectious diseases being transmitted through blood or bodily fluids.

When used properly while supplying chemicals, such protective gears acts as a barrier between patients and services provides.

PPE are useful as they help protect contaminated hands from getting into contacts with germs and hence helps to reduce the spread of infectious diseases from one person to another bearing in mind the fact that, somebody's hands is one of the easiest ways of spreading disease infection.

Electricians working on electrical installation panels or circuits are also in danger, and because of this they do wear insulated gloves, safety glasses, flash suits, and insulated gloves to protect them against any possible electric shock.

Electricians can use voltage-rated tools like insulated screwdrivers and pliers to safely work on live electrical equipment without being harmed at all.

Statistics linked to occupational health and safety has internally proved that, "most employers in the country have low knowledge of protecting their workers while toiling at work places".

In Tanzania, existing laws and regulations are not comprehensive enough to cover the entire population without help by private sectors an aspect that has driven to poor implementation of legislation that requires employers to take effective actions to protect their workers as per the law.

After having seen an increased danger facing workers in most productive sectors of the national economy, the government took a

prompt decision to establish an institution to ensure that occupational health and safety are effectively maintained at work places.

This is the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) which operate under the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youths, Employment and People with Disabilities.

The institution was established in 2001 under Executive Agencies Act No. 30 of 1997 as part of reform plans in issuing government services to its people so as to ensure creation and maintenance of ideal work environments.

OSHA has a noble task to ensure that all employees are equipped with safety gears wherever necessary in order to reduce accidents and diseases likely to break out from work places, and ultimately achieve better productivity.

Other responsibilities are linked to ensure creation and maintenance of ideal work environments which are free from occupational hazards that may cause injuries, illnesses and even deaths to all employees. The institution monitors

its implementation and takes legal actions against the defaulters.

Either the authority is directly engaged with industrial hygiene surveys and measurements and issue technical advice associated with health issues in places of work.

Basically all these issues are targeted to ensure that all the economic activities are well done without posing health dangers to workers and the surrounding people bearing in mind the fact that, there is nothing which is more precious than human life.

OSHA Executive Director, Khadija Mwenda told The Guardian that since her institution was established over two decades ago, there are still a number of impediments that constrains the entire development goals for which the authority was formed.

She said OSHA cherishes towards ensuring health and safeties of workers are intact at places of work countrywide.

"Lack of awareness coupled with poor training; inadequate adherence to legislation and limited enforcement is still dominating

among stakeholders over general understanding on basic issues as related with hazardous work environments, and this has led to limited access to occupational health services in many work places," remarked the OSHA boss.

However, she has acknowledged the assistance which the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has rendered to the authority when she issued 13 vehicles and the state of the art equipment used to facilitate their daily routine activities while serving people in the country.

In April this year, Tanzania joined other nations in the world to celebrate the annual International World Day for safety and Health at work place which aims to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.

The occasion was graced at a national level by the Deputy Prime Minister and Energy Minister Dr. Dotto Mashaka Biteko in celebrations held at General Tyre grounds in Arusha city under the theme: "Let us plant trees so as it takes care of our lives".

In his speech, Biteko instructed all employees in the country to adhere to the safety measures at work places to keep zero death records.

Hardly three weeks after Biteko's remarks, the nation plunged into a grief stricken mood after 11 workers of Mtbwa Sugar Factory in Morogoro Region were killed following an explosion which occurred in a manufacturing machine.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander, Alex Mkama said: "The explosion was a result of an electrical fault that caused a steam pipe to burst as a technical team was readying machines to start production for the day".

Victims of the accident included three foreign nationals; one among them came from the neighbouring Kenya. Others were from Brazil and India respectively. Two other workers were injured in the blast and were treated at the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital.



By Tom Stacey

# Electric cars pile up at European ports as Chinese firms struggle to find buyers

CHINA'S automotive industry has revolutionised over the past decade, from producing basic western clones to making cars that equal the world's best. As the manufacturing powerhouse of the world, China is also producing them in huge volumes.

However, Chinese cars are facing difficulties in finding buyers in Europe. Imported cars, many of which are Chinese electric vehicles, are piling up at European ports, with some spending up to 18 months in port car parks as manufacturers struggle to get them onto people's driveways.

Why is this, though? Chinese electric vehicles in particular are getting positive reviews. Having driven them myself, I can attest to them matching, or even exceeding, the well-known European brands in range, quality and technology.

But entering an established market as a challenger is a complex operation. Chinese makers will have to contend with buyer wariness, a lack of brand image, trade protectionism and rapid out-datedness.

## Lack of buyer faith

China's automotive expansion programme draws parallels with the moves made by Japan in the 1960s and 70s. At that time, the product coming from Japan was commendable but lacked the finesse, design and longevity of their western counterparts. Japanese cars were thought of as tinny, underpowered and susceptible to rusting, as well as looking very generic compared to stylish European designs.

Memories of Japan's involvement in the Second World War were also fresh in (particularly American) buyer's minds, which were slow to forgive a nation that launched the Pearl Harbour attacks. However, by constantly focusing on a reliable, relatively cheap and increasingly stylish product, Japan slowly turned this around to become the automotive powerhouse of the 1990s and 2000s.

China is viewed with suspicion by many westerners, and its carmakers are similarly hampered by their recent legacy of producing both endorsed and illegal clones of European cars. But with the lessons of the Japanese to learn from, Chinese cars are rapidly advancing to match and exceed existing alternatives.

Strategic purchases of brands like



Cars are gathered for export at a port in Yantai, Shandong province, China

Volvo, Lotus and MG have also given China existing brands that are respected and, more importantly, have some of the best engineering knowledge in the world. Yet, even after buying up western brands, Chinese automakers have proven unable to buy loyalty from existing customers of brands like BMW, Porsche, Ferrari and Ford. For these buyers, the history of the brand in terms of known reliability and even things like motor sport success is something that Chinese makers, like the Japanese, will have to build up over

time.

It was Ford dealers who, in the 1960s, coined the phrase: "Win on Sunday, Sell on Monday". The phrase is an adage to attest the fact that if buyers see a car winning a race, they'll be motivated to go out and buy one.

Existing manufacturers also have a legacy of reliability that buyers have experienced for themselves, giving a huge brand loyalty benefit. Add to this a lack of an established dealer network outside of China and you see how Chinese makers struggle against the estab-

lished competition.

A challenging trade environment China has a price advantage compared to Europe or the US. Economies of scale, excellent shipping links and cheap labour mean that Chinese cars are cheaper both to make and buy.

However, in many countries they are subject to high import tariffs. The EU currently imposes a 10 percent import tariff on each car brought in. And in the US, car imports from China are subject to a 27.5 percent tariff.

These tariffs may well rise further.

The EU is conducting an investigation into whether its tariff is too low. If it concludes this later this year, higher duties will be applied retrospectively to imported cars.

Cars, and specifically electric vehicles, are also in a phase of their development where they see rapid changes and updates. Traditionally, vehicle models would see a market life of between four and seven years, perhaps with small updates in trim, colour palette or feature availability.

But Tesla has turned this on its head. The Tesla Model S, for example, has seen almost continuous product updates that make it barely recognisable in terms of hardware from a car released in 2012. Chinese automakers have taken note. They are bringing out new models around 30 percent faster than in most other nations.

Tesla is supporting owners of older cars with upgrades, at extra expense, to bring them in line with the latest hardware. Without guaranteed software support like this, the rate at which Chinese automakers are bringing out new models could make buyers wary that the product they have bought will soon become outdated compared to buying a car on a more traditional update cycle.

## How to succeed

Many of these factors can be fixed. They also chime more with private buyers than business buyers, who are more concerned with cost. Chinese makers would be well-advised to push harder into this market.

In the UK, the fleet market dwarfs the private market, and the situation is similar in Europe. Selling en masse to fleets and rental companies gets more cars on the road and allows more data about reliability to feed into the market.

The road to succeeding in a new market such as the EU will be slow and bumpy. But it's clear that China is laser focused on its global push. It remains to be seen whether this lack of buyers can be turned around.

# Managing extreme heat: Understanding associated risks and protective measures

By Golam Nabi

GLOBALLY, the environment is changing rapidly, and one of its effects is the change in atmospheric temperature. In the last few decades, we did not face such hot and humid weather. Nowadays, temperatures surge up to 41-42°C, and due to high humidity, it feels like 44-45°C, which makes our lives miserable, especially for the elderly and children.

In health, the body core temperature is maintained at 37°C by the hypothalamic regulatory center. Heat is produced by cellular metabolism and lost through the skin by both vasodilatation and sweating, as well as through the lungs in expired air. Profuse sweating occurs when the ambient temperature is greater than 32.5°C and during exercise. The evaporation of sweat is a vital mechanism for cooling the body. If we stay for a long time in this weather, the following things happen:

## Heat acclimatisation

Acclimatisation to hot climates takes several weeks. Sweat volume increases, and its salt content falls. Increased evaporation cools down the body.

## Heat cramps

Painful muscle (usually leg) cramps often occur in well-acclimatised, fit young people when they exercise in hot weather. Cramps are due to low extracellular sodium caused by the replenishment of water but not salt during prolonged sweating. They can be prevented by increasing dietary salt and responding to combined salt and water replacement.

Heat illness (Heat exhaustion): In high environmental temperatures, particularly with high humidity, vigorous exercise in clothing that inhibits heat loss can provoke a sudden eleva-



tion in core temperature. Weakness, exhaustion, dizziness, and syncope, with a core temperature >37°C, define heat illness. Temperature elevation is more important than water and sodium loss.

Heat illness may progress to heat injury. Management involves removing oneself from the heat source, cooling with cold sponging and fans, and giving oxygen by mask if possible. Oral rehydration with salt and water (ORS)

is given in the first 24 hours. In severe heat illness, IV fluids are needed, and isotonic saline is given depending on serum sodium. Careful monitoring is required. Secondary potassium loss must be corrected.

## Heat injury (Heat stroke)

Heat injury is an acute, life-threatening situation when the core temperature is >41°C. There is a headache, nausea, vomiting, and weakness. When the skin is hot, sweating is often absent but not invariable, even in severe heat injuries. Brain involvement leads to confusion, delirium, and coma.

Heat injury develops in hot, humid, windless climates, even without exercise in appropriate clothing. Old age, diabetes, and certain drugs (alcohol, anticholinergics, diuretics, and phenothiazines) are precipitating factors.

The pathogenesis of heat injury includes a fall in cardiac output, lactic acidosis, and intravascular coagulation. Management involves removing oneself from the hot area immediately, cooling with sponging and ice packs, and giving fluids with caution, as hypovolemia is often absent.

Prompt treatment is essential and leads to rapid and complete recovery; delay may be fatal. Prevention involves acclimatisation, fluid intake, and common sense.

These problems can be fatal and have grave consequences. Although we cannot change the weather or temperature, we can protect ourselves with the following measures, avoid direct sun exposure; use umbrellas or caps when going out, drink plenty of water, and always carry a water bottle.

The measures include restricting school children's outdoor activities; ensure well-ventilated classrooms with adequate fans or AC if possible. Teachers should ensure children drink frequently, advice the elderly to stay hydrated and indoors, arrange small water tanks in residential areas for street walkers and rickshaw pullers, encourage affluent individuals to distribute bottled water to passer-by in their communities and ensure hospitals and clinics are trained to handle heat stroke cases effectively.



## Blue economy must benefit fishing communities in global south

By Neena Bhandari

THE Global South is crucial for ensuring aquatic food security to feed the growing world population. It is imperative that blue economy initiatives benefit fishing communities in developing and small island nations, which are facing disproportionate impacts of climate change, says Dr Essam Yassin Mohammed, Director General of WorldFish, an international non-profit research organisation based in Penang, Malaysia.

"More than three billion people depend on aquatic foods as their main source of protein and micronutrients, and nearly 800 million people rely on fishing for their livelihood. The Global South produces a significant portion of the world's aquatic food and 95 percent of the fishing workforce comes from these regions," notes Mohammed, who is also CGIAR's Senior Director of Aquatic Food Systems.

Growing up in Eritrea's capital, Asmara, situated on a highland plateau 2325 meters above sea level, Mohammed learned the value of food early in life. The country had recently gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991, and young children like him were motivated to contribute to the nation's food security.

"Eritrea, a coastal country by the Red Sea, had abundant fish and marine resources. We believed these resources would be critical in making the country food secure so some of us decided to study marine biology and fishery science," he adds.

While working for Eritrea's Ministry of Fisheries, he was tasked

with enhancing fish consumption amongst the Highlanders, who traditionally had no connection with the sea. He then realized that driving behavioural change in people's diets, while considering cultural food preferences, is far more complex. To meet this challenging task and to better understand the interaction between humans and the ecosystem, he decided to train as a development economist.

"Integrating fisheries science with economics has profoundly shifted my viewpoint and deepened my comprehension of the intricate interplay within socio-ecological systems. This has defined my career, and I have never looked back," says Mohammed, who is committed to improving fisheries and aquaculture amidst the challenges of climate change, habitat degradation, and aquatic animal diseases.

Shifting ocean currents and warming waters are having a significant impact on fish stocks and coastal infrastructure, inundating lands and altering marine ecosystems, which is affecting the productivity of some fish species and forcing them to migrate to more optimal environments.

He says, "While large-scale commercial fishing vessels can still pursue and catch these fish say 20 km away, it is technically and financially prohibitive for small-scale operators with small boats to do so. This is where climate change becomes a social justice issue, impacting coastal communities' access to food and causing loss of livelihoods and cul-



Dr Essam Yassin Mohammed, Director General of WorldFish

tural identity."

"At WorldFish, we are going beyond helping communities become climate resilient by creating viable livelihood opportunities, which include development of climate-resilient fish strains, adoption of sustainable aquaculture practices and assisting governments strengthen their fisheries policies, for fishing and fish farming-dependent communities to thrive under a changing climate," he adds.

WorldFish research is helping prevent aquatic animal diseases, which cause an estimated global annual loss of over USD 6 billion, by ensuring that the food being produced is

safe for human consumption.

"One of the critical aspects of fish farming is that once fish are exposed to a disease, the entire stock can perish.

We are democratizing fish health diagnosis with Lab in a Backpack initiative. It's a compact digital tool that enables fish farmers to quickly diagnose the disease, contact service providers for treatment advice, and also learn how to deal with anti-microbial-resistant diseases," he explains.

The initiative is helping fish farmers build their capacity for the best biosecurity management practices by integrating the One Health

approach, which prioritizes the health of fish, the environment, and people.

Besides diseases, plastic pollution in the ocean poses a significant threat to marine life and ecosystems. In November 2024, governments will meet for the final round of UN negotiations for a global treaty to end plastic pollution.

Mohammed says, "Once plastics enter the ocean, they are there to stay indefinitely. We have seen many instances of plastics harming marine life—straws stuck in the nostrils of turtles or dolphins—and now traces of microplastics have been found in fish tissues. It means those microplastics are being ingested by human beings, impacting their health too."

"We need a legally binding treaty to mitigate plastic pollution. There is a global consensus now, but this needs to be followed by action on minimizing and eliminating plastic use and establishing a robust waste management system," he adds.

Mohammed warns that many developed countries are prioritizing short-term economic gains at the cost of long-term sustainability and conservation of the global marine ecosystem. "We need to perceive the natural capital—marine life, oceans, and water bodies as economic infrastructure; and reinvest in them to ensure they continue to provide for us in the future," he asserts.

According to the World Bank, blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem."

Currently, investments in blue economy initiatives are not percolating down to developing countries. WorldFish research reveals that from 2017 to 2021, USD 5.9 billion allocated to blue economy initiatives was concentrated mainly in Europe and Central Asia, and 35 percent of examined projects had potential risks for creating or exacerbating social inequities.

"Blue economy investments must benefit developing countries and small island nations. Those who are farthest behind must be able to benefit the most," Mohammed said.

The total fisheries and aquaculture production (excluding algae) is expected to reach over 200 million metric tonnes in 2030, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"Small-scale operators in the Global South supply up to 50 percent of aquatic food consumed globally. Ensuring that investments in the blue economy benefit these communities is essential for achieving shared prosperity and addressing climate change impacts on food security," says Mohammed.

## Chief economists explore geo-economics complexities and new drivers of growth

By Special Correspondent

ECONOMIC growth worldwide may have stumbled in recent years, but the outlook for the global economy is improving.

The latest World Economic Forum Chief Economists Outlook found that just 17 percent of chief economists surveyed expect the global economy to weaken in the remainder of 2024. The figure marks a staggering drop of the 56 percent of respondents who held the same view when the survey was last conducted in January. Moreover, more than eight in ten respondents now say they expect the global economy to strengthen or remain unchanged this year.

"The developing economic mood is one of cautious optimism," the report states. "Signs of recovery in the manufacturing sector, coupled with improvements in business and household confidence, have bolstered the view that the sharpest risks to the near-term outlook have begun to stabilize."

However, despite the brightening economic outlook, sources of heightened volatility remain throughout the global economy – many of which could have profound impacts on growth trajectories.

The Chief Economists Outlook adds that the improved expectations "take place against a backdrop of continuing high levels of uncertainty, not least because of global economic and geopolitical divergences and rifts." Moreover, the expectations of growth vary significantly by region, with strong outlook for growth in most of Asia and the United States in 2024 and weak expectations for Europe.

So, amid the mixed outlook, how have heightened geopolitical complexities impacted the global economy and what developments will drive growth in the near future?

Indermit Gill, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist, World Bank said: "Economic growth has certainly become harder to crank up than it used to be. Across the world, nearly all of the forces that fueled prosperity after 1990 seem to have petered out. Working-age populations are shrinking nearly everywhere—except in the poorest countries. Trade and investment are pale shadows of what they once were. As a result, our research indicates that average global potential GDP growth over the remainder of this decade will decline by roughly a third from the rate that prevailed in the first decade of this century—to 2.2 percent a year.

Gill added: "Yet several opportunities exist to boost growth. At certainly holds great promise, but its potential—at least in the near term—will be confined to advanced economies, which have the digital infrastructure, the highly skilled workforces, and the institutional frameworks needed to make the most of the technology."

He said for developing economies, however, the biggest opportunity might be in making it easier for women to join the workforce: closing the gender gap would essentially double the global growth rate over the next decade. All countries, moreover, can help themselves by resisting the temptations of economic nationalism: the world has benefited enormously from greater global trade and investment, we should



"The geopolitical context is changing rapidly," one chief economist said.

all work to reinforce the international architecture that makes it possible."

Renan Pinheiro Silverio, General Manager, Long Term Scenarios, Petrobras said: "I believe that the near future's world economic growth will be driven by developments such as strategic investments in infrastructure and the transition to clean energy. While policies focused solely on stimulating consumption can have short-term effects on growth, they may also contribute to inflationary pressures as a side effect.

He said to boost economic growth effectively, it is preferable for public policies to concentrate on fostering investments in infrastructure that address deficits and promote the development of key industries. This approach can improve productivity, connectivity, and attract further investment, leading to economic activity and employment opportunities.

The transition to clean energy presents a significant opportunity for growth, as it requires substantial investments in tech-

nology upgrades and the development of new industries, he said, adding, it is crucial to identify the specific potential of each economy and tailor policies accordingly, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach from other contexts.

"In summary, a combination of strategic investments in infrastructure, the transition to clean energy, and policies that foster innovation and digitalization can effectively drive economic growth in the near future. However, it is essential to customize these policies to the unique realities and potentials of each economy to maximize their effectiveness," said Silverio.

Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Beata Javorcik said: "The war in Ukraine continues to cast a long shadow over Europe. Despite a recent drop, the price of natural gas in Europe is still four times as high as in the US, eroding the continent's competitiveness. And the weakness of the German economy translates

into lower demand for exports from emerging Europe. Higher interest rates in advanced economies are keeping the cost of borrowing high, and eastern members of the European Union continue facing a significant risk premium, which went up as the war in Ukraine started."

She said Central Asia is doing well, even though growth will moderate relative to last year as intermediated trade with Russia appears to have reached a plateau. But the influx of money, businesses and high-quality human capital from Russia that took place in 2022 is still paying dividends. Strong demand for key export commodities is helping as well.

"Southern and eastern Mediterranean will see acceleration of growth, though the region is affected by the fallout from the war in Gaza. While the impact of the war on government yields in Egypt and Jordan proved short-lived, the negative effect on tourist arrivals in Jordan and

Lebanon may prove more lasting," she added.

Debora Revoltella, Chief Economist, European Investment Bank was of the opinion that: "The geopolitical context is changing rapidly, and its full implications for global competition, production and value chains are yet to be fully understood. We're seeing the emergence of trade disruptions, calls for strategic autonomy, proliferation of subsidies and rising tariffs, as well as new paths for the triangulation of trade flows. Terms like deglobalisation, slow-balisation or regionalisation are being used by economists to describe the evolving nature of global trade. At the same time, firms are navigating through this uncertainty, trying to assess whether shocks are temporary or persistent."

According to Revoltella European firms are particularly affected. What is clear is that Europe is more dependent on globalisation than the US. In some key sectors, Europe relies (relatively) more heavily on foreign sources of value added in its export products and has a higher share of its production targeting exports. This might explain why facing the first trade shocks, in 2022, most EU firms responded by stockpiling and increasing inventories and by diversifying suppliers.

"Only a small share of firms responded by retrenching. The EIB Investment Survey on firms, surveying 12,500 firms on an annual basis in the EU and in the US, shows that European firms fear disruptions in terms of trade, albeit slightly less than US firms. The survey shows that firms' reaction to trade shocks is commensurate to their perception of these shocks, but even firms not directly involved in international trade are impacted and react," said Revoltella.

"Moreover, the best firms – those innovating, advancing in the green transition or with better management – are also more ready to react. Temporary shocks are easier to navigate. With strong dependencies, if disruptions turn out to be more permanent, adjustment might be harsher and effects long-lasting. This calls for deep understanding of where strategic dependencies are and a reflection on how to build long lasting resilience," she remarked.



## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Maggot farming creates entrepreneurs and saves farming costs in Zimbabwe

By Jeffrey Moyo

THREE years ago, 43-year-old Benard Munondo was an “ordinary” Zimbabwean teacher at a local primary school, but now he has turned maggots into gold.

Thanks to maggot farming, Munondo, who has never owned a home nor driven a car, now has both.

In 2020, a week’s training on maggot farming changed his world.

One of the maggot farming trainers posted an advertisement on social media that lured Munondo in.

“Discover the Fascinating World of Maggot Farming! Whether you’re a farmer looking to boost your livestock’s nutrition or an entrepreneur seeking a unique venture, this training is for you! Fee: USD 30. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to revolutionize your farming practices,” reads the advertisement. This seized his attention.

Since then, he has not turned back and maggot farming has become a way of life in a country with 90 percent unemployment, according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).

Instead, Munondo, like several other maggot entrepreneurs, has become more of an employer after he set up a maggot plot of land just a year after he received training in farming the worms.

He has not, however, quit his teaching job, saying maggot farming, thanks to his workforce of 14 people at his plot outside the Zimbabwean capital Harare, has become his side job.

In fact, maggot farming, which



The maggots that are making animal feed more affordable in Zimbabwe come from the black soldier flies. These are being used in several countries in Africa. Photo: IITA

involves breeding and harvesting maggots for various purposes such as producing cheap, high-protein animal feed, composting, and waste management, has become a big hit in Zimbabwe.

Many Zimbabweans, like Munondo in the capital, Harare, who are involved in maggot farming, are using the maggots to feed their own home-grown chickens.

For Munondo, that has helped cut costs for the over 800 chickens he rears in his backyard.

It now costs just USD 3.50 for entrepreneurs like Munondo to fully breed one chicken using maggots, compared to USD 6.50 using soy-based feed.

Thanks to maggot farming, Munondo claimed he was raking in 70 to 80 dollars a day from selling maggots alone, which he said at the end of the month exceeded the total he earns from his teaching job.

An average school teacher in Zimbabwe earns about USD 200 every month after tax deductions and for many, like Munondo, maggot farming has

come in handy to supplement his meagre earnings from his government job.

With garbage going uncollected for long periods across Zimbabwe’s towns and cities, thanks to poor service delivery by council authorities, Munondo said some residents are buying maggots to destroy uncollected waste.

“The same maggots that are feeding my chickens are being used to get rid of uncollected waste.”

As maggot farming gains traction in Zimbabwe, even

young people like 23-year-old Jonathan Pamhare in Harare have found something to gain from the maggots.

“I don’t really do maggot farming, but I’m interested in them and I started a training company that offers agricultural training, and among the trainings is maggot farming,” Pamhare told IPS.

Well versed in all the procedures related to maggot farming, Pamhare also said, “It (maggot farming) is the most profitable business because your expense is mostly your time.”

As such, added Pamhare, they (the maggots) feed on just anything rotten that comes within their reach.

This, Pamhare said, is cheap, coming more often than not at zero cost, with the maggots maturing in a period of about two weeks.

From his training venture, Pamhare made his money, charging between USD 30 and 40 per head for all the trainees that he recruits.

In high-density areas of Harare like Sunningdale, five kilometers east of Harare, thanks to maggot farming trainers, several homes boast of rearing chickens for sale and feeding them using maggots.

Battling high prices for chicken feed has become a thing of the past, as many urban chicken farmers now switch to maggot to fatten their chickens.

But these are no ordinary maggots, according to many, like Munondo, who has made

a name for himself as a thriving maggot farmer

Maggots begin as what Munondo called black soldier flies—literally giant black flies—which, through metamorphosis, turn into maggots. Pig farmers have also embraced them and are now feeding their pigs the protein-rich maggots.

The black soldier flies, popularly known as BSF here, have a four-stage life cycle from egg to larvae to pupa to adult fly.

The BSF deposit their eggs near a food source and after about three to four days, the flies grow into larvae that feed on the waste prior to being harvested.

There are no latest official statistics about maggot farmers in Zimbabwe, but the Zimbabwe Organic and Natural Food Association has been on record in the media, claiming that of late the number of maggot farmers has been growing.

The reason, said Munondo, is that maggot farming is the easiest.

“Maggots don’t require much land, while they need neither chemicals nor lots of water in order to be reared. Just a small land piece, flies, and waste, which are the most crucial components, are all one requires in order to kickstart maggot farming,” said Munondo.

## World Environment Day: Ecosystem restoration can help safeguard Africa’s land and livelihoods

By Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

IN the face of a triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss and pollution, the world will come together on 5 June to mark World Environment Day. Hundreds of millions of people will engage in this milestone moment for environmental action.

Since 1973, World Environment Day led by the UN Environment Programme has helped to drive action on some of the planet’s most pressing environmental problems. This year, the Day will direct the world’s gaze to three perilous, though often-overlooked, challenges: land degradation, desertification and drought.

One-fifth of earth’s land is now degraded, lakes are shrivelling up, forests are disappearing, and farms are turning into dustbowls. This degradation affects the well-being of more than 3 billion people – and the problem is expected to get worse.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – which is proudly supporting World Environment Day – is helping to counter this crisis. Launched in 2021, the Decade is a global effort to prevent and reverse the damage caused by humanity to the natural world.

Three years in, countries have pledged to revive 1 billion hectares of land. That number is encouraging but it is just a start. We need to restore at least 1.5 billion hectares by 2030 if we are going to safeguard the web of life on Earth and avoid real consequences for ourselves, like food shortages.

Green jobs

Almost half of the area earmarked for ecosystem restoration is in Africa, where as much as 65 percent of productive land is degraded, and desertification affects 45 percent of the continent’s land area. This restoration work



Forest Gardens in Senegal: UNEP Ecosystem Restoration

has the potential to create millions of green jobs, and there is evidence of tremendous effort across the continent.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers across Africa living in poverty on degraded lands after decades of unsustainable agriculture practices, deforestation, pollution, and climate change are turning their dried-up monoculture plots into forest gardens through the African Farmers Restoring Food Systems. Led by Trees for the Future and using a ‘Forest Garden’ technique to plant fruit-producing trees that regenerate soil and enable it to grow fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other foods, the farmers have restored more than 41,000 hectares of a planned 229,000 hectares by 2030.

At a time when many deserts are expanding because of climate change, 22 countries in Africa’s Sahel region are fighting back by building a Great Green Wall of restored forests and lands to stretch more than 8,000 kilometres across the continent.

I hope this World Environment Day can be a turning point in our race to restoration. Now is the time to move from commitments to action to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation.

We are the first generation to fully understand the immense threats to the land; we might be the last one with a chance to

reverse the course of destruction. Our priority now must be on restoring ecosystems—on replanting our forests, on rewetting our marshes, on reviving our soils.

How 200,000+ farmers are restoring land – one hectare at a time

Restoring ecosystems

Restoration can create havens for wildlife, helping to foil the extinction crisis gripping our planet. It can counter climate change by reviving the ability of forests and rivers to store planet-warming carbon. It can create buffers around communities, protecting them from climate-related disasters, which are becoming more common by the year.

Restoration can also be a boon for economies: every dollar invested in reviving degraded lands brings up to 30 US dollars in economic returns. But for restoration to be successful, we need everyone onboard.

Governments, businesses, scientists, faith-based organizations, civil society, and individuals must join forces.

In 1992, the world came together in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to adopt three landmark conventions covering climate change, biodiversity and desertification. These accords should serve as our North Star on the road to restoration. But we cannot stop the climate crisis today, biodiversity loss tomorrow, and land degradation the day after.

The Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is expected to be the largest-ever UN conference on land degradation and drought. This is an important opportunity to galvanize global efforts to address these critical issues because time is running short.

We must tackle all these issues together – and acknowledge that healthy land is crucial for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, due in six short years. The good news is, we have the solutions, the means and, with the UN Restoration Decade, the platform to restore our lands to their former glory.

We have to manage land more sustainably so that we build resilience and address poverty. We must acknowledge the value of biodiversity in our economic systems and build sustainability into the heart of decision-making and countries must now deliver on restoration commitments made.

We need a global resolve to live up to our restoration commitments. This year’s World Environment Day is a golden opportunity to spur hundreds of millions of people to take action. We are the generation that can make peace with land. So let us undo the damage we have done; let us give this and the next generation a chance at a better future.



## BUSINESS



AfDB's Ousmane Fall (L) with Dr. Bienvenu Agbokponto Soglo, Intel's Director for Government Affairs Africa, in Nairobi. Photo courtesy of AfDB

## AfDB, Intel join forces to train Africans in AI

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and technology giant Intel have formalized their cooperation to transform the African digital ecosystem. The partnership aims to equip 3 million Africans and 30,000 government officials with AI skills.

Information obtained by this paper indicated that the partnership was sealed at the recent AfDB's Annual Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya.

It is said that the deal will help create a critical mass of Africans proficient in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) skills to accelerate growth and productivity and position Africans as contributors, not just consumers of 4IR.

The training will address socio-economic challenges and boost productivity in key growth sectors such as agriculture, health, and education, thereby disrupting traditional growth cycles.

Bienvenu Agbokponto Soglo, Director of Government Affairs Africa and IGA CTO Liaison at Intel stated, "Intel looks forward to furthering its collaboration with African governments to make advanced technologies such as AI accessible to all, breaking down barriers related to geography, gender, and ethnicity, and enabling widespread participation in the digital economy."

The partnership will also support African countries, regional economic communities, and continental organizations in developing harmonized policy and regulatory frameworks in AI, 5G, Wi-Fi 6E, data and cloud.

Ousmane Fall, AfDB's Acting Director of Industrial and Trade Development, underscored the importance of digital skills for Africa's youth.

"With advancements in digital technology, our world is rapidly evolving, and so is our youthful population, projected to reach 830 million by 2050. To

develop skills on a large scale and at the necessary speed, we need everyone's cooperation," he said.

Adding that: "The Bank is thrilled to collaborate with Intel to work towards this shared commitment. Together, we are shaping the digital future of Africa and empowering our youth."

Experts recommend this initiative, stating that Africa has the potential to cultivate a critical mass of individuals proficient in 4IR skills. With these skills, individuals will be better equipped to drive growth and productivity in their respective fields, creating a culture of innovation and technological advancement.

For the, empowering Africans with AI skills not only enhances their individual capabilities but also elevates the continent as a whole. A knowledgeable and skilled workforce in cutting-edge technologies can position Africa as a valuable contributor to the global tech industry, rather than just a consumer of technology.

Juma Mrisho, a local IT specialist, emphasized, "This shift in perspective will not only spur economic growth and development but also enhance Africa's presence on the international stage, opening up new opportunities for collaboration and innovation."

He added, "Ultimately, prioritizing education and training in AI is a strategic move that will bring far-reaching benefits to the continent. By investing in AI education, Africa can leverage the potential of its people to lead the way in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, driving progress, prosperity, and innovation for years to come."

The AfDB is Africa's premier development finance institution, comprising three distinct entities: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF), and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

# TRA: Authentic receipts crucial for transparency of business transactions

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

**T**ANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) urges business owners to comply with receipt issuance laws by providing authentic receipts when conducting transactions. This ensures transparency and accountability in their commercial activities.

Flavian Byabato, the Principal Tax Supervisor Officer of TRA in Tanga region, addressed journalists at the TCCIA 11th Tanga Trade Fair and Tourism Exhibition held at Usagara grounds.

He emphasized the significance of issuing authentic receipts under the law, stressing the importance of using the company's real name on Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD) during business transactions.

Byabato further encouraged emerging business owners to register their businesses with the Tanzania Revenue Authority at local offices.

It is said that authentic receipts play a pivotal role in fostering transparency within business transactions, serving as a cornerstone for accountability and financial integrity.

In fact, economists emphasize that the issuance of genuine receipts is not merely a regulatory requirement but a fundamental practice that bolsters trust between businesses and consumers. By providing authentic receipts, businesses not only adhere to legal obligations but also demonstrate their commitment to ethical conduct and financial transparency.

From an economist's perspective, the act of issuing authentic receipts is integral to the overall economic ecosystem as the documents serve as tangible evidence of financial transactions, aiding in the tracking of revenue streams and expenditure patterns.



Flavian Byabato, TRA Principal Tax Supervisor Tanga region, engages with visiting journalists at his pavilion during the 11th TCCIA Tanga Trade Fair. Photo: Cheji Bakari.

Such transparency not only enables businesses to maintain accurate financial records but also facilitates compliance with tax regulations and other statutory requirements, thereby contributing to a more robust and sustainable economic environment.

Moreover, economists assert that the practice of issuing authentic receipts enhances market efficiency by reducing instances of fraud, tax evasion, and other illicit activities. By promoting transparency in business dealings, authentic receipts help to level the playing field and create a fair marketplace where all participants operate on equal footing.

He said that it's important for entrepreneurs and business owners to see how potential to formalizing their businesses and companies for registering and obtain business licenses that will not only abstain them from any legal disturbances but also will helping them to implement their daily business activities softly.

This, in turn, fosters healthy competition, stimulates innovation, and ultimately leads to economic growth and prosperity.

On the other hand, Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) urged entrepreneurs to register their businesses and companies through the trade ministry's executive agency which would ensure easier access to tender applications issued by government institutions.

BRELA's Legal Officer Lupasyo Mwambiga shared this insight with journalists seeking clarity on the registration conditions and advantages of enrolling with the agency.

He said that it's impor-

tant for entrepreneurs and business owners to see how potential to formalizing their businesses and companies for registering and obtain business licenses that will not only abstain them from any legal disturbances but also will helping them to implement their daily business activities softly.

"There is often confusion between A and B business licenses issued by district and municipal councils and those issued by BRELA. These licenses vary, with national and international-level licenses solely available through BRELA, which holds the mandate for such offerings," he explained.

Adding that: "To prevent unnecessary disruptions and costs, I strongly recommend that individuals seek business license education at a BRELA office to gain clarity on the process. The main goal is to educate customers on the specific type of license that best suits their needs."

He further highlighted that Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs (SMEs) looking to register their small factories and industries, as well as large enterprises new to the sector, should visit their respective offices. Those in the Tanga region are encouraged to attend the trade fair exhibition to receive free education.

# Cloud hosting surely smarter investment for small businesses

By Vince Dawkins

TECHNOLOGY underpins every facet of business operation today, and cloud hosting has emerged as a pivotal asset for success.

This model allows businesses to store and manage data on remote servers accessed via the internet, a stark contrast to traditional on-premises servers.

Its significance has magnified across various sectors, notably in domains as critical as the upstream oil and gas industry, where real-time data processing and analysis are vital.

## Cloud hosting

For small businesses, the financial aspect of technology investments can be daunting. Cloud hosting minimizes the need for physical hardware, which not only reduces capital expenditure but also curtails ongoing costs related to maintenance and energy. The pay-as-you-go models prevalent in cloud services align perfectly with the variable budgets of smaller enterprises, ensuring they only pay for what they use.

One of the most significant benefits of cloud hosting is its scalability. Small businesses often experience fluctuations in demand, and cloud services can dynamically adjust the resources available to them. This flexibility supports growth without the burden of hefty upfront investments in IT infrastructure, which is particularly advantageous in project-driven fields like software

development for the oil and gas sector.

With cloud hosting, employees can access data and applications from anywhere, provided they have internet connectivity. This feature is invaluable for enabling remote work and efficient collaboration, especially relevant in industries requiring extensive on-site operations, such as exploring new oil fields.

Enhanced data storage solutions offered by cloud providers ensure robust data management. Businesses benefit from improved data retrieval capabilities and security measures, including advanced encryption and automated backups, safeguarding vital information against loss or theft.

The reliability of cloud hosting is another critical aspect, offering high uptime percentages that traditional servers struggle to match. For small businesses, this translates to continuous operations and minimal service interruptions, which is crucial for maintaining client trust and operational stability.

Cloud providers are also adept at adhering to industry-specific regulatory requirements, which is paramount for businesses involved in sensitive sectors like finance and healthcare. For small businesses in the oil and gas sector, adopting oil and gas SaaS (Software as a Service) solutions hosted on the cloud ensures compliance and security, reducing the risks associated with data breaches.

Last but certainly not least, cloud hosting empowers small businesses with access to



the latest technologies and tools. This access fosters innovation and quicker decision-making processes, essential for staying competitive in today's fast-paced market environments.

## Evaluate business needs and cloud options

Start by assessing your specific business needs, including data storage, application

hosting, and scalability requirements. Research different cloud service providers to compare their features, costs, and the types of services they offer, such as Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service. For those in specialized fields like the oil and gas industry, consider providers offering tailored solutions like oil and gas SaaS.

## Develop a migration strategy

Plan a detailed migration strategy that includes timelines, costs, and the logistics of moving your data and applications to the cloud. This might involve selecting which data and processes are moved first based on business criticality and impact on operations. Engage with IT specialists or consultants if necessary to ensure a smooth transition that minimizes downtime.

## Implement security and compliance measures

Work with your chosen cloud provider to implement robust security measures. Ensure that these measures comply with industry regulations, especially if your business operates in a highly regulated sector like healthcare or finance. Regularly review security protocols to adapt to evolving threats and maintain compliance with new regulations.

## Train your team and monitor performance

Provide training for your team to help them understand and efficiently use the cloud environment. This includes managing and securing data, as well as utilizing any specific cloud-based applications that are critical to your operations. Additionally, set up a system for monitoring the performance and availability of your cloud services to ensure they meet the needs of your business and provide the intended benefits.

By following these steps, small business CEOs can maximize the benefits of cloud hosting and ensure their technology investments align closely with their business objectives and growth plans.

## Takeaway

Ultimately, cloud hosting offers small businesses a myriad of benefits that facilitate operational efficiency, scalability, and security. For industries like upstream oil and gas, where the stakes are high and the data vast, cloud solutions offer a tactical advantage and are becoming a critical component of business strategy.

By investing in cloud hosting, small businesses position themselves at the forefront of industry innovation and secure a competitive edge in the global market.

Vince Dawkins (pictured), is a President and CEO of EnerTia Software, has worked with industry-leading organizations. He can be reached via LinkedIn



# AI & data compliance: How to draw the line

By Ivan Widjaya

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming industries by automating processes, improving decision-making, and unlocking new insights from data. However, the proliferation of AI technologies brings complex challenges in data compliance.

As organizations leverage AI to gain competitive advantages, they must navigate a landscape fraught with regulatory requirements and ethical considerations.

In this article, we explore the intricate relationship between AI and data compliance, and provide actionable strategies to maintain compliance while leveraging AI's full potential.

## The rise of AI and its implications

The adoption of AI is skyrocketing across various sectors. According to a study by McKinsey, AI adoption has more than doubled in the last five years, with businesses investing heavily in AI capabilities to enhance operational efficiency and innovation. This rapid growth underscores the need for stringent data compliance measures to prevent misuse and ensure ethical standards are upheld.

As AI continues to evolve, it is being integrated into critical areas such as healthcare, finance, and autonomous systems, where data sensitivity is paramount. The increased reliance on AI in these sectors highlights the urgency of establishing robust compliance frameworks to safeguard data integrity, protect consumer rights, and maintain public trust.

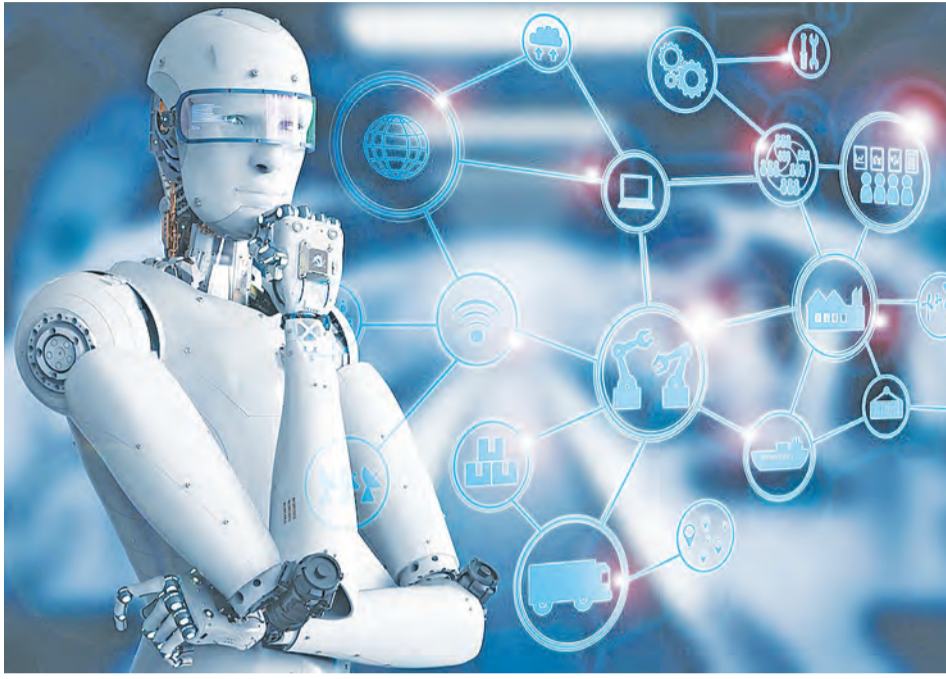
Failure to address these compliance challenges can result in significant legal, financial, and reputational repercussions, emphasizing the critical nature of balancing AI innovation with regulatory adherence.

## Data compliance 101

Data compliance refers to the process of adhering to regulations and standards that govern the collection, storage, and use of data.

Key regulations include the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). These regulations aim to protect individuals' privacy and ensure that data is handled responsibly.

Compliance with these regulations involves not only meeting legal requirements but also implementing best practices for



Where AI meets data security & compliance. File Photo

data security and privacy management. This includes conducting regular audits, maintaining detailed records of data processing activities, and ensuring that data is accessible only to authorized personnel. Additionally, organizations must be prepared to respond to data breaches swiftly and effectively, providing notifications and remedies as required by law.

Understanding and implementing these complex regulatory frameworks is essential for building consumer trust, avoiding substantial fines, and fostering a culture of accountability within the organization.

## Challenges in AI and data compliance

Navigating the intersection of AI and data compliance presents unique challenges that organizations must address to harness the full potential of AI while adhering to regulatory and ethical standards. These challenges are multifaceted and require a proactive and comprehensive approach to ensure that AI technologies are deployed responsibly and effectively.

## Data privacy and security

AI systems often require vast amounts of data to function effectively. Ensuring that this data is collected and used in compliance with privacy laws is a significant challenge. Breaches or misuse of data can lead to

severe penalties and loss of trust. Organizations must implement robust security measures and continuously monitor their data handling practices to mitigate these risks.

## Bias and fairness

AI algorithms can unintentionally perpetuate biases present in the training data. Ensuring that AI systems are fair and unbiased is critical to maintaining compliance with anti-discrimination laws and ethical standards. Regularly auditing AI systems for bias and incorporating diverse datasets can help reduce the risk of biased outcomes.

## Transparency and accountability

AI systems can be complex and opaque, making it difficult to understand how decisions are made. Transparency and accountability are essential to comply with regulations that require explainability and auditability of AI-driven decisions. Developing clear documentation and providing stakeholders with insights into AI decision-making processes can enhance transparency and trust.

## Strategies for ensuring AI and data compliance

To effectively navigate the complexities of AI and data compliance, organizations must adopt a multifaceted approach that integrates robust governance, proactive risk management, and continuous education.

Implementing these strategies can help mitigate compliance risks while maximizing the benefits of AI technologies.

Implement robust data governance frameworks

Establishing comprehensive data governance policies is crucial. This includes defining data ownership, implementing data access controls, and ensuring data quality. Regular audits and monitoring can help identify and mitigate compliance risks. Additionally, involving cross-functional teams in governance processes can ensure a holistic approach to data management.

## Adopt privacy by design principles

Integrating privacy considerations into the design and development of AI systems can help ensure compliance from the outset. Techniques such as data minimization, pseudonymization, and encryption can enhance data protection. Incorporating these principles early in the development process can prevent costly redesigns and compliance issues later on.

## Conduct regular risk assessments

Regularly assessing the risks associated with AI and data usage can help organizations stay ahead of potential compliance issues. Risk assessments should consider factors such as data sensitivity, processing activities, and the potential impact on individuals' rights. Utilizing automated tools for continuous risk monitoring can provide real-time insights and faster response times.

## Enhance transparency and explainability

Developing mechanisms to explain AI decision-making processes can enhance transparency and accountability. This may involve using interpretable models, providing clear documentation, and enabling human oversight of AI decisions. Establishing a transparent communication strategy with stakeholders can further build trust and demonstrate a commitment to ethical AI practices.

## Train and educate employees

Ensuring that employees understand the importance of data compliance and are trained in best practices is essential. Regular training sessions and updates on regulatory changes can help maintain a culture of compliance. Offering specialized training programs for different roles within the organization can tailor the learning experience and enhance overall effectiveness.

Collaborate with legal and compliance ex-

perts

Working closely with legal and compliance teams can help navigate the complex regulatory landscape. These experts can provide valuable insights and guidance on maintaining compliance while leveraging AI technologies. Establishing ongoing collaboration can ensure that compliance strategies evolve in line with regulatory updates and emerging trends in AI.

## AI small business adoption

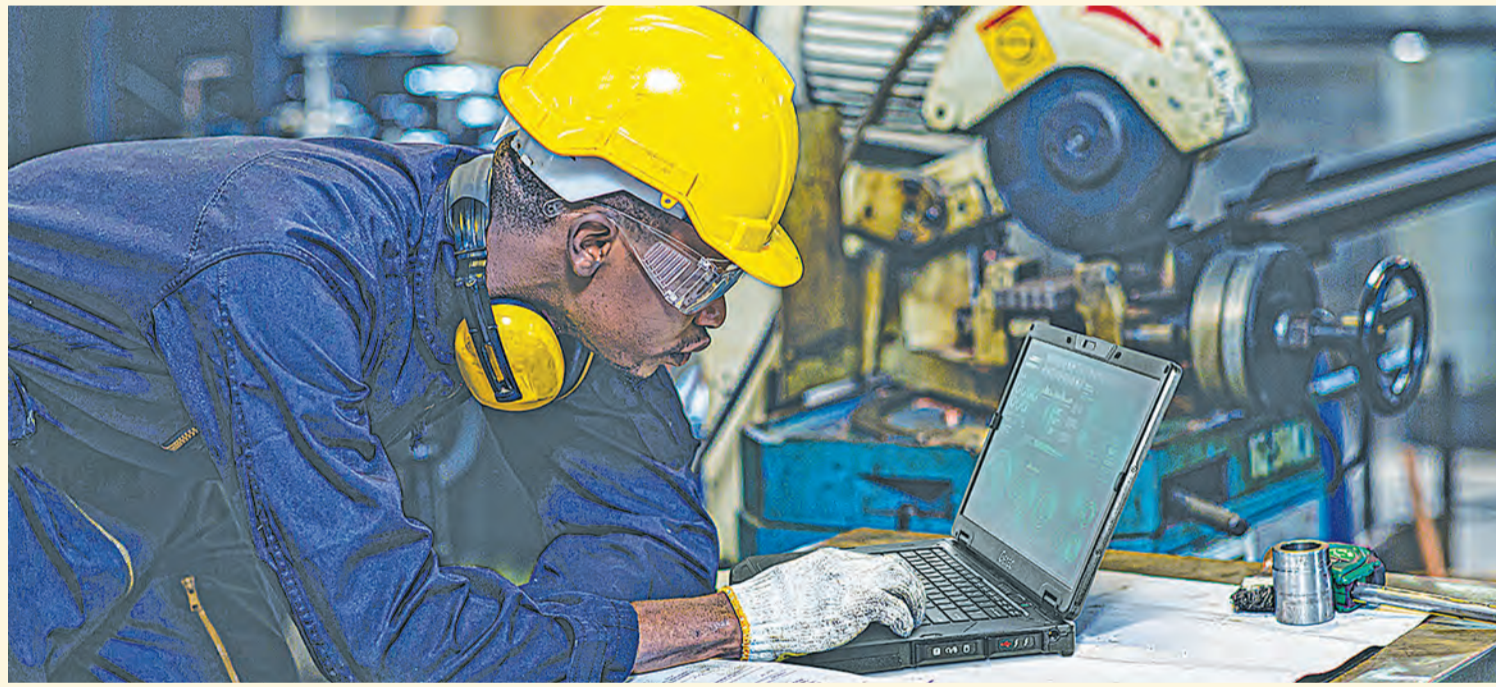
The regulatory environment surrounding AI and data compliance is evolving rapidly. Emerging trends such as AI-specific regulations, increased focus on ethical AI, and advancements in privacy-enhancing technologies are likely to shape the future of AI and data compliance. Organizations must stay informed about these developments and be proactive in adapting their compliance strategies. One significant trend is the increasing demand for AI explainability and accountability, driven by both regulatory bodies and public expectation. This involves not only technical transparency but also clear communication about how AI systems are used and their impacts. Additionally, as global data protection regulations become more stringent, organizations will need to harmonize compliance efforts across different jurisdictions.

Leveraging AI itself to monitor and ensure compliance can also become a vital strategy, using AI tools to detect anomalies, enforce policies, and provide real-time compliance reporting. Staying ahead of these trends will be crucial for organizations to maintain regulatory compliance, foster consumer trust, and drive sustainable AI innovation.

Drawing the line between AI innovation and data compliance is a delicate balancing act. By implementing robust data governance frameworks, adopting privacy by design principles, conducting regular risk assessments, enhancing transparency, and collaborating with experts, organizations can navigate this complex landscape effectively.

As AI continues to evolve, maintaining a strong commitment to data compliance will be crucial in harnessing its potential while safeguarding individuals' rights and maintaining public trust.

**Ivan Widjaya is a web publisher, content creator and marketer. He can be reached via LinkedIn.**



Getac's AI-ready rugged laptop. Photo courtesy of Getac

# AI-adapted laptop tailored for professionals launched

By  
Correspondent

Guardian

GETAC, a technological firm, has unveiled the world's very first AI-ready rugged laptop, specifically designed for professionals in the utilities, public safety, manufacturing, and automotive sectors.

Information obtained by this journalist indicates that the laptop's unique blend of robust performance and dependable durability provides a platform that instills confidence in utilizing AI-driven applications.

Aligned with the sustain-

able design ethos, it has been reported that a portion of the laptop's chassis is constructed from post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials, showcasing an eco-conscious approach.

The cutting-edge AI-ready S510 rugged laptop empowers organizations operating in various sectors, including utilities, public safety, manufacturing, and automotive, to harness the potential of edge AI as a part of their daily operations.

This AI-ready device, tailored to optimize productivity, merges advanced functionalities with resist-

ance to drops and vibrations, ensuring users have the assurance they need to carry out their tasks with confidence.

Within these industries, professionals such as those in public safety can enhance the clarity of recordings by reducing ambient background noise during interviews and witness statements, thereby improving accuracy. Automotive maintenance experts can expedite the diagnostics process using real-time algorithms.

Simultaneously, utility professionals can leverage AI-based applications to

swiftly analyze field data and promptly identify critical infrastructure issues before they escalate into costly instances of unplanned downtime.

Grace Wang, Vice President of Sales and Marketing and General Manager of Intel Taiwan, highlighted, "AI PCs usher in a new era of personal computing machines equipped with specialized AI acceleration capabilities integrated throughout the Central Processing Unit (CPU), Graphics Processing Unit (GPU), and Neural Processing Unit (NPU)." James Hwang, President

of Getac Technology Corporation, expressed, "We are only just beginning to tap into the vast potential of AI-driven applications and the substantial advantages they can deliver to organizations operating across diverse industries."

He further added, "The new S510 combines future-proof performance with rugged durability in a compact and lightweight design, enabling users to seamlessly implement cutting-edge AI-based advances with absolute confidence."

Experts believe that the introduction of the laptop heralds a groundbreaking era of innovation for professionals, providing a reliable tool to harness the power of artificial intelligence seamlessly within their respective fields.

They see this pioneering technology representing a significant step towards enhanced productivity, efficiency, and overall performance across industries worldwide.

# TMX transformation: Farmers move 3.8 million kg of sesame

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakanya

FARMERS in the Ruvuma region have successfully marketed a substantial quantity of sesame, amounting to a total of 3,836,889 kilograms, an achievement made possible through the utilization of warehouse receipts facilitated by the innovative TMX system.

Impressively, the sesame was sold at an average price of 3,652/- per kilogram, showcasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the TMX system in streamlining agricultural transactions and ensuring fair pricing for farmers in the region.

During a brief one-day working visit to Songea district by Deputy Minister of Information, Communications, and Information Technology, Engineer Maryprisca Mahundi, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Colonel Ahmed Abbas Ahmed, emphasized this point.

He commended the Ministry responsible for technology for facilitating the use of the system in selling crops through warehouse receipts as farmers successfully auctioned their sesame in Namtumbo, Songea, and Tunduru districts.

Nevertheless, he mentioned that farmers in the Ruvuma region anticipate harvesting 1,882,473 million tons of corn this season, with the production largely attributed to the availability of subsidized fertilizers.

"Our region currently holds the fourth position in the national economy, largely due to the agricultural endeavors of our citizens. However, the investments in coal play a significant role in driving economic growth in our region," emphasized Colonel Abbas.

The RC highlighted additional achievements in the social services sector. In the education domain, the Region successfully enrolled all students entering the first grade at the same time.

Colonel Abbas mentioned significant advancements in the health sector, citing the Region's acquisition of a modern CT-Scan machine. This technology has streamlined patient treatment, and the medical system has transitioned to a digital platform.

In the realm of electricity, Colonel Abbas highlighted remarkable progress, noting that 541 out of 554 villages are now connected to electricity, representing an impressive 97.7 percent coverage rate.

Discussing the communication sector, he noted that a vast portion of Ruvuma Region now enjoys telephone connectivity, with only a few remote areas still lacking communication infrastructure.

TTCL Regional Manager for Ruvuma, Zabron Magabula, revealed government's plan to construct eight communication towers in Ruvuma Region, saying the towers will be linked to the national fiber optic, enhancing internet and voice communication services in the region.

Magabula further revealed that within 50 days, the government will erect two communication towers in Maposeni and Mdunduwaro villages in Songea district. This initiative, costing approximately 600m/- aims to enhance communication infrastructure in the area.

For her part, Eng. Mahundi, emphasized government's commitment to delivering reliable communication services to the populace. She stressed the importance of fostering a digital economy within the country.

She highlighted the government's efforts to position Ruvuma Region as a pioneer in digital technology. Notably, Mahundi personally inspected two areas of Maposeni and Mdunduwaro, where the government allocated funds for the construction of two communication towers linked to the national fiber optic network.



# Experts react to Museveni's stance on Uganda's economy

Kampala

President Yoweri Museveni rose to the podium during the state of the nation address at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds to hail Ugandans for reaching the lower floor of middle-income status.

"Uganda has just entered the middle-income status, we are currently on the lower ground. There are, however, still some trade barriers in the East African Community and these are hindering our development. I urge the community to remove these bottlenecks so as to have one common [African] market. And with this, we can be able to convince other countries to work with us as a continent" Museveni said

However, in an interview, Francis Muhiire, a lecturer of Economics at MUBS told us that this is not the first time after in 2022, Uganda entering middle income status.

In 2020, Uganda's GDP was \$33.8 billion USD and grew to USD 40.51 in 2021.

In 2022, the GDP grew to 45.57 billion USD in the 2023, state of the nation address, the President highlighted that in 23/24 Uganda's GDP was projected to grow up to US\$207.22 trillion about 55.17 billion USD.

Whereas these figures sound impressive, to some Ugandans the reality is different.

Sarah Kagingo the Vice Chairperson of Private Sector Foundation Uganda said



President Museveni speaks to traders on Tuesday. File Photo

that the GDP keeps souring but slow growth being registered across the various sectors, a case in point the manufacturing sector.

"We recently carried out a survey together with MasterCard and discovered that manufacturing plants, these factories are operating at 54 percent that is redundant capacity of 46 percent the report also highlighted that the reason for this low capacity is ineffective demand for Ugandan made products, why because they are produced

at high costs that makes their final price high and an affordable," Kagingo said.

Museveni said Uganda produces a number of goods in surplus and many don't have market.

To the president, trade barriers in the East African Community are hindering development of the Ugandan economy and Africa as a whole and something must be done

"The other day in my speech while in Nai-

robi, I was able to castigate the African tendency to export unprocessed minerals. Here [Uganda] I have banned it, if a mineral is not processed, it is not exported and it should apply to all other raw materials."

The souring debt burden, that eats into the domestic revenues collected is yet another economic concern.

As at end December 2023, the stock of Public debt stood at USD 24.60 billion about USh 93.38 Trillion shillings. Of this, with external debt accounted for USD 14.64 Billion about sh55.37 trillion while domestic public debt was USD 9.96 Billion approximately USh 38.01 trillion.

On the issue of traders that were on rampage, closing shops over taxation, high interest rates among others the president said that the financial support is for only large-scale manufacturers who create jobs and save Uganda from begging 'Okushaka'

"We don't give loans to importers of perfumes, and dead people's clothes (second hand). I was having a big discussion with them here. I can't give soft money to somebody to import dead people's clothes and import perfume, whiskey. No. The Uganda Development Bank money is for manufacturing, agriculture and for some of the services. If you want to import perfumes, go to the commercial banks."

Agencies

# Kenya to use part of WB \$1.2bn loan to offset eurobond

Nairobi

The government will use part of US\$ 1.2 billion Development Policy Operations (DPO) loan approved by the World Bank Board last week to settle the remaining part of the Eurobond falling due on 24th June 2024.

In February, the government said it would buy back more than US\$ 1.4 billion of its US\$ 2 billion Eurobond maturing in June via a tender offer launched that month for a new bond.

It means that, by the end of this month, the government will have to pay about US\$ 500 million to clear the Eurobond.

Last week, World Bank said it expected the Kenyan government to use part of the new US\$ 1.2 billion DPO to foster more competitive and inclusive product and labor markets, and strengthen climate action, among other long-term measures.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) Governor Kamau Thugge said using part of the money to settle remaining part of the Eurobond will not have effect on the Kenya Shilling, which has recently displayed strong performance against major world currencies.

"Our exchange rate is determined by the market forces, recently inflows from foreign exchange has been higher than the demand, so we expect going forward a fairly stable exchange rate. We don't see significant weakening or strengthening, there should be stability in the exchange rate," he said.

Agencies

# Rwanda, AfDB in talks to extend Pan-African youth bank to Kigali

Kigali

IF conversations between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Rwanda go as planned, Rwanda will be among countries to host one among the many proposed youth entrepreneurship investment banks.

This was recently confirmed by the President of the AfDB, Akinwumi Adesina, during the closing press conference of AfDB's Annual Meetings in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

AfDB board of directors has already approved a \$16 million youth investment bank in Liberia and \$12 million for Ethiopia, and a few more in the pipeline.

"I was talking to President Paul Kagame about one for Rwanda, as you know he is very pro-entrepreneurship for young people, and it's going to be coming up," Adesina told the presser.

A youth investment bank would typically extend financing towards young people who are creating innovations and businesses with potential to generate jobs across the continent and potential for wealthcreation.

According to AfDB, the initiative to establish youth entrepreneurship investment banks is intended to provide both debt and equity financing for businesses of young people in African countries.

Adesina lamented that current systems of commercial banks and other financial institutions are not accommodating for young people, noting it is completely pointless to ask for a land title as collateral from a 21-year-old youth seeking financing.

"When young people go to the bank, they only see risks in them but not innovation, creativity and capacity to create wealth. We believe that young people are not risks but we need to put our resources at risk on their behalf because if we don't, that will be the biggest risk Africa has," he said.

President Paul Kagame has been a strong advocate of increased investment in young people.

At the 7th Edition of the Future Investment Initiative in 2023, he emphasised that investing in Africa's youth and in the right way would quickly stimulate development on the continent.

Data from the Ministry of Public Service and Labour indicate that the number of jobs created in Rwanda increased from 146,000 in 2014 to 235,332 in 2023, implying a 61 per cent rise within the last decade.

However, AfDB noted that while 10 to 12 million young people enter Africa's labour markets each year, only three million formal sector jobs are being created as Africa's private sector has remained small and not industrialised enough to keep up with the labour market demand for decent jobs.

With the youth investment bank, the development bank aims to finance youth entrepreneurship and innovation with a focus on emerging economic sectors, such as the creative industries, and climate-smart, digital and artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled businesses.

Agencies



## ITV PGM SCHEDULE

<b>SATURDAY 9 June</b>	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:00	HABARI
8:00	Aj Jazeera
9:00	Wato 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
13:30	Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45	Igizo: Muzengwe
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
17:00	Shansham za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale
19:10	ITV Top 10 rpt
19:30	Jungu kuu
19:40	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari
21:05	Shika Bamba
21:35	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:55	Min Jackpot
22:15	Art and Lifestyle
22:45	ITV Top 10
23:10	Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>SUNDAY 9 June</b>	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>MONDAY 10 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>TUESDAY 11 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>WEDNESDAY 12 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>THURSDAY 13 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 14 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>SATURDAY 15 June</b>	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>SUNDAY 16 June</b>	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera

9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30	Soap: Laws of love rpt
9:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Wato wetu
10:55	Habari za saa
11:50	ITV Top Ten rpt
11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Aj Jazeera
12:30	Jungu Kuu
12:55	Habari za saa
13:00	Mjuzi Zaidi
13:40	Art and Lifestyle
13:55	Habari za saa
14:00	Art and Lifestyle
14:20	Soap rpt: Haikufuma
14:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru
16:30	Wato Wetu
17:00	Music: The Base
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
18:30	DW: Afmaxx
19:10	Alya ya jami
19:30	Soap: Laws of love
20:00	Habari
21:05	Dakika 45
22:00	Kipindi maalum: NHF
22:15	Bundesliga na DW
22:30	Soap: Uzalo
23:00	Jiji Ietu
23:30	Music: The Base
00:30	Aj Jazeera
02:00	DWTV
<b>TUESDAY 11 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kikisto
18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:15	Mapishi
19:30	Makuliko ya wiki
20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>WEDNESDAY 12 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
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20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>THURSDAY 13 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
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20:00	Habari
21:05	Igizo: Muzengwe
21:30	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:40	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Aj Jazeera
<b>FRIDAY 14 June</b>	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michozo
8:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Wato Wetu
10:00	Soap rpt: Laws of love
11:45	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45	Mjuzi zaidi
13:20	Ukufifi wako
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo
14:30	Mwanga
16:30	ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20	Kipindi cha kik



## WORLD

## Netanyahu to address US Congress on July 24

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he will "present the truth" about the conflict with Hamas in Gaza when he addresses the US Congress on July 24 during a visit to Washington, Republican leaders said on Thursday.

Netanyahu (pictured) will speak at a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Senate, House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said in a statement.

Netanyahu's visit comes amid tensions between him and US President Joe Biden, who has supported Israel's campaign in Gaza but has recently been more critical of its tactics and withheld

shipment of some bombs.

It was not immediately clear if Netanyahu would meet with Biden during his US visit.

Biden's support for Israel has emerged as a political liability for the president in the run-up to November's elections, with some Democrats and voters furious over the thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza.

Republicans have also criticized Biden for his position on the conflict, saying he is not doing enough to help Israel.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a separate statement that he had joined in making the invitation to Netanyahu.



"I have clear and profound disagreements with the prime minister, which I have voiced both privately and publicly and will continue to do so," Schumer said. "But because America's relationship with Israel is ironclad and transcends one person or prime minister I joined the request for him to speak."

Hamas attacked Israeli territory last Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people

and capturing more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. About half the hostages were freed in the November truce.

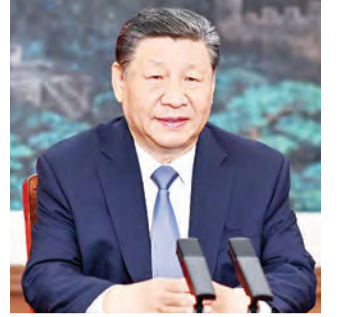
Israel in response launched a military assault on Gaza that has since killed more than 36,000 people, according to health officials in the territory, who say thousands more dead are feared buried under the rubble.

Agencies

## Heads of state of China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan congratulate signing of intergovernmental agreement on railway project

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Thursday congratulated via video link the signing of an intergovernmental agreement in Beijing on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project.



Xi (pictured) pointed out that the railway is a strategic project of connectivity between China and the Central Asia and a landmark project of the three countries' cooperation efforts under the Belt and Road Initiative.

He said the signing of the intergovernmental agreement will provide a solid legal basis for the construction of the project, marking the transition of the railway from a vision into a reality, and demonstrating to the world the firm determination of the three countries to promote cooperation and seek development together.

China is ready to work with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to prepare for the launch of the project and build this strategic corridor at an early date to benefit the three countries and their peoples and boost the economic and social development of the region, Xi said.

Japarov said the railway is a flagship project of the three countries in jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative. Once completed, it will become a new transport route linking Asia to Europe and the Persian Gulf countries, which is of great significance to promoting connectivity and strengthening economic and trade exchanges among the countries along the route and in the region as a whole, he said.

It is hoped that the railway will be completed and put into operation at an early date to provide new impetus for the common development of the region and the well-being of people in all countries, Japarov added.

Mirziyoyev said the signing ceremony is of historic significance and a substantial step forward in building regional connectivity.

He said the railway will become the shortest land channel between China and the Central Asian countries, and open up the big markets of the South Asian and Middle East countries.

This will help further expand cooperation with China and deepen friendly relations between countries in the region, and serve the long-term interests of all countries, Mirziyoyev added.

Xinhua

## South Africa's ANC will seek to form government of national unity

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's African National Congress will invite other political parties to form a national unity government, its leader President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Thursday, after it lost its majority for the first time in the democratic era.

The former liberation movement once led by Nelson Mandela has run South Africa since it swept to power in a 1994 election that marked the end of white minority rule. But it was punished for its chequered record in last week's vote.

After a day-long meeting of the party's National Executive Committee in Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said the ANC had decided that a broad collaboration with other political forces was "the best option to move our country forward."

"Political parties should come together to forge a common future for our country," he told a news briefing. "We must act with speed to safeguard national unity, peace, stability, inclusive economic growth, non-racialism and non-sexism."

Despite its worst ever showing in the May 29 vote, the ANC remains the country's largest party and will control 159 of the 400 seats in the new National Assembly.

The election outcome has created a complex situation for Ramaphosa and his party.

The ANC's nearest rivals are the pro-business, white-led Democratic Alliance (DA), with 87 seats; the populist uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) led by former President Jacob Zuma, with 58; and the hard-left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) with 39.

"We will not preclude the possibility of working with any party so long as it is in the public interest," Ramaphosa said.

He added that the ANC had already held constructive discussions with the EFF, DA, the smaller Inkatha Freedom Party, National Freedom Party and Patriotic Alliance.

MK confirmed in a statement on Thursday that it had been in contact with the ANC and a meeting was expected soon.

Africa's most developed economy has been in decline for the past decade, with sluggish growth, high levels of poverty and unemployment, crumbling infrastructure and political corruption.

"The purpose of a government of national unity must be first and foremost to tackle the pressing issues that South



Deputy Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC) Nomvula Mokonyane (L), ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula (2nd L), ANC National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe (center-left), ANC President and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (center-right), ANC Deputy President and South African Deputy President Paul Mashatile (2nd-R) and ANC Treasurer Gwen Ramokgopa (R) react during the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting at Birchwood Hotel in Borksburg, east of Johannesburg on Thursday. (AFP)

Africans want to be addressed," Ramaphosa said.

The new parliament has to convene within two weeks of Sunday's results declaration and one of its first acts must be to elect the president.

The constitutional deadline, which will fall on or near June 16, is putting pressure on the ANC and others to reach an agreement quickly.

## ANC's difficult search for partners

The DA, for its part, signaled on Wednesday it did not want to join a government that also included MK or the EFF.

Any deal with the DA would be welcomed by financial markets but unpopular with many ANC supporters who regard it as the party of South Africa's wealthy white minority.

A group of anti-DA protesters stood outside the hotel where the NEC meeting was taking place, holding placards reading "The DA wants to destroy the ANC" and "Not in our names".

On the other hand, a deal with the EFF or MK, which advocate nationalizing mines and seizing land without com-

ensation, would be more popular with some in the ANC base but risks tanking the economy, analysts say.

Both the EFF and MK are led by former ANC figures who are at odds with the current leadership. Zuma in particular openly loathes Ramaphosa, and his party said after the election that it would not work with "the ANC of Ramaphosa".

The ANC said on Wednesday it would not talk to anyone who demanded Ramaphosa's resignation as a condition of joining an alliance.

Zuma was forced to quit as president in 2018 after a series of corruption scandals. He was jailed for contempt of court after refusing to participate in an inquiry into corruption, a decision that barred him from running for parliament.

He remains well-liked in his home province, populous KwaZulu-Natal, where extra police have been deployed this week to maintain public order.

The province was the scene of deadly riots in 2021 when Zuma was sentenced.

Agencies

## NDA synonymous with good governance, says PM Modi after being elected leader by alliance

NEW DELHI

AFTER all alliance partners unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Narendra Modi, the leader of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, the Prime Minister said the NDA government will provide good governance and thanked people for giving him the opportunity to serve them again.

Modi was today formally elected as the leader of the BJP, leader of NDA Parliamentary Party and leader of the Lok Sabha. Leaders of the NDA allies garlanded Narendra Modi.

Addressing the meeting of newly elected MPs of the alliance on Friday in Parliament, Prime Minister said, "The NDA government has given good gover-

nance to the country and in a way, just saying NDA becomes synonymous with good governance. Poor welfare and good governance have been paramount in the focus of all of us."

He also vowed to continue his efforts towards consensus as he called the NDA the most successful alliance.

"I assure the people of the country

that the majority they gave us to run the government, it will be our effort that we will strive towards consensus and leave no stone unturned towards taking the country forward...NDA has completed around thrir decades, it is no ordinary thing...I can say that this is the most successful alliance," the prime minister said.

ANI

## BRICS contribution to global growth, governance lauded at international forum in Russia

ST PETERSBURG

BRICS countries have made significant achievements in promoting global economic growth, improving global governance, and enhancing multilateral cooperation, participants at the BRICS Expert Forum said here Thursday.

Lyu Yansong, editor-in-chief of Xinhua News Agency, said that as the world is undergoing unprecedented changes, BRICS countries have been strengthening cooperation in various fields, promoting high-quality partnerships, and jointly exploring paths to modernization.

Lyu, also deputy director

of the Academic Committee of New China Research, noted that these efforts are crucial for humanity to collectively address challenges and create a brighter future.

As China's state news agency and a high-end think tank in the form of a media outlet, Xinhua is committed to in-depth research on the successful practices of the BRICS cooperation mechanism, deeply interpreting its contemporary value and global significance, Lyu said.

He added that the agency is willing to further strengthen research and promotion of the BRICS cooperation mechanism with its partners.

Alexander Zhukov, first

deputy chairman of the Russian State Duma, said BRICS countries respect sovereign equality and the right to choose development paths independently.

They take into account mutual interests, adhere to principles of openness and consensus, and strive to establish a multipolar world order and a fair global financial and trade system, collectively addressing the most pressing issues of the day.

The mechanism has become a model for inter-state cooperation, he noted, adding that Russia, as the rotating chair of BRICS this year, will host a series of events focusing on topics including

politics, security, economy, finance, and education and culture.

Philani Mthembu, executive director at the Institute for Global Dialogue based in South Africa, said that BRICS countries advocate and practice genuine multilateralism and are dedicated to promoting multipolarity and democratizing international relations.

BRICS aims to build a more just and reasonable international order, continuously contributing to global peace, stability, and prosperity, he added.

Jose Pio Borges de Castro Filho, chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Brazil-

ian Center for International Relations, said that BRICS is a crucial force in shaping a new world order, as the mechanism showcases its flexibility and inclusiveness, respecting the cultural, economic, and religious differences of its members while fostering mutually beneficial cooperation.

He emphasized the need for member states to strengthen cooperation in reducing carbon emissions, poverty alleviation, energy transition, and digital transformation.

Dmitry Kiselev, general director of Rossiya Segodnya media group, said that new development centers are

emerging in today's world, with BRICS being one of the most important forces.

Under the BRICS framework, cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, and other fields has progressed smoothly, effectively safeguarding the common interests of emerging and developing countries, Kiselev noted.

The BRICS Expert Forum was held within the framework of the 2024 St Petersburg International Economic Forum, and co-hosted by Xinhua News Agency and Rossiya Segodnya.

Government officials from BRICS countries, heads of major international media,

and scholars attended the forum.

Xinhua



**Under the BRICS framework, cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, and other fields has progressed smoothly, effectively safeguarding the common interests of emerging**



# The concept of a community with a Shared Future for Mankind: A Chinese concept

By Amb. Omar Mjenga

LAST year March 2023 marked 10 years since China first introduced the concept of "a community with a shared future for mankind". The vision's primary goal of this concept is to provide space for an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared joy and prosperity.

China has adhered to the path of peaceful development, which not only enables it to make great strides toward modernization, but also injects strong positive energy into world peace and development. This is the purpose and principle of the Charter of the United Nations as stipulated in article one.

In this article, it clearly states that, member states must see this global entity as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends. I must categorically state that, China as a sole legal member state of the United Nations has shown way of implementing the charter through the introduction of the concept of a community with shared future for mankind. It is the pathway also for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This can be attested by the role played by China during liberation struggle in Africa. It is anchored on its pathway of promoting global governance that features. President Xi believes that China has been implementing this vision through concrete actions, like providing material assistance overseas during the epidemic, sending rescue teams to Turkey and Syria during the earthquake, and promoting hybrid rice technology to alleviate food insecurity problems in African countries.

The world has become a single global village, linked in many ways. We're indivisible. Instead of fighting each other, let's work together to make the world a better place for all of us to live.

Facing profound changes in the world, in our times, and in history, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a major call of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and he called on the international community to jointly build a world with lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity, a world that is safe for everyone to live.

In a dynamic world, many developments do happen in a grip of sunlight. Today, the world remains a place fraught with changes and turbulence. The Ukraine crisis and the latest round of Palestine-Israeli conflicts showed no sign of abating. Tensions were



gathering again on the Red Sea and beyond. New flash points, obstructions and difficulties come out one after another. We human beings are confronted with unprecedented challenges. As Chinese President Xi Jinping put it: united or divided, peace or conflict, cooperation or confrontation – these are again questions of our times. President Xi's answer is loud and clear: people's wish for a happy life is our goal, and peace, development and win-win cooperation are unstoppable trends of our times. Therefore, any peace loving nation must either adhere to this call or support it without any condition.

It is the reason indeed, during the Second Session of the 14th National People's Congress (China's parliament), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized that more and more countries and peoples have come to realize that the future of humanity should be decided by all countries together, and that the future of the world should be built by all peoples together. I fully ascribe to this preposition; no country can solve the world challenges alone. We saw during Covid-19 how the world came together as one to fight the pandemic in a unified front.

The tragic consequences of division, conflicts and confrontations have never been clear to people all over the world. Unity, peace, and cooperation are the right path for mankind to meet challenges and work together towards a shared future. Therefore, now is high time to build a community with a shared future for mankind. In a world of major changes, China always believes that the overall direction will not change for human development and progress, the overall dynamics of world history will not change moving forward amid twists and turns, and the overall trend toward a shared future will not change for the international community.

In December 2023, the Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs was held in Beijing, at which a Chinese blueprint was put forward to answer the questions of what kind of world to build and how to build it in a changing international environment.

The plan further emphasized that China will work with all

countries to build a community with a shared future for mankind. Already, even before the inception of this concept, China had already laid a very strong foundation of cooperation with African countries through the Forum on China Africa Cooperation-FOCAC. Today, many countries have opted the Chinese way of cooperation, particularly with the African continent. As I write this article, already African Heads of States are meeting in Seoul for Korea-African Leaders Summit.

An equal and orderly multipolar world is one in which all countries, regardless of size, or economy are treated as equals. China always adheres to fairness and justice, advocates and practices true multilateralism, and advances democracy in international relations. China upholds that all countries should jointly safeguard the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, jointly defend the universally recognized basic norms of international relations, and jointly participate in the reform of the global governance system.

China has proposed the "Three Global Initiatives" as well as "Belt and Road" initiative, and has engaged constructively in resolving hot spots such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukrainian crisis. These are Chinese solutions and Chinese wisdom to build an equal and orderly multipolar world. And this should be a world resolve to join China in implementing this vision. Already, in Africa, this is well implemented through the Forum on China and African Cooperation-FOCAC.

A universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization categorically rejects all forms of unilateralism and protectionism, and any attempt to roll back globalization. Such globalization needs to continuously promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, focus on solving structural problems that hinder the sound development of the world economy, and help maintain stable and unfettered global production and supply chains.

China champions for an open, inclusive, balanced, and win-win economic globalization with Chinese modernization, continues to increase investment in global development cooperation, and helps developing countries improve their independent development capabilities through

high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation.

We developing countries work together to make the pie of the global economy bigger and share it in a fair way, so as to make development both adequate and balanced, and help people of all countries embark on the road of modernization. Globalization with a human face is required.

China and Africa are good friends, good partners and good brothers. Mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual support on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns are outstanding features and highlights of the traditional friendly relations between our two parts. It is no doubt that Africa firmly supports the "One China" principle.

China always stands for safeguarding the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and China supports the efforts of the African Union to safeguard continental unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. China continues to provide Africa with comprehensive political, economic, security, humanitarian, education and training support.

China will continue to support Africa's quest for peace, development, and prosperity, translating the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind into practical and productive efforts on the ground to enhance Sino-Africa friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation.

As a member of the Global South, China always shares weal and woe with other developing countries and serves as a staunch force for stability in a turbulent world. China will forever stand on the side of fairness and justice and stand by developing countries, particularly small and medium-sized countries.

China advocates an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. And China will work with all nations to help build a community with a shared future for mankind, making fresh contribution to human development and progress; hence the concept on "a community with a shared future for mankind" is highly applicable in Africa and the world at large.

**Amb. Omar Mjenga is the president and CEO of CIP**

## UK's Labour to include pledge on recognising Palestinian state in election manifesto

LONDON

BRITAIN'S opposition Labour Party is expected to include a pledge to recognize a Palestinian state at an appropriate time in peace talks in its election manifesto, the Guardian newspaper reported, citing people with knowledge of the document.

The manifesto, which sets out the party's policies ahead of the vote on July 4, will also pledge to ensure that recognizing a Palestinian state is not vetoed by a "neighboring country", the newspaper reported.

Labour leader Keir Starmer (pictured) said last month that he wanted to recognize a Palestinian state if he won power, but that such a move would need to come at the right time in a peace



process.

Foreign Secretary David Cameron, a Conservative, said in January that Britain could formally recognize a Palestinian state if Palestinians had shown "irreversible progress" towards a two state solution, according to reports at the time.

Labour's pledge appears to be similar in substance, but including it in the manifesto could help to appease some voters who have been critical of the party's stance on the Gaza conflict.

The manifesto will be finalized in a meeting with unions on Friday and will be presented next Thursday, the report said. Labour did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

Spain, Ireland and Norway last month officially recognized a Palestinian state, seeking to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel Hamas conflict. Slovenia also formally recognized Palestinian statehood on Tuesday. **Agencies**



Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

## Russia vows immediate countermeasures should West take its assets – MFA

ST. PETERSBURG

MOSCOW will not wait to retaliate to the confiscation of its assets in the West, with a slew of political and economic countermeasures in its holster, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

"They are planning to pledge Russia's virtual reserves without preliminary permission, with future revenues from them not only to be immediately pocketed by the West but also spent on some other military ventures aimed against Russia.

We will naturally respond appropriately to such steps, as we have always done. We have a range of political, economic countermeasures against those attempting to get hold of Russian reserves," she said. "One should think long and hard before deciding to go ahead with this as countermeasures will follow," the diplomat added.

In May, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on compensation for

damage caused to Russia and its Central Bank due to the US' unfriendly actions, Zakharova noted. "A similar mechanism may be applied to other countries as well, including in Europe.

There is much more of their property and funds in Russia than America's. Moreover, the US and the EU have already proven that they can no longer be regarded as reliable jurisdictions for foreign investors, whose investment can at any time be confiscated or stolen," she said, adding that "those actions have no legal basis behind them, being simply outright theft."

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) is being held on June 5-8. This year's theme is "The Formation of New Areas of Growth as the Cornerstone of a Multipolar World."

Scheduled events include meetings for small and medium-sized businesses, creative industries, the SPIEF Youth Day, as well as the Drug Security, SPIEF Academy and SPIEF Junior forums. SPIEF is organized by the Roscongress Foundation. TASS is the information partner of the event.

**Agencies**

## Cows infected with bird flu have died in five US states

DAIRY cows infected with avian flu in five US states have died or been slaughtered by farmers because they did not recover, state officials and academics told Reuters.

Reports of the deaths suggest the bird flu outbreak in cows could take a greater economic toll in the farm belt than initially thought. Farmers have long culled poultry infected by the virus, but cows cost much more to raise than chickens or turkeys.

A US Department of Agriculture spokesperson said the agency knew of a few deaths but that the vast majority of cows recover well. Reuters was not able to determine the total number of cows with bird flu that died or were killed in South Dakota, Michigan, Texas, Ohio and Colorado.

Avian flu has infected dairy cows in more than 80 herds across 10 states since late March, according to the USDA.

Some of the animals died of secondary infections contracted after bird flu weakened their immune systems, said state veterinarians, agriculture officials, and academics assisting in state responses to bird flu. Other cows were killed by farmers because they failed to recover from the virus.

Cattle infected with bird flu



suffer reduced milk production, digestive issues, fever, and diminished appetite, according to farmers and veterinarians.

In South Dakota, a 1,700-cow dairy sent a dozen of the animals to slaughter after they did not recover from the virus, and killed another dozen that contracted secondary infections, said Russ Daly, a professor with South Dakota State University and veterinarian for the state extension office who spoke with the farm.

"You get sick cows from one disease, then that creates a domino effect for other things, like routine pneumonia and digestive issues," Daly said.

A farm in Michigan killed about 10 percent of its 200 infected cows after they too failed to re-

cover from the virus, said Phil Durst, an educator with Michigan State University Extension who spoke with that farm.

Michigan has more confirmed infections in cattle than any state as well as two of three confirmed cases of US dairy workers who contracted bird flu.

In Colorado, some dairies reported culling cows with avian flu because they did not return to milk production, said Olga Robak, spokesperson for the state Department of Agriculture.

Ohio Department of Agriculture spokesperson Meghan Harshbarger said infected cows have died in Ohio and other affected states, mostly due to secondary infections.

The Texas Animal Health Com-

mission also confirmed that cows have died from secondary infections at some dairy operations with avian flu outbreaks.

Officials could not provide figures for the number of statewide cow mortalities.

New Mexico's state veterinarian, Samantha Uhrig, said farmers increasingly culled cows due to decreased milk production early in the outbreak, before the US even confirmed bird flu was infecting cattle. Culling decreased as farmers learned that most cows gradually recovered, she said.

Officials in North Carolina and Kansas said there have been few to no cow deaths associated with bird flu in their states. Idaho officials did not respond to requests for information.

Bird flu virus particles were found in beef tissue taken from one dairy cow sent to be slaughtered for meat, and meat from the animal did not enter the food supply, USDA said last month.

The agency has reported that no viral particles were found in samples of ground beef collected at retail stores, and that no bird flu virus was found after cooking ground beef to medium to well done, after it was injected with a virus surrogate as part of an experiment. **Agencies**







Azam FC's Head of Information and Communication, Thabit Zakaria. Agencies

## Azam bank on new signings to bolster CAF Champions League campaign

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AZAM FC leadership has expressed optimism in the outfit's new signings as it looks forward to battling it out in the 2024/25 CAF Champions League.

The club's Head of Information and Communication, Thabit Zakaria, disclosed the information after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) had urged clubs that will take part in African inter-club tournaments next season to complete registration of players early on.

Azam FC finished second in the just-ended NBC Premier League with 69 points, boasting a four-goal difference with third-placed Simba SC which also finished with 69 points.

On Monday, CAF said the 2024/25 Africa inter-club season, which features the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, will kick off with the preliminary round scheduled for August 16-18, 2024.

CAF has confirmed the 12 highest-ranked member associations, according to the CAF coefficient points, will be eligible to enter two clubs in the CAF Champions League and as many in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The 12 highest-ranked member associations of the continental football governing body are Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, DR Congo, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, and Tanzania.

Mainland Tanzania will be represented by Young Africans SC and Azam FC in the CAF Champions League, and Simba SC and Coastal Union will represent the country in the CAF Confederation Cup.

The two continental showdowns' group stages are scheduled for October and December 2024. CAF kicked off the registration period for member associations to register their qualified clubs on the CAF Competi-

tions Management System (CMS).

Azam have qualified for the CAF Champions League for the first time after nine years. The outfit has already signed four players ahead of the upcoming season, aiming to make it to the premier continental showdown's Group Stage.

Attacking midfielder Frank Tiesse and defender Mamadou Diaby from Stade Malien of Mali together with the Colombian duo of striker Jhonier Blanco and midfielder Ever Meza are the new signings for Azam FC.

Zakaria revealed: "Azam FC have completed the signing of four players. We can't say we are done but we are in a good place. We have registered players according to the coach's requirements, and you can all be witnesses of the caliber of players we have signed."

"Registering players early reduces pressure on us. Preparations for next season can be underway earlier. The coach can have all players at the beginning of the pre-season. We aim to qualify for the CAF Champions League Group Stage, and that is why we have signed the required players early," the official remarked.

CAF confirmed four registration windows for all member associations, whose clubs will feature in African inter-club showpieces.

According to the continental football governing body, July 1-20 is for registering players participating in the Preliminary Round, whereas July 21-August 31 is for registering players participating in the Second Preliminary Round.

From September 1-30, the outfits can register players participating in the Group Stages and, from January 1-31, 2025, the sides would have an opportunity to register a maximum of seven additional players, including four replacements.

## Women in Sports Conference set to tackle gender disparities

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE maiden Zanzibar women's sports conference will be launched today in Zanzibar, the organizers disclosed yesterday.

Petra Kurume, who is one of the organizers of the conference, said Mission 89, in collaboration with the Vinnare Legal Chambers and the National Sports Council of Zanzibar, said the inaugural Women in Sports Conference, a groundbreaking event, is aimed at fostering dialogue, promoting gender equality, and empowering women.

She said the actual conference gets underway from tomorrow to next Saturday and will connect key stakeholders globally to address issues in sports management and the challenges women face in the industry.

"Hosting over 100 delegates from different games and competitions, includ-

ing government leaders, sports organisations, athletes, coaches, lawyers, advocates, auditors, civil societies, sports administrators, and scholars focusing on gender in sports and sports business, the conference will feature sessions focused on crucial themes such as employment and contract matters, empowering leadership, and empowering women in sports media," she said.

Reflecting on the significance of the initiative, the executive director of Mission 89, Lerina Bright, explained that one of the organisation's primary goals is to promote the significance of dignity, fairness, and equality in sports, regardless of gender, age, or nationality.

"Mission 89 is committed to ensuring that every woman in sports has an equal opportunity to succeed. By joining forces with Vinnare Legal Chambers and the National Sports Council of Zanzibar, we aim to inspire, empower, and create last-

ing change in the African sports industry," she said.

Recent studies have shown that global interest in women's sports continues to increase, with more fans expressing interest. The trend is observed across various key markets, indicating a positive shift in the perception of women's sports, while exposure to women's sports is changing attitudes toward female athletes, highlighting the importance of increased coverage.

However, studies on media representation still suggest minimal coverage of women's sports and raise awareness about the need for more visibility.

Judith Zebedayo, a sports lawyer and founding partner of Vinnare Legal Chambers, stated: "We believe that through collaborative efforts, we can break down barriers and create a more inclusive environment for women in sports."

"Through the Women In

Sports Conference, we are creating a platform for meaningful dialogue and actionable strategies to drive positive change, from addressing pay disparities to expanding access to training and development opportunities."

Karume said distinguished guests and speakers expected at the event include Tabia Mawlid Mwitwa, the Minister of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Zanzibar; Mehmet Ozdemir, UN Football for the Goals Ambassador and CEO of Fun Sports; and Neema Msita, who is the Executive Secretary, National Sports Council of Tanzania (NSC).

Others are Lerina Bright, who is the Executive Director, Mission 89; Jorge Gazapo Diez, Head of Commercial and Partnership for Africa, La Liga; Stephanie Travers, Deputy Team Principal, Mission 44, and Juliet Bawuah, Group Head, Sports, Media General Ghana, and more.

## Celtics rout Mavericks 107-89 in Game 1 of NBA Finals behind Brown, returning Porzingis

BOSTON

KRISTAPS Porzingis didn't want to make predictions about how his body would respond heading into the NBA Finals after he spent more than a month on the sideline with a calf injury.

Just fine, it turned out.

Jaylen Brown scored 22 points, Porzingis made an immediate impact off the bench and added 20 and the Boston Celtics powered past the Dallas Mavericks 107-89 on Thursday night in Game 1.

Derrick White finished with 15 points for Boston, which led by 29 points in the first half and connected on 16 3-pointers in a powerful start to its quest for an 18th NBA title.

Porzingis, a 7-footer who had been sidelined since April 29, added six rebounds and three blocks in 21 minutes.

"Tonight was affirmation to myself that I'm pretty good," Porzingis said. "I'm not perfect but I can play like this and I can add to this team."

The last Celtics player to enter the court for pregame warmups, he said he received a jolt of energy from a home crowd, which erupted when he emerged from the tunnel.

"The adrenaline was pumping through my veins," Porzingis said.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla wasn't concerned about the layoff affecting Porzingis' aggressiveness.

"That's the KP that helped us get to where we are today," Mazzulla said. "It doesn't matter how long the guy is off, he's going to make plays."

All-Star Jayson Tatum finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Six players scored in double figures for the Celtics, who host Game 2 on Sunday.

"Getting back to this point and being here is really a big deal," Tatum said. "But two years ago we won the first game and we know the outcome of that series. We still have a lot of work to do."

Dallas cut the deficit to eight points in the third quarter, but Boston answered with a 14-0 run to quickly pull away again.

"That's when the game started," Brown said.

Luka Doncic led Dallas with 30 points. P.J. Washington added 14 points and eight rebounds. But Dallas couldn't find offensive consistency beyond that, totaling just nine assists on its 35 field goals for the game. The Mavericks didn't score 25 points in any quarter.

Doncic said the lopsided loss wouldn't diminish the spirit of a team that lost the opening game in



Boston Celtics center Kristaps Porzingis dunks next to Dallas Mavericks center Dereck Lively 11, foreground, during the first half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals on Thursday, June 6, 2024, in Boston. AP Photo

three of four series this post-season.

"Either you lose or you win," Doncic said. "First to four, we've got to focus on the next game."

Former Celtic Kyrie Irving struggled throughout, finishing with 12 points. He received a loud and extended chorus of boos Thursday when he was introduced before the game.

The treatment came after Irving sparred with Boston fans and was fined for using an obscene gesture during a 2022 playoff visit to TD Garden.

"I thought it was going to be a little louder in here. I'm expecting the same thing (in Game 2). The crowd's trying to get me out of my element," Irving said. "It's not the first time I've lost in Boston. I don't want to make it a habit."

The Celtics, seeking their first championship since 2008, showed little rust from their 10-day layoff after sweeping the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference finals.

They flowed with energy throughout, sharing the ball

in the halfcourt and getting the ball to shooters for open 3s. They also attacked the interior of the Dallas defense and got to the rim for several dunks.

Meanwhile, apart from Doncic, who shot 12 of 26 from the field, Dallas struggled early to get into its sets and couldn't find a consistent groove offensively.

The Mavericks led by one midway through the first quarter. The Celtics responded by outscoring them 44-16 to make it 58-29 in the second.

Things changed over the next 12 minutes of game action when Dallas used a 35-14 run, including 15 points by Doncic, to cut Boston's lead to 72-64. But the Celtics were back up 86-66 entering the fourth.

Dallas had just five assists through the first three quarters, the fewest any NBA team has had through 36 minutes in any game in the last three seasons.

"We've got to move the ball," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said. "The ball got stuck too much."

Porzingis ended his 10-game hiatus when he came off the bench with 7:17 left in

the first quarter in place of starter Al Horford. With the exception of a white compression sleeve on his right leg, it was hard to tell Porzingis was coming off an injury.

He got into the mix quickly, knocking down a pair of free throws after being fouled by Doncic. A possession later, the Latvian connected in his first field goal when he dropped on a short jumper over Doncic.

He wasn't done.

Minutes later he got loose in the paint for a two-handed dunk over Dereck Lively. On Dallas' next possession, Porzingis was there to swat away Jaden Hardy's layup attempt. The Celtics pushed the ball up the court and got the ball back to their big man, who calmly buried a 16-footer.

It was part of a 17-5 surge by Boston over the final 5:24 of the quarter that saw Porzingis go 4 for 5 from the field, score 11 points, block two shots and grab three rebounds. Boston carried a 37-20 lead into the second quarter.

Porzingis finished the half with 18 points on 7-of-9 shooting.



## Jack Grealish and Harry Maguire cut as England names European Championship squad

London

JACK Grealish and Harry Maguire were the biggest names to be cut from England's squad as manager Gareth Southgate named his final 26-man selection for the European Championship on Thursday.

Manchester City forward Grealish has paid the price for a lackluster season, which saw him score just three goals and fail to hold down a regular starting place for the Premier League champion. Tottenham playmaker James Maddison was also cut.

"The fact is, we have got some players who have been playing extremely well all season in the league and we just feel other players have had stronger seasons," Southgate said.

Man United defender Maguire, meanwhile, failed to prove his fitness after sustaining a calf injury in training last month.

"I am devastated not to have been selected to play for England at the Euros this summer," Maguire said in a post on X. "Despite my best efforts, I have not been able to overcome an injury to my calf. Maybe I pushed myself too hard, to try and make it. Simply, I am absolutely gutted."

While Maguire's hopes of playing at a third major international tournament were ended, his United teammate Luke Shaw was selected by Southgate despite being sidelined with a muscle injury since February.

"The decision on Harry is totally about his physical condition," Southgate said. "There is no other reason - he is obviously one of our strongest center backs." Southgate said Shaw was a "gamble" worth taking.

The Euros are being staged in Germany and start on June 14.

Southgate has narrowed down his final squad from his provisional 33-man selection, which already had big-name omissions in the form of Marcus Rashford, Jordan Henderson, Calvin Phillips and Mason Mount.

England's last warmup game is against Iceland on Friday, a day before the deadline for the final squad to be confirmed.

Southgate has turned to a number of players who seemed unlikely to be in the frame for the tournament at the start of the season.

Chelsea's Cole Palmer is in after scoring 27 goals in his debut season since moving from City last year.

Kobbie Mainoo made the squad after an outstanding breakthrough campaign for United, which ended with his decisive goal in his team's FA Cup final win over City.

Crystal Palace, which had been threatened with relegation before an upturn in form late in the season, has more players in the squad than any other team.

The 20-year-old midfielder Adam Wharton was included just five months after joining Palace from second-tier Blackburn. Palace forward Eberechi Eze, defender Marc Guehi and goalkeeper Dean Henderson also made the cut.

Brentford striker Ivan Toney is in after serving an eight month ban at the start of the season for breaching gambling rules.

Toney is a penalty specialist, which could be valuable for an England team that missed out on winning the last Euros by losing a penalty shootout to Italy in the final.

### England:

**Goalkeepers:** Dean Henderson (Crystal Palace), Jordan Pickford (Everton), Aaron Ramsdale (Arsenal)

**Defenders:** Lewis Dunk (Brighton), Joe Gomez (Liverpool), Marc Guehi (Crystal Palace), Ezri Konsa (Aston Villa), Luke Shaw (Manchester United), John Stones (Manchester City), Kieran Trippier (Newcastle), Kyle Walker (Manchester City)

**Midfielders:** Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool), Jude Bellingham (Real Madrid), Conor Gallagher (Chelsea), Kobbie Mainoo (Manchester United), Declan Rice (Arsenal), Adam Wharton (Crystal Palace)

**Forwards:** Jarrod Bowen (West Ham), Eberechi Eze (Crystal Palace), Phil Foden (Manchester City), Anthony Gordon (Newcastle), Harry Kane (Bayern Munich), Cole Palmer (Chelsea), Bukayo Saka (Arsenal), Ivan Toney (Brentford), Ollie Watkins (Aston Villa)

AP

## Ballon d'Or ceremony to honor world's best soccer players on Oct. 28 in Paris

PARIS

THE most prestigious individual awards ceremony in world soccer, the Ballon d'Or, will be held in Paris on Oct. 28, the event's new organizer UEFA said Thursday.

Nominations will be announced Sept. 4, letting voters factor in the European Championship and Copa America in men's soccer and Paris Olympics tournament in the women's game.

Real Madrid players Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham and Toni Kroos are likely to poll strongly after leading the team to the Champions League and La Liga titles. Kroos will end his career after playing at Euro 2024 for Germany and never finished in the top three of a Ballon d'Or vote.

AP

# FIFA ruling shows AFCON star Emilio Nsue was ineligible for entire career with E. Guinea

GENEVA

THE top scorer at the African Cup of Nations five months ago, Emilio Nsue, never was eligible to play for Equatorial Guinea throughout his entire 11-year international career, FIFA judges ruled.

FIFA has published a detailed verdict to explain why its disciplinary committee last month stripped two wins from Equatorial Guinea in qualifying games for the 2026 World Cup that were played in November.

In both games, the 34-year-old Nsue scored in 1-0 wins over Namibia and Liberia yet he never had formal FIFA approval to switch from Spain to Equatorial Guinea. Nsue represented Spain age-group teams, including at an Under-21 European Championship.

He has been banned by FIFA for six months from national team games.

It was a repeat judgment of FIFA disciplinary verdicts in 2013 that also ordered Equatorial Guinea to default two qualifying games for the 2014 World Cup as 3-0 losses because Nsue was ineligible.

FIFA said its disciplinary judges in the most recent investigation confirmed the reason for the cases relating to the 2013 games.

Nsue "apparently only acquired the Equatoguinean nationality (March 2013) after having played in his first international match in an official competition" with Spain, the FIFA judges wrote in their judgment.



FILE - Equatorial Guinea's Emilio Nsue, celebrates scoring his second goal during the African Cup of Nations Group A soccer match between Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea at the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on Jan. 22, 2024. For the second time in two World Cups, FIFA ordered Equatorial Guinea to lose two qualifying games by default on Friday May 24, 2024 for fielding star player Emilio Nsue when he was ineligible. The second FIFA disciplinary case involving Nsue comes 11 years after the first, and just four months after he was the top scorer at the African Cup of Nations. (AP Photo)

The player had in fact played 26 games for Spain teams from under-16 to under-21 levels across six years through 2011, including at finals tournaments.

Nsue played three games for Spain at the Under-20 World Cup in 2009. He also once replaced Juan Mata as a late substitute in a game at the Under-21 Euro in 2011. Spain won that European title in Denmark.

The 15-page FIFA document dated May 10 detailed what seemed to have been a chaotic process a decade earlier for the Equatoguinean federation trying to get Nsue approved.

The federation asked Spanish officials, but not FIFA, in 2013 for Nsue's release then selected and fielded him in two World Cup qualifying games without even asking for formal permission. Those games were later defaulted as

3-0 losses.

In December 2013, FIFA denied the request for Nsue to change eligibility and cited the belatedly acquired nationality. Yet he continued to play for the Equatorial Guinea team.

Nsue "still took part in a substantial number of matches for the (men's senior) representative team of the FEGUI-FOOT over a significant period of time, while undoubtedly

knowing that he was ineligible," the FIFA judges wrote.

He played in World Cup qualifying games for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments despite those disciplinary cases and defaulted games from the 2014 edition. It is unclear why FIFA did not prosecute those games.

Nsue also played at the 2015 African Cup of Nations that Equatorial Guinea staged as a replacement host despite earlier being disqualified from the qualifying program over an ineligible player. He also played at the 2022 AFCON, organized outside FIFA's control by the Confederation of African Football.

Nsue has played more than 40 national team games and scored 23 goals, including five in January at the most recent AFCON. The publicity he received in Ivory Coast seemed to have provoked a renewed disciplinary case.

The latest investigation was opened by FIFA in March and Nsue was contacted with a six-day deadline to respond to the pending charge.

"No position was received from the respondent," FIFA judges wrote.

The judges also explained they took action only against Nsue's 2026 World Cup games because that is a currently active competition.

Nsue, who now plays for Spanish lower-tier team Interterci, and his national federation can appeal against the sanctions, first to FIFA and later the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

AP

## Hope returns for hosts Germany ahead of Euro 2024

LONDON

HOST nation Germany are riding a resurgent wave of hope with the Euro 2024 tournament opener against Scotland just days away.

After two group stage World Cup exits in a row and a loss to England in the last 16 of the Euros in 2021, Germany suffered a dire 2023, with just three wins in 11 games.

Many in Germany predicted an embarrassing early exit for the three-time Euros champions on home soil. That view has changed in the four months.

While Germany may only have drawn 0-0 with Ukraine in Nuremberg on Monday, they spurned chances, particularly during a dominant second-half.

"You'd prefer to win," coach Julian Nagelsmann said after the match. "But the most important factor is that I want to see a team which wants to win. Today, we wanted that victory."

Germany were without four players, including fulcrum Toni Kroos, who played with Real Madrid in last Saturday's Champions League final.

Debutant striker Maximilian Beier went close to breaking the deadlock while youngsters Florian Wirtz and Jamal Musiala showed they can form a dangerous attacking combination.

Other Nagelsmann selections, including Stuttgart's Chris Fuehrich and Maximilian Mittelstaedt also impressed, suggesting the coach has got his squad



Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann.

right before the tournament.

The improvement in form on the pitch -- and the optimism off it -- will buoy Nagelsmann's side as they push for a fourth Euros trophy, which would break a tie with Spain for most titles.

Germany face Greece in their final friendly on Friday in Moenchengladbach, but will come up against sterner tests should they want to make it to the business end of the Euros.

"Perfect" preparation - Taking over in late 2023 after Hansi Flick became the first coach in Germany history to be sacked, Nagelsmann won just one of his first four games.

The coach shook up his squad in response, leaving out 11 players and bringing back 2014 World Cup winner Kroos, who had retired

from international duty in 2021.

Rather than relying on big names from powerhouse clubs Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, Nagelsmann's squad was heavy with players from Bayer Leverkusen, on their way to a Bundesliga title, and Stutt-

gart, who finished as surprise runners up. With Nagelsmann picking players on form, Germany beat two Euro 2024 contenders France and the Netherlands in March with convincing performances.

Germany face Scotland, Hungary and Switzerland in the group stages -- three teams the

hosts will now be expected to beat.

Nagelsmann said the Ukraine match was "perfect in view of the games which await us in the group phase".

Veteran Thomas Mueller, heading into his fourth Euros, said Monday there was "no reason to be nervous" despite the goalless draw.

- 'Great support' -

After the difficult years, the German public has embraced the national team on the eve of the tournament.

Instead of the usual mode of squad announcements via tired press conferences, the German FA (DFB) embraced a novel approach, drip feeding the team player-by-player through TV personalities, influencers and celebrities -- reaching a new audience as a result.

Star midfielder Wirtz was announced at a concert by musician Nina Chuba, while Real Madrid defender Antonio Ruediger's selection was made public by a video from his favourite kebab shop in Berlin.

Just over 15,000 fans sold out a stadium in the central German town of Jena to watch the team train in late May -- with a further 16,000 watching a live stream.

Nagelsmann told AFP subsidiary SID in late May "we felt the enthusiasm of the public for their team. We'll take this great support with us until the tournament."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

FIFA ruling shows AFCON star Emilio Nsue was ineligible for entire career with E. Guinea

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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kaili Za Wana  
18:30 RHASHITAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SSPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:55 EATV SAA1 (r)

**5Sports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## CECAFA announces plans for consistent Senior Challenge Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi &amp; Agencies

THE Council of East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA) Head of Public Relations and Communications, Andrew Oryada, has emphasized the body's plan to make the Senior Challenge Cup tournament consistent after a four-year hiatus.

The CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup for senior men's national teams will this year take place in Zanzibar, making a comeback after a four-year absence due to financial challenges.

The competition, first played in 1926, is the oldest football tournament in Africa and is organized by the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations.

This year's tournament is slated for June 29-July 14, 2024, and will be hosted at the New Amaan Complex and the Pemba Municipal Stadium.

After successfully hosting the CAF Schools Football Championship recently, Zanzibar is warming up to host another competition featuring players from local leagues in the CECAFA Zone.

Teams from the CECAFA Zone and some guest sides will participate in the competition. Uganda is the defending champion, beating Eritrea in the 2019 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup final in Kampala.

Oryada remarked: "We agreed that this tournament should be consistent. It is back now. People have missed it because the Senior Challenge Cup has a unique vibe."

"When it resumes this year, we are hopeful it continues without a break. We want to see many member associations ready to host it because sometimes hosting a competition is a problem," he said.

Tanzania has won the tournament nine times, Kenya has won the title 21 times, and Uganda remains the most successful team with 40 titles.

The Tanzania senior national team, Taifa Stars, is currently in Dar es Salaam for the World Cup qualifiers against Zambia slated for next week.

Immediately after the qualifiers, a section of Taifa Stars' footballers hailing from Mainland Tanzania, who will form Kilimanjaro Stars, will embark on preparations for the Senior Challenge Cup tournament.

"We brought back the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup because of marketing issues. We also appointed six members to make changes for our tournaments," the CECAFA official noted.

"After consultation with our broadcasting sponsors Azam Media Limited, we decided that the tournament should take place from June 29 to July 14. It would be the best timing for the CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup," he disclosed.

"We want to put more marketing efforts to ensure this competition consistently goes on for many years," Oryada noted.

In another development, all teams that have confirmed their participation in the tournament are slated to contribute \$20,000 (52m/-) each.

With guest teams yet to be revealed, CECAFA is contemplating inviting teams from other zones to spice up the competition and help East African teams prepare for the World Cup and CHAN qualifying events.

## Skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto coy on Yanga contract talk



Young Africans skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto holds the trophy after the Jangwani Street-based side were crowned the 2023/24 Premier League champions on May 25, 2024, at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans centre back and skipper Bakari Mwamnyeto has refused to discuss rumours over a contract extension.

Mwamnyeto struggled for regular starts last season under coach Miguel Gamondi, and Dickson Job and Ibrahim Bacca have been the team's first-choice centre-backs for much of the just-ended campaign.

The 28-year-old has made 20 appearances for the Jangwani Street-based side this

season, but he has only started 11 times in the Premier League, and there has been speculation surrounding his future.

Recently, Simba and Azam have been linked with the Tanzanian international.

The former Coastal Union defender is now available as a free agent but Young Africans are in no rush to secure his services and avoid losing him without a transfer fee.

Reports have claimed that while Young Africans

are looking to extend the Taifa Stars defender's deal they are reluctant to meet his demands.

Asked about his future, Mwamnyeto said: "Questions about my contract are out of bounds. Let's talk about other stuff."

When pressed further if Young Africans' fans should expect him to continue with the club next season, Mwamnyeto remained non-committal, saying: "Let's pray for God's will to prevail, Inshallah."

Mwamnyeto has had four fantastic years with Young Africans. He has won three successive Premier League titles since moving to Young Africans in a reported Tsh100 million deal from Coastal Union in June 2020.

He also won three Federation Cup titles, two Community Shields with Young Africans and played an integral role in their CAF Confederation Cup march to the final where they lost to Algeria's USMA.

Mwamnyeto has been a stalwart for the national team (Taifa Stars) since 2020 and he's delivered for his country, irrespective of his club form, which has been hit and miss.

He was part of the Taifa Stars squad that played in the CHAN last year and AFCON early this year in Ivory Coast.



Youths play soccer during a training session at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma.

## Azam unveil fifth signing, forward Adam Omar

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe



Forward Adam Omar Adam after signing a one-year deal with Azam on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of Azam FC

Azam have unveiled another big signing of the transfer window as they continue to prepare for the upcoming season.

The Ice Cream vendors are bolstering their squad to return more robust in the next campaign, with the club aiming to make a deep run in the CAF Champions League and win domestic trophies.

On Thursday night, they announced the signing of forward Adam Omar Adam as a free agent from Mashujaa.

The 28-year-old Adam

penned a one-year deal with Azam as revealed by the club during his transfer confirmation.

"After playing for 10 years outside the confines of Azam Complex, we have finally brought back our boy, Adam Adam.

"We confirm that we have signed a one-year contract with him, ready to serve Azam FC next season 2023/24," the club stated.

Adam arrives at Chamazi after appearing in 23 games at Mashujaa where he scored seven league goals and assisted two last season.

Azam has acted unusu-

ally quickly in the transfer market to reward coach Youssef Dabo for the progress made in his first season in charge of the club.

Adam is the fifth player to join Azam this off-season.

They have already acquired the services of Ivorian duo of attacking midfielder Franck Tiesse and defender Yoro Mamadou Diaby and Colombian duo of midfielder Ever Meza from Leones and forward Jhonier Blanco from Aguilas Doradas.

Meanwhile, Azam is understood to have parted ways with three players

- Edward Manyama, Abdulai Iddrisu and Ali Ahmada.

The club could also wave goodbye to Malickou Ndoye and Cheick Sidibe.

Azam clinched second place in the Premier League standings, edging out Simba on goal difference, with a 2-0 away victory against Geita Gold on the final day of the campaign at Nyankumbu Ground.

This result ensured Azam the right to join champions Young Africans as Mainland Tanzania's representatives in the CAF Champions League next season.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

