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# Treasury ties up 323.4bn/- French environment credit

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE BUSES GONE?: Crowds queue for elusive Bus Rapid Transit transport at the Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus stand in Ubungo Municipality, Dar es Salaam, yesterday morning. Sources blamed the situation on traffic jams, which they said have become so notoriously long and common as to make buses fail to operate as efficiently as scheduled. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Youth demands central to stability, national security'

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has reiterated the importance of the link between national security and the well-being of the youth, demanding sustained investment in key sectors promoting job creation and long-term stability.

Patrobas Katambi, the Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities deputy state minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Thursday at a conference examining the relevance of Chinese modernisation for African development.

Addressing the needs of young people, particularly in employment opportunities, is essential for national security, he said, asserting that by focusing on agriculture, science, innovation, entrepreneurship and fisheries, the government is creating pathways for the youth to contribute to the nation's economic growth.

"This investment in job creation is not just about economic growth; it's about ensuring the security and well-being of our nation. The prosperity of our youth is the foundation of our future," he declared.

He said that since 2021, the government has committed over 2.8trn/- to various initiatives that widen employment opportunities, benefitting more than 24m people. "This effort demonstrates the government's commitment to creating a robust economy where young people actively shape the future," he said.

National security demands provide young people with the skills and resources they need to build sustainable occupations, fostering a more secure and prosperous future, he stated.

While the government has taken measures to address youth employment challenges, young people must change fixed mindsets and work hard for personal and national progress, he said, insisting that there is no magic to success but hard work.

Youths must dedicate themselves to work, he said, affirming that Tanzanian cooperation with China across various sectors is for mutual benefit. The two countries will be friends of all seasons, enjoying a comprehensive partnership, "which must be advanced as we work to improve living standards," he said.

He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan and President Xi Jinping are committed to strengthening these relations, citing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as essential to Tanzania's development strategies.

The minister stressed on a robust digital economy to drive industrialisation and agricultural modernisation, with a focus on green technology and sustainable rural development, pointing at China's success in lifting millions out of poverty.

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Simba face key challenge in stopping Dib as they prepare for CS Constantine clash

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Fei Toto lauds Azam's winning streak, eyes titles and CAF Champions League return

# 'Negligence to blame for accident involving MPs'

By Augusta Njoji and Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

CARELESS driving is being blamed for the crash that left 19 people injured, including 16 legislators, two parliamentary

officials and a bus driver. George Katabazi, the regional police commander for the capital, said yesterday that the police in Dodoma have identified the cause of the bus accident as negligence by the driver, Juma Saidi Juma, work-

ing with the Shabiby bus fleet. He is being questioned by the police while being among the 19 people injured in the incident, which occurred about two hours after midnight at 2:00 a.m. near Mbande in Kongwa District, on the Dodo-

ma-Morogoro highway.

The MPs were on their way to the port city of Mombasa across the border to participate in the 14th East African

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses the (Dec 4 to 7) 14th Institution of Engineers Tanzania international conference in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: PMO

# Vision 2050 draft set for Z'bar launch next week

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## Vision 2050 draft set for Z'bar launch next week

By Guardian Reporter

A PRELIMINARY draft of the National Development Vision 2050 is set for launching next Wednesday in Zanzibar.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, made this affirmation at a press briefing with various media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi will preside at the event, which follows extensive consultations with stakeholder groups and collecting feedback from over 1.1m citizens.

The process lasted from last December to late October, with the feedback gathered through household surveys, SMS, websites, conferences, in-depth interviews, discussions with current and former leaders, meetings, seminars and various documents, the minister noted.

Launching the draft will mark the start of the second

*We must cultivate a culture where the government delivers information to the people and, in turn, receives feedback from the people*

phase of stakeholder feedback collection, focused on validating the Vision draft, he said, elaborating that the validation phase will be concluded mid next month.

The leader of government business in the National Assembly will receive the second draft of the 2050 Vision, with stakeholder feedback taken up, while from January to March the draft will be tabled for top organs like permanent secretaries, the National Planning Commission and the cabinet to examine it further, he said.

Early April and into early May 2025, the draft will be debated in the legislature with a view to obtaining formal approval, upon which President Samia Suluhu Hassan will officially launch the National Development Vision 2050 in May or June.

Preparations for Vision 2050 are aligned with developing the long-term perspective plan, helping in interpreting the goals and aspirations outlined in the Vision, he said, insisting that "this Vision belongs to all Tanzanians, and I urge every citizen to actively participate in all stages leading up to the official launch."

Deodatus Balile, the Tanzania Editors' Forum chairman, expressed the desire to foster collaboration between the government and the media.

"We must cultivate a culture where the government delivers information to the people and, in turn, receives feedback from the people," he said, sharing his enthusiasm "for a future Tanzania that prioritizes the industrial sector and quality education."

"To advance our nation, the National Vision must be a unifying force, ensuring that leadership transitions do not disrupt the priorities outlined in the Vision," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with other Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Shaafiy Mosque at Mbuyu Mnene in Unguja's West B District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Treasury ties up 323.4bn/- French environment credit

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has obtained French concessional credit facilities for the second phase of the Shinyanga-based solar project to generate 100 megawatts, bringing the total project capacity to 150MW.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, and Celine Robert, the French Development Agency (AFD) country director, signed three agreements at the Treasury yesterday for euro 118.8m (323.4bn/-) for the series of projects in the programme.

The credit will finance solar development in Shinyanga, forest plantation initiatives and the management of mangrove forests, while also sup-

porting a gender action plan within the Tanzania Electricity Supply Co. (TANESCO), the minister noted.

The credit components include a €75.9m concessional credit facility for the solar development programme second phase in Kishapu District, Shinyanga Region, and a €39.9m segment for forest plantations and mangrove forest reserve management, he said. There is also a €2m grant for mangrove forest reserve financing and a €1m grant for the power company's affirmative gender drive within the solar project, he said, noting that the project enhances the power generation mix, leveraging renewable energy opportunities.

Integrating 150MW into the national

grid will reduce reliance on hydro-power, the traditional source increasingly affected by climate change, he said, elaborating that the solar power project heightens access to reliable energy in the region.

It will boost reliable power supply for small miners and large-scale mining operations, thus boosting economic and social development, he stated.

The forest plantations development and mangrove forest reserve management component will expand tree planting, improve tree seeds and enhance seed management, he further stated.

"This will strengthen tree seed collection centers and establish modern seed nurseries. The project will

boost mangrove forest conservation, improve biodiversity, promote ecotourism and enhance community livelihoods," he elaborated.

The minister acknowledged the support from the French government in various projects in energy, water, transport and agriculture sectors, several of the project nearing completion.

The French diplomat on the other hand said that France has supported Tanzania for over 15 years, primarily focusing on infrastructure sectors such as water, sanitation, energy, and transport.

Over time, their support has expanded to sectors like agriculture, forestry and environmental protection, she added.

## 'Youth demands central to stability, national security'

FROM PAGE 1

China has ongoing commitment to sustainable growth as key achievements that African nations could adapt to their own needs, he stated at the conference organised by the Centre for International Policy (CIP) Africa, a local think tank working to boost China-Africa ties.

Chen Mingjian, the resident Chinese ambassador, underlined the strengthening of China's ties with Tanzania and Africa over recent decades, driven by shared goals in agriculture, infrastructure and digital development.

Since 1988, China has played a key role in supporting Tanzanian agriculture, boosting sectors like dairy production and sustainable farming, she said, affirming that Africa and China are not just economic partners but share a profound and historic relationship.

As Africa's largest trading partner and a leading player in infrastructure development across the continent, partnership with China is also evident in the growth of Tanzania's agricultural exports to China, including avocados and cotton, vital new markets for farmers, she further noted.

Meanwhile, China continues to support Tanzania's modernisation

efforts through infrastructure investment, including transport and communication networks, which are vital for the nation's economic progress.

"We stand ready to work with all nations, especially Tanzania, to address shared challenges and seize growth opportunities," she said, stressing China's focus on cooperation rather than competition.

Ambassador Chen also noted that China's successful modernisation model is unique and provides inspiration for developing nations seeking rapid, independent growth.

Omar Mjenga, the CIP president, hailed China's enduring friendship with Tanzania, pointing at President Xi's 2013 visit to Tanzania as a milestone in bilateral relations.

Both sides emphasized their commitment to mutual development, with a special focus on poverty reduction and shared prosperity, he said, noting that the shared vision of a China-Africa community with a shared future "promises to pave the way for a new era of partnership that benefits all."

Africa's influence in global affairs was growing, reflecting the continent's emerging role in shaping the future of international trade and development, participants noted.



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (C) exchanges documents with French Development Agency director Celine Robert in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing four agreements totalling approximately 323.4 billion/- in support by the agency to various projects in Tanzania. These include implementation of Phase Two of the Kishapu Renewable Energy Project in Shinyanga Region and the development and conservation of mangrove forest reserves. Looking on is the Deputy French Ambassador to Tanzania, Axel-David Guillon. Photo: Courtesy of Ministry of Finance

## Sierra Leone begins Ebola jab, decade after outbreak

FREETOWN

AUTHORITIES in Sierra Leone on Thursday started a nationwide rollout of the single-dose Ebola vaccine, the first such campaign in West Africa where a deadly outbreak 10 years ago resulted in the death of thousands.

The 2014 Ebola outbreak - the deadliest in history - was primarily in West Africa but affected Sierra Leone the most, with nearly 4,000 deaths out of the more than 11,000 recorded globally. The country also lost 7 percent of its healthcare workforce to the outbreak.

Cynthia Reffell, a health work-

er in the country, said that the people who are most exposed to the disease will be the first to benefit from the vaccination campaign.

"We are targeting healthcare workers and front-line workers like the police, military officers and traditional healers," she said.

"We are dealing with the Ebola vaccine on the preventive side because if one person is affected every other person will be affected."

The nationwide vaccine campaign, implemented by the government in partnership with the global vaccine alliance Gavi, the

World Health Organization and the United Nations children's agency, will target 20,000 front-line workers across the country, officials said.

To ensure the campaign's success, authorities and health officials have called on the country's traditional healers to get communities on board.

"As they have informed us about the vaccine, it is our responsibility as stakeholders, as well as traditional healers, to encourage the communities and traditional healers, to take the vaccines which are not harmful", said Darlington Coker, a traditional healer.

## 'Negligence to blame for accident involving MPs'

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Legislative Assembly sports bonanza where the bus nearly collided head-on with a truck, the RPC said.

The truck driver took precautions by slightly swerving to the side to allow the overtaking vehicle to pass but then it hit the truck's trailer, causing injuries but no fatalities, he explained.

Those involved in the accident are receiving treatment at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in the capital, as well as in Kongwa and Chamwino hospitals, with some being transferred to the city facility for more intensive medication, he said.

The bus driver failed to exercise caution while attempting to overtake another vehicle, trying to overtake in an area where overtaking is prohibited. There are clear road markings indicating no overtaking but the driver ignored these signs, leading to the accident, he further stated.

"The driver lost control after hitting the trailer, swerving off the road by

about 10 to 15 metres," he specified, affirming that even as he is undergoing treatment, the driver has been placed under police custody.

"We have detained him for further questioning, and legal action will follow. I urge all drivers and road users to adhere to traffic safety regulations," he said, stressing that adhering to traffic regulations by observing road signs helps to prevent accidents.

"This accident resulted in injuries and vehicle damage, and had the driver followed the traffic safety rules, this could have been avoided. It was caused by negligence and failure to follow the road safety code," he stated.

The accident occurred in an area with a bend, and had the driver been more cautious, the incident didn't have to occur.

Jeremiah Mwakyaoma, the head of communications at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH), confirmed that some of the accident victims were admitted at the hospital and their conditions are improving.



Irene Peter (3rd-L), NBC Bank's community services manager, presents 153 boxes of sanitary pads to IPP public relations officer Nancy Mwanyika in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. It was the bank's support to 'Namthamini' campaign, which is implemented by EATV/Radio and is meant to benefit over 300 schoolgirls. Looking on: NBC Bank customer relationship manager Theresia Assey (L), 'Namthamini' "ambassador" Samson Charles (2nd-L), NBC Bank corporate affairs officer Nicole Kyakula (2nd-R) and East Africa Radio presenter Rita Chuwalo. Photo: EATV

## Call for action as human-wildlife conflicts see rise

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

HUMAN-wildlife conflict cases are rising in the country, leading to over 5,300 deaths and affecting more than 44,000 people between 2018 and 2022.

Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dunstan Kitandula, shared the figures on Thursday here during the opening of the 2nd National Annual Wildlife Corridors Forum.

He explained that the growing conflict is mainly due to the encroachment on critical wildlife corridors, as people build farms, homes, and factories in areas that wild animals rely on for movement, water, and food.

"Farmhouses and factories are blocking wildlife corridors that connect national parks, reserves, and water sources," Kitandula stated.

He noted: "This has resulted in more deaths, the destruction of 100,832 acres of crops, and the loss of over 130,050 livestock."

The Deputy Minister also noted that retaliatory killings of wild animals by people whose farms are damaged or who lose family members to wildlife have become a significant issue.

Benedict Wakulyamba, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, emphasized the need for a multi-sectoral approach to restore these vital corridors.

He stressed that many people are unaware they live or farm in wildlife passageways, highlighting the importance of awareness programs.

The First Wildlife Corridor report, presented at the inaugural forum, identified 61 wildlife corridors across Tanzania. However, only two have been officially gazetted by the government. Forty-one of the identified corridors are at significant risk of extinction.

Delegates at the forum suggested that villages near wildlife corridors and protected areas should receive support to implement proper land-use planning to prevent further conflict and encroachment.

The forum, which is being attended by various stakeholders in Tanzania's conservation sector, includes the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, USAID, the Grumeti Fund, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and several other international and local conservation organizations.

## Makinda calls for research on male students' academic hitches

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FORMER Speaker of the National Assembly, Anne Makinda, has urged the academic and research community to investigate the reasons behind the growing trend of male students lagging behind their female peers in academic performance.

Makinda made her remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the 6th Convocation of Kairuki University, where discussions focused on leveraging digital tools to enhance health service delivery. As Chancellor of the university, she expressed

concern about the widening academic gap and called for immediate action.

"This is not a normal situation, and we should not take it lightly. We need to understand why male students are underperforming. There must be a reason, and through research, we can identify the causes and take action," Makinda said.

While applauding the progress made by female students, who have historically faced disadvantages, Makinda stressed the importance of ensuring that the success of one gender does not come at the expense of the other.

"It's encouraging to see female students excelling academically, but it's not our goal to celebrate while male students fall behind. We must strive for balance and ensure equal opportunities for both genders," she added.

Makinda noted that this issue is not unique to Tanzania but is also observed globally, underscoring the need for concerted efforts to address the underlying causes of male students' academic decline.

The convocation also featured insights from Dr Ellen Senkoro, CEO of the Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, who discussed the transformative

role of digital technologies in healthcare.

Dr Senkoro highlighted the potential of digital innovations to improve health service delivery, particularly in Tanzania, where reliable electricity and widespread smartphone usage are becoming more accessible.

"Graduates of Kairuki University have demonstrated great creativity in developing digital solutions. I encourage future doctors to continue innovating in this space," she said.

Dr Senkoro envisioned a future where patients could access healthcare services remotely, including receiving test results and medical

consultations at home.

"The world is changing rapidly, and we must adapt. A time may come when visiting a hospital will no longer be necessary, as tests could be conducted at home with results delivered directly to your phone," she explained.

She also commended the achievements of female graduates, calling their success a testament to Tanzania's commitment to women's education. However, she emphasised the need to address the challenges male students face to ensure balanced progress.

Prof. Yohana Mashalla, Vice-Chancellor of Kairuki University, highlighted the importance of equipping health professionals with the skills to effectively use digital technologies.

"We need to consider whether we have enough experts and institutions to train people in using these technologies effectively," Prof. Mashalla said.

The conference concluded with discussions on integrating digital health solutions tailored to Tanzania's unique needs and environment, reflecting the university's commitment to fostering innovation and addressing pressing social challenges.

## US commits to community-led wildlife conservation initiatives

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States has reaffirmed its commitment to wildlife conservation, highlighting the progress made by local communities, the government and international partners in ensuring a sustainable balance between people and wildlife in the country.

This week, the US has supported the Second Annual National Wildlife Corridor Forum to further heighten collaboration for wildlife conservation.

Speaking during the conference, Nathan Sage, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Tanzania Environment Team Lead, stated that the US has invested \$10 million annually in recent years to support community-led conservation initiatives in Tanzania.

He noted that wildlife corridors, essential for preserving habitats and reducing human-wildlife conflicts, are key to the success of these efforts, with local leadership being crucial for long-term sustainability.

"Balancing the needs of humans and wildlife using finite resources is a complex challenge, and USAID's conservation work is grounded in the principle that community involvement and ownership of land-use planning are vital for success," he said.

He added: "We believe conservation is most effective when local communities are empowered to manage the resources they depend on."

Zakaria Faustin, Executive Director of

the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum, highlighted the importance of community-driven processes: "Securing landscape connectivity requires collaboration across villages and should centre on the community. In Kitemo, we saw success because the community embraced the initiative once they saw its tangible benefits."

Despite progress, land tenure remains a challenge for local communities.

USAID-Tanzania continues to support wildlife corridor guidelines that protect community land and grazing rights, aligning with international standards like Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Since 2018, USAID has facilitated the issuance of over 20,000 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs), ensuring legal tenure over community lands and resources. "The US believes that wildlife corridors should be based on village land-use plans that respect grazing rights and include sustainable management strategies," said Sage. "These plans must be recognized to ensure communities retain control over their natural resources."

The Forum underscored the need for continued collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society. With biodiversity contributing 15 percent of Tanzania's economic output, sustaining wildlife corridors is both an ecological and economic priority, safeguarding Tanzania's natural heritage for future generations.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday when receiving 3,000 books on religious education the government has presented to the Supreme Council of Muslims in Tanzania (Bakwata) for distribution to private schools based in Dar es Salaam. Right is Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

## Z'bar plans to become year-round tourism hub, focus on key sectors

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR's government has revealed plans to transform the Isles into a major year-round tourism destination, aiming to attract both investors and visitors by developing previously underutilised areas.

The announcement was made by President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during a meeting with the new British High Commissioner to Tan-

zania, Marianne Young, at State House in Zanzibar.

Dr Mwinyi emphasised the need for investment in key sectors such as tourism, ports, oil and gas, and maritime transport.

While Zanzibar has traditionally relied on heritage tourism, including the historic Stone Town and its beaches, the government now seeks to diversify by promoting modern tourism, including inter-

national conferences, sports events, and motorsport races to attract visitors throughout the year.

To support this growth, the government plans to improve infrastructure, including upgrading roads, communications, and international airports on both Unguja and Pemba islands.

The President also discussed the need for expanded port facilities, particularly in Mangapwani, North

Unguja, to support Zanzibar's economy and meet the growing demand for transport services. He called for investment in larger ports to handle cargo, export agricultural products, and support essential services such as fuel and grain supply.

Additionally, Dr Mwinyi highlighted the oil and gas sector, urging British support for Zanzibar's energy infrastructure and maritime transport. He stressed the importance of

ensuring a reliable electricity supply, including through alternative energy sources, to support investor activity.

Regarding seaweed farming, Dr Mwinyi explained that Zanzibar currently exports raw seaweed, which yields limited economic benefit. He invited British investors to establish seaweed processing factories, which would add value to the industry, create new products, and benefit both

farmers and the economy.

High Commissioner Marianne Young assured Dr Mwinyi that the UK government would continue to support Zanzibar's development, particularly in health, education, and the Blue Economy. She expressed confidence in strengthening cooperation, particularly in tourism, and pledged UK expertise to support Zanzibar's economic and social growth.

## British High Commissioner Young visits Zanzibar, talks of vigorous ties

By Guardian Reporter

BRITISH High Commissioner Marianne Young recently concluded her first official visit to Zanzibar, reaffirming UK's enduring partnership with Tanzania.

In her meeting with Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi Young highlighted strengthening cooperation in key areas such as sustainable development, economic growth, and security.

During her three-day visit, High Commissioner Young also engaged with the Minister of Tourism and Heritage, Mudrik Soraga, to discuss Zanzibar's flourishing tourism sector, which saw 34,000 British tourists in 2024.

She also hosted a reception with the British Honorary Consul to connect with the local British community and learn about their contributions to the island's economic growth.

High Commissioner Young explored Zanzibar's rich cultural and historical heritage, including a guided tour of Stone Town and a visit to Chapwani Grave Island, a naval cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Throughout her visit, the High Com-

missioner met with senior Tanzanian officials, including the Minister of State for Constitutional and Legal Affairs and Zanzibar Law Enforcement officials. Discussions focused on the UK's £12 million investment aimed at combating serious organized crime in Tanzania.

High Commissioner Young's visit reinforces the UK's ongoing commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Tanzania and supporting Zanzibar's sustainable development, prosperity, and security.



**High Commissioner Young explored Zanzibar's rich cultural and historical heritage, including a guided tour of Stone Town and a visit to Chapwani Grave Island, a naval cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**



Mwafatma Mohamed (R), representing the Tanzania Education Authority director general, pictured earlier this week presenting a certificate to one of scores of students from various Dar es Salaam-based schools who have benefited from ICT and other capacity building projects. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## TRA condemns attack on officers on routine 'anti-smuggling operation'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has strongly condemned an attack on its officers and vehicle during a routine operation to seize a suspected smuggled car in Tegeta area, Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam.

An attempt by TRA officers to intercept a suspected illegally imported BMW X6 took a violent turn, resulting in injuries to

three officers and significant damage to their government-registered Land Cruiser (STL 9923).

The incident occurred when the TRA officers, tasked with monitoring customs compliance, attempted to seize the BMW for unpaid taxes. The driver resisted, locking himself inside the car and falsely claiming to bystanders that he was being kidnapped.

The driver's cries for help sparked panic among onlookers, leading to a mob attack on the

TRA vehicle. Stones were hurled at the officers, shattering the car's windows and injuring those inside.

Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba strongly condemned the attack, describing it as "deeply disheartening." He assured that the perpetrators would face legal action, emphasising the government's zero tolerance for such acts.

"The Ministry of Finance condemns this violence in the

strongest terms. We stand in solidarity with the injured officers and extend our full support to them during their recovery," Dr Nchemba stated in a social media post.

The TRA echoed these sentiments, expressing sympathy for the injured officers while reaffirming its commitment to enforcing tax laws.

The confrontation, captured in images and videos, has gone viral on social media, sparking wide-

spread debate. One video shows the BMW driver refusing to exit the vehicle while falsely alleging kidnapping, leading to confusion among bystanders who misinterpreted the situation and acted against the officers.

Dar es Salaam's Special Police Zone Commander, Jumanne Muliro, urged the public to refrain from mob justice and to allow law enforcement agencies to perform their duties.

"Taking the law into your own

hands not only obstructs law enforcement efforts but also endangers innocent lives," he warned.

The attack highlights the risks faced by public servants enforcing tax laws and the critical need for public education on tax compliance. The TRA emphasised that its operations would continue with professionalism, urging citizens to cooperate with authorities to uphold national laws.



Assistant Inspector of Police Christopher Newton pictured at Kawe in Dar es Salaam yesterday leading a sensitisation session in marking this year's edition of the commemoration of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## EAC, SADC countries commit to advancing energy efficiency

By Guardian Reporter

THE Regional Energy Efficiency Conference (REEC 2024), which brought together member countries from the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded committing on advancing energy efficiency across the region.

The two-day conference, held from December 4 to 5 led to several key resolutions aimed at enhancing energy management and usage.

One of the main resolutions is to collectively advance energy efficiency technologies to ensure better energy management and usage.

Speaking during the closure of the conference on Thursday, Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr Selemani Jafu, highlighted the participation of policymakers, legislators, experts and industry leaders, all working toward a common goal: ensuring efficient energy use to support economic growth and industrial development.

"Economic development and industrial progress require a sufficient and reliable energy supply," Dr Jafu said.

He noted that Tanzania is committed to energy efficiency, with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) currently developing standards for energy-efficient equipment.

He also thanked President Samia

Suluh Hassan for her continued investment in energy projects, saying, "These investments are vital for the growth of industries and businesses."

He expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Energy for organizing the two-day conference in collaboration with the European Union (EU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Embassy of Ireland.

Dr Khatibu Kazungu, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, emphasized Tanzania's readiness to implement the newly launched National Energy Efficiency Strategy, with plans to allocate a budget to ensure the efficient use of energy equipment.

Through the conference, regional stakeholders agreed to conduct joint research and actively involve the private sector in energy efficiency efforts.

The event also provided valuable training and facilitated knowledge exchange among regional participants, further contributing to efforts to optimize energy usage in both the public and private sectors.

The REEC 2024 conference marked a significant step forward in the region's push for better energy management, setting the stage for stronger cooperation and innovation in energy efficiency initiatives moving forward.

## Residents called upon to increase crop production to foster growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

KAGERA Regional CCM Chairman Nazir Karamagi has called on citizens in the region and across Tanzania to ramp up the production of both cash and food crops to drive economic growth.

Speaking during an address, Karamagi highlighted ongoing investments in major projects

across sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure. He stressed the importance of safeguarding these developments, noting their significant cost to taxpayers.

"We thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for prioritising people-centred projects that foster economic growth. The private sector has vast opportunities to invest in industries, hotels, and critical areas like

health, education, minerals, and agriculture," said Karamagi.

He also urged residents to prioritise fast-maturing and drought-resistant crops, such as sweet potatoes, cassava, and millet, to ensure food security amid increasingly erratic rainfall patterns. The traditionally reliable seasonal rains between September and November have become unre-

dictable, posing challenges for many farmers.

Kagera, a major food-producing region, has achieved bumper harvests of crops like bananas, beans, maize, and rice during favourable weather conditions. Agriculture, employing over 75 percent of the region's 2.9 million residents, remains the backbone of Kagera's economy. The region's fertile soils and rainfall levels of

800mm to 1200mm make it an ideal location for agribusiness.

"We must encourage young people to engage in commercial agriculture," Karamagi said. He revealed that 10,000 hectares of land have been allocated for youth involvement in coffee production. "This is just the beginning. Bigger things are coming," he added.

Plans are also underway to establish a modern banana

hub in the region. This initiative aims to transform bananas into a lucrative cash crop while addressing farmers' concerns about market reliability. Kagera produces approximately 2.3 million metric tonnes of bananas annually, and the hub is expected to create jobs and further bolster the local economy.

During the recent World Food Day celebrations in Buko-

ba, Deputy Minister for Agriculture David Silinde announced that Tanzania has secured reliable banana export markets in countries such as China, Pakistan, and Brazil. He also highlighted the government's commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity, with the Tanzania Irrigation Commission's budget increasing from 44bn/- to 408bn/- for the upcoming fiscal year.



Priscilla Alva, President of the Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Infinity, pictured on Wednesday symbolically presenting 300 desks to Temeke municipal mayor Abdallah Mtinka (in suit) for onward handing over to Mbagala Primary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## South Africans embrace experts' call for more equitable growth

By Special Correspondent

MOST South Africans believe science and technology (S&T) is making their lives healthier and easier but also feel that scientific advances are changing their lives too quickly and disproportionately benefit the rich.

The findings come from the South African Public Relationship with Science survey launched by science minister Blade Nzimande at the opening of the annual Science Forum South Africa in Pretoria on 3 December.

Conducted across a sample of 6,400 randomly selected individuals nationwide in 2022, the survey provides a baseline of public attitudes towards science, with participants aged 16 and older representing the country's demographic diversity.

Overall, 76 per cent of respondents said S&T was making their lives healthier, easier and more comfortable. However, 78 per cent also said S&T was changing their lives too fast. Two-thirds (66 per cent) said that scientific advances tend to benefit the rich more than the poor—a proportion that has grown by 17 percentage points since a similar question was asked of South Africans in 2013.

The survey, produced by the Human Sciences Research Council in partnership with the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, is the first of its kind and will be repeated every five years.

It found that while 67 per cent of respondents either "trust" or "strongly trust" scientists, confidence levels varied between institutions. S&T information from universities and research institutions enjoy 71 per cent trust, compared with just 38 per cent for national government and 33 per cent for local government.

The survey also highlighted limited science information consumption, with 73 per cent of participants accessing minimal S&T information, 22 per cent accessing moderate amounts, and just 5 per cent accessing substantial scientific content.

Despite these challenges, 65 per cent agreed that science organisations produce relevant knowledge about daily life. However, less optimistic views emerged regarding research practices, with only 40 per cent believing research agendas genuinely listen to people's needs and 45 per cent feeling traditional knowledge is adequately incorporated.

## Libyan youth deliberate on ways to fight hate speech on pathway to elections

TRIPOLI

A Group of 28 young men and women from the western and southern regions of Libya convened in Tripoli early this week to discuss preventing hate speech and the challenges facing the political process among Libyan youth as part of the Mission's YouEngage programme.

Over two days, the participants worked in teams to unpack the pressing issues of hate speech and political obstacles, collaborating with UN officials to devise innovative solutions. Working in teams, they developed compelling social media cam-

paigns aimed at curbing hate speech and developed concrete recommendations to bolster efforts towards democratic elections.

During day one, when discussing how to reduce the prevalence of hate speech online and in the media, youth agreed that the polarization and divisions across Libya have led to societal divisions, some of which can result in online violence, and which affect all social components.

"There are no rules of engagement when speaking about the political process," said one participant. "Political literacy is relatively new, and this means we don't have

the right tools to engage in political discourse. This leaves a vacuum and space for hate speech to prevail," they added.

The groups suggested awareness raising campaigns for youth on what hate speech is, and how to report it, as well as working with those in political and security institutions, including armed formations, to turn the rhetoric away from hate speech to avoid inflaming further conflict.

They also suggested improving laws, educating school children and university students, as well as establishing a media code of conduct, and providing more support to civil society organisations. They also

highlighted the importance of working in communities to educate people about hate speech.

"The majority of hate speech is directed at women," said one female participant. "There is a lack of awareness of women's rights which is one of the main drivers behind hate speech. Those who are victims of hate speech need support."

On day two, the participants, also in subgroups, discussed the obstacles to end the protracted political crisis and moving the country towards national elections and provided recommendations to overcome them from a youth perspective.

They focused on four key areas: political, transitional justice and national reconciliation, security and economic challenges and identified the possible role of youth in overcoming these challenges.

They agreed that young people have an important role to play in contributing to moving the country towards elections, highlighting the need for greater understanding of electoral laws, the constitution and democratic culture. They observed a lack of trust among political actors, explaining that military might, and money were often major drivers of conflict in the country.



Priscilla Alva, President of the Lions Club of Dar es Salaam Infinity, pictured on Wednesday symbolically presenting 300 desks to Temeke municipal mayor Abdallah Mtinka (in suit) for onward handing over to Mbagala Primary School. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UNICEF appeals for US 9.9bn for children affected by global crises

GENEVA

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has launched a \$ 9.9 billion funding appeal to reach 109 million children in 146 countries with lifesaving aid in 2025.

The funds will support UNICEF's response to ongoing conflicts, climate shocks, displacement, and health crises expected next year.

Around the world, 213 million children are facing unpredictable and volatile humanitarian emergencies. With 109 million targeted for assistance in 2025, donor funding is essential to ensure that the response is timely, effective, and sufficient.

"The scale of children's humanitarian needs is at a historically high level, with more children impacted every day," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

"In 2025, we estimate that 213 million children in 146 countries and territories will require humanitarian aid. It is UNICEF's responsibility to provide these children with essential services and supplies, while ensuring their rights are upheld."

In 2024, more than 57.5 million children were born in countries affected by conflict or other crises, a number expected to rise by at least 400,000 in 2025. The appeal underscores the growing humanitarian challenges facing children in 146 countries.

UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for 2025 aims to provide primary healthcare to 56.9 million children and women in UNICEF-supported facilities.

Wasting screening for 34 million children aged 6-59 months, community-based mental health and psychosocial support for 20.6 million children, adolescents and caregivers.

It also focus on gender-based violence risk mitigation and response for 11.1 million women, girls and boys, education for 24 million children, including early learning and access to sufficient water for 55.3 million people. The top funding priorities for 2025 include Afghanistan, which requires \$1.19 billion; Sudan, with a need for \$840 million; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, requesting \$804 million; the State of Palestine, requiring \$716 million; and Lebanon, which needs \$658 million.

## Medical camp restores smiles as 27 undergo reconstructive surgery

By Guardian Correspondent

A special medical camp organised by Aga Khan Hospital (AKH) Dar es Salaam, in collaboration with Reconstructing Women International (RWI) and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), has transformed the lives of 27 women and girls through free plastic reconstructive surgeries.

These procedures restored mobility and alleviated joint stiffness caused by disabilities resulting from burn injuries, gender-based violence, and accidents. The initiative, part of the ninth phase of a programme launched in 2016, focuses on restoring dignity and improving the quality of life for affected women and girls across Tanzania.

From 29 November to 6 December 2024, the camp catered to patients suffering from severe burns, deformities, and violence-relat-

ed injuries. The surgeries were carried out by a team of international plastic surgeons from the United States, Canada, and Europe, working alongside local surgeons from AKH Dar es Salaam, MNH, Bugando Medical Centre, and Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar.

More than 500 women and girls from across Aga Khan Health Service facilities, including those in Zanzibar, were screened for eligibility, with 27 ultimately selected for surgery. Dr Athar Ali, Senior Consultant Surgeon and Head of the Department of Surgery at AKH Dar es Salaam, emphasised the initiative's transformative impact. "In nine phases, over 300 patients have benefited from free surgeries, and we have trained 16 local surgeons and residents from public and private hospitals. Many of these surgeons now perform reconstructive surgeries at public hospitals. Given the demand, we plan to expand

this programme to twice a year," he said.

Dr Andrea Pusic, a plastic surgeon and team leader from RWI, praised the long-standing partnership. "This is the ninth year of successful collaboration with AKH Dar es Salaam and MNH. We've made significant strides in building local expertise and improving care for hundreds of women and girls, enhancing their physical function and appearance," she said.

Dr Aidan Njau, Senior Consultant General and Laparoscopic Surgeon at AKH Dar es Salaam, highlighted the programme's significance. "This five-day initiative has restored hope to many women and girls across Tanzania. The treatment is typically very costly, but thanks to philanthropists and international volunteers, it is provided free of charge," he noted.

Dr Edwin Mrema, Head of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery at MNH, stressed the growing need for specialised healthcare in Tanzania. "As the population grows, so does the demand for reconstructive surgery. The government, in collaboration with partners like AKH Dar es Salaam and RWI, is working to build local capacity and improve access to advanced medical facilities," he explained.

Sisawo Konteh, Chief Executive Officer of AKH Dar es Salaam, highlighted the programme's broader impact. "This initiative offers more than medical treatment. It provides vulnerable women and children with hope for a brighter future by restoring their dignity and confidence after severe injuries and deformities," he said.

The programme is supported by the Aga Khan Hospital Dar es Salaam Patient Welfare Programme, RWI, Khalid Islamic Foundation, Lady Fatimah Trust, Serena Hotel, pharma-

ceutical companies, and individual donors. These contributions cover pre-operative screenings, surgeries, hospital stays, post-operative care, and accommodation for patients and their families.

In East Africa, injuries from accidents or violence often lead to disfigurement, disability, and social stigma, pushing many women and their families into poverty. This initiative addresses these challenges by providing life-changing surgeries, training local surgeons, and raising awareness to prevent such injuries. Over the past eight years, the partnership between Aga Khan Health Services Tanzania, RWI, and MNH has benefited 265 women and girls, showcasing the importance of public-private collaboration in uplifting marginalised communities and complementing government efforts to serve the most vulnerable populations.

## Tanzanian specialists return from fruitful medical camp in Comoros

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWENTY Tanzanian doctors have returned from Comoros after a successful seven-day medical camp, where they treated 2,770 patients and performed surgeries on seven individuals.

During the medical camp, the team identified 269 patients requiring further medical referrals to Tanzania, while exploring additional opportunities for cooperation in the health sector between the two nations.

Upon arrival at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Peter Kisenge, Director of the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), commended the camp's success in delivering vital healthcare services to numerous patients.

He highlighted productive meetings with senior Comorian officials, including the Minister of Defence, who also serves as the President's Assistant and Secretary-General of the ruling party.

Dr Kisenge noted that the medical camp not only provided essential healthcare services to the people of Comoros but also strengthened bi-

lateral relations in the health sector, paving the way for future collaborations.

"We had constructive discussions with key figures, including the Minister of Health of Comoros and the President's Chief Advisor, where we explored various opportunities for investment and cooperation in healthcare," he said.

He added that the discussions included the possibility of a Tanzanian hospital assuming management of a 100-bed facility in Comoros. Additionally, they explored the deployment of Tanzanian specialists to address gaps in medical expertise currently unavailable in Comoros.

Dr Kisenge underscored the importance of collaboration in areas such as cancer care and education. "We engaged with organisations involved in cancer awareness and reviewed the health courses offered at the University of Comoros. Our aim is to introduce programmes available in Tanzania but not yet offered in Comoros," he remarked.

The sessions were attended by various stakeholders, including the Tanzanian Ambassador to Comoros, Said Yakub; Ministry of Health representa-



**Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute executive director Dr Peter Kisenge (C, in jacket) pictured with 20 doctors at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam on Thursday shortly after jetting back from the Comoros. They attended to more than people at a week-long special medical camp they had put up there. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole**

tive, Aisha Mahita; and Global Medicare Director, Abdulmalik Mollel.

Dr Kisenge expressed gratitude to Global Medicare for organising the camp and thanked the participating doctors for their dedication. "This camp has not only provided critical medical services but has also laid the groundwork for enhanced health sector cooperation between Comoros and Tanzania," he said.

He encouraged other Tanzanian doc-

tors to prepare for similar initiatives in the future, highlighting the significance of supporting President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision of regional health collaboration.

Abdulmalik Mollel, Director of Global Medicare, extended his thanks to the Tanzanian Embassy in Comoros and JKCI for their support. He also acknowledged the contributions of the directors of Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, MOI, Ocean Road Cancer Institute, and

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) to the success of the camp.

Aisha Mahita, a representative from the Ministry of Health, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to visit Comoros and witness the significant demand for Tanzanian medical expertise. "I have observed the immense need for our doctors to support the health sector in Comoros, and I am encouraged by the positive impact we have achieved," she said.

## Six bodies recovered from illegal goldmine in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG

SIX bodies have been retrieved from an abandoned gold mine in Stilfontein, located around 150 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg.

The mine, once a productive source of gold, has become the site of a growing crisis, with illegal miners, known locally as Zama Zamas, facing life-threatening dangers underground.

The exact number of miners still trapped remains uncertain. One local source estimated that around 4,000 miners may be stuck in the mine, but authorities have since suggested the number

is more likely to be in the hundreds.

The South African police have been surrounding the area for the past month in an attempt to clear the mine of illegal miners, who continue to operate in hazardous conditions despite the risks.

The abandoned mines, left to deteriorate over the years, have become a haven for the Zama Zamas, many of whom travel from neighbouring countries like Mozambique and Lesotho in search of better economic opportunities. These miners often work in dangerous conditions, using rudimentary tools to extract gold from shafts that are prone to

collapse. The illegal mining operations not only jeopardise the lives of those involved but also contribute to environmental degradation.

Authorities have imposed strict measures to try to curb the activity, including restricting access to food and water in an effort to force miners to evacuate.

The actions have sparked protests from family members of the miners, who fear for the lives of their loved ones trapped underground. Relatives and friends gathered near the site to demand action, and some have accused the government of failing to protect the miners who, despite operating illegally, are driven by poverty and

unemployment.

Zama Zamas face extreme hardships, often living in the mines for extended periods with little access to proper shelter, healthcare, or legal protection. Many of them, particularly migrants from neighbouring countries, find themselves vulnerable to exploitation and violence, both from fellow miners and criminal syndicates that control illegal mining operations.

In addition to the immediate dangers posed by unstable mine shafts, there are growing concerns about the broader impact of illegal mining on the surrounding communities. Locals have increasingly associated the rise in illegal mining

activity with a surge in criminality, including drug trafficking and violent crime.

The presence of Zama Zamas has led to tensions in the region, with some residents blaming them for exacerbating insecurity in their communities.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has referred to the illegal miners as a "menace" to the country's economy and security, urging for stricter enforcement and better regulation of the mining sector.

The government has acknowledged the complexity of the issue, as many Zama Zamas are driven by economic desperation,

with few alternatives available due to the country's high unemployment rate and economic inequality.

In response to the increasing dangers associated with illegal mining, South African authorities have vowed to step up efforts to dismantle criminal networks exploiting miners and causing significant harm to the country's mining sector. While enforcement operations continue, critics argue that the root causes of illegal mining – including poverty, lack of education, and inadequate employment opportunities – must also be addressed in order to prevent further tragedies.

## South African Airways canceling some flights as pilots go on strike

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) has cancelled flights to Perth and São Paulo following confirmation from the SAA Pilots Association (SAAPA) that its members will go on strike over a deadlock in salary negotiations.

The decision to cancel the long-haul routes was made late Wednesday after it became clear that the strike would proceed as planned on Thursday.

Khaya Buthelezi, SAA's Senior Manager of Corporate Relations, told Reuters that the airline could not find partner carriers to accommodate affected passengers, leading to the cancellation of these two routes. "It became clear that those two routes must be cancelled," Buthelezi said, noting that the airline had no alternative arrangements in place for these flights.

However, domestic flights and routes across Africa were unaffected early Thursday morning, as the airline had made contingency plans to minimize disruptions within the region. Some pilots were seen picketing outside SAA's headquarters at OR Tambo Inter-

national Airport in Johannesburg, highlighting the ongoing tension between the airline and its pilots.

Sibusiso Nxumalo, a spokesperson for SAAPA and the National Transport Movement Pilots Forum, told South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) that the strike was not only about salary increases but also about improving working conditions.

"The company has made a profit in the past couple of months. It's not like we want a piece of that pie; we just want better working conditions," Nxumalo said.

The pilots' initial demand, presented in May, was for a 30 percent salary increase. However, this was later revised to 15.7 percent, which includes associated benefits. In response, SAA offered an 8.46 percent pay rise, retroactively effective from April 2024.

SAA's interim CEO, John Lamola, expressed concerns that agreeing to the 15.7 percent increase would jeopardize the airline's financial stability, potentially driving the company into bankruptcy. SAA had previously been on the brink of liquidation in 2019 before entering a form of bankruptcy protection.



**Hamad Khamis Hamad (R), Commissioner of Police for Zanzibar, gifts visiting United Nations Police Adviser Faisal Shahkar a decorative Zanzibar door at the Zanzibar Police headquarters earlier this week. Photo: Rahma Suleiman**

## Ivory Coast's beloved staple food gains UN cultural heritage status

ABDIJAN

IVORY Coast's beloved staple, attiéké - made from fermented cassava flour - has officially been added to UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

Attiéké, pronounced atchékay, is a kind of couscous made from ground cassava roots. It is so well-loved that many people have it for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Nicknamed "Ivorian cous-

cus", it is typically eaten with grilled fish. It originated from the coastal areas of Ivory Coast centuries ago, but is now popular across West Africa.

Ivory Coast's UNESCO delegate, Ramata Ly-Bakayoko, told the 19th session on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Paraguay, that attiéké was "deeply rooted in the daily lives of its communities".

Japanese sake, an alcoholic beverage made from grains,

was also added to the list this year.

In Ivory Coast, attiéké is often served at ceremonies such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, and community meetings.

But it is more than just a meal, it is some people's livelihood and a pathway to financial autonomy for many women.

Attiéké is traditionally made by women and girls. The process can take a few days as there are many steps rooted in

tradition, and the skills it takes to make attiéké have also been added to the UNESCO heritage list.

The cassava root is peeled, grated and mixed with a previously fermented cassava.

The pulp is then pressed to remove the starch and later processed manually and dried and then steamed.

It is then taken to local markets, where it is typically sold in plastic bags each containing a

single ball of attiéké.

But at the heart of it, attiéké, is a cultural connection from one generation to another.

The recipes, processes, and methods are passed down from mother to daughter and the dish "is a pillar of their identity and that of the whole of Ivory Coast", said Ms Ly-Bakayoko.

The UNESCO list highlights intangible cultural heritage that are at risk, emphasising the need to protect and preserve

traditional practices. The inclusion of attiéké highlights its importance to humanity as a collective, UNESCO says.

The delicious and tangy staple has also caused controversy on the continent.

In 2019, there was outrage in Ivory Coast when Florence Bassono, founder of Faso Attiéké from neighbouring Burkina Faso, won an award at the Abidjan International Agriculture Show.

Many Ivorians were angered by a foreigner winning with their national dish.

Earlier this year, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization registered a collective trademark to prevent cassava produced in other countries being sold under the name attiéké - in the same way that champagne has to be produced in the area of France with that name.

## S. Sudan resumes Tumaini peace talks in Nairobi

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's government and opposition groups who did not sign the 2018 Revitalised Agreement are among the negotiating parties attending the talks in Nairobi.

The 2018 agreement was introduced with the aim of bringing an end to the country's five-year civil war, which killed more than 400,000 people.

The Tumaini talks first began in May, but stalled after South Sudanese President Salva Kiir sacked the previous government delegation of representatives. Although a new team was appointed to represent the government, it was unable to travel to Nairobi on two subsequent occasions. No reasons were given for the sackings and travel delays.

Last month, Kiir stated that the talks were not meant to replace the 2018 peace deal, but sought to address and integrate the concerns of holdout groups.

As it stands, the 2018 peace agreement is yet to be fully implemented. National elections were initially scheduled for December 2024, but were subsequently postponed in line with the two-year extension of the country's transition period.

The elections - which would be the first ever in South Sudan's history - are now set to be held in December 2026.



A hired tricycle rider ferries sugarcane to a destination he would not disclose when Correspondent Sabato Kasika caught up with him along a road in Dar es Salaam's Kinyerezi suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## UNESCO calls for greater climate change education in Southern Africa

PRETORIA

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has urged for greater focus on climate change education and stronger collaboration between journalists and scientists to help mitigate the impact of extreme weather events in Southern Africa, where poorer communities are most vulnerable.

Early this week, scientists and journalists from the Southern African Develop-

ment Community (SADC) region gathered in Pretoria to discuss climate change under the theme Building Science Communication Capacity in the SADC Region. Martiale Zebaze-Kana, head of UNESCO's science unit in Southern Africa, emphasised the need for more awareness and studies on climate adaptation strategies.

"We need to build capacity around climate-related issues, with a focus on mitigation and resilience," Zebaze-Kana said

The region, affected by severe El Niño-

induced droughts, is facing its worst food insecurity in years, with millions relying on humanitarian aid. Zebaze-Kana stressed the importance of early warning systems and preparing communities for climate-related disasters, such as floods and droughts.

Sosten Chiotha, director of Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa, pointed out that developing countries are disproportionately impacted by climate change. He stressed the need for infrastructure adaptation, particularly in

vulnerable areas. "Climate change amplifies existing vulnerabilities. In Malawi, winds of 70 to 80 kilometres per hour were enough to blow off houses, while places accustomed to tornadoes have resilient infrastructure," said Chiotha.

He advocated for improved construction, drainage systems, and flood-resistant housing. Charles Chikunda, UNESCO's officer for climate education in Southern Africa, added that educating children about climate change from an early age is essential.

"We should start teaching these issues from a young age, not wait until university," Chikunda stated.

He highlighted that some countries, like Lesotho and Zimbabwe, are already integrating climate change into their school curricula. As Southern Africa continues to grapple with the devastating effects of climate change, the call for increased education and preparedness remains urgent to safeguard vulnerable communities and foster sustainable solutions.



Dr Maduhu Kazi (L), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Home Affairs ministry, pictured in Singida municipality earlier this week presenting a laptop to Mbeya Regional Probation Officer Emiliana Komba at the opening of an evaluation meeting on the ICT-aided implementation of Department of Probation Services' activities. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

## Unknown disease kills 79 people in DR Congo

KINSHASA

HEALTH authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have confirmed that nearly 80 people have died from an unknown disease in recent weeks.

The outbreak, which has affected the southwestern province of Kwango, was first reported on October 24, 2024. Since then, the disease has spread rapidly, with 376 confirmed cases as of early December.

The disease, which causes flu-like symptoms, has primarily impacted individuals in their late teens and young adulthood, with a majority of the fatalities being in this age group.

The symptoms include fever, severe headaches, runny nose, coughing, difficulty breathing, and anaemia, which can progress to more severe complications.

The DRC government, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), has deployed a team of experts to investigate the cause of the disease and prevent further spread. Initial reports indicate that the disease has a high fatality rate, which has raised concerns about its potential to spread to other regions in the country.

Health authorities have urged local residents to take immediate precautions, such as avoiding crowded areas and practicing good hygiene, including frequent handwashing with soap and water. Medical teams are working to isolate affected individuals and provide treatment while the investigation continues.

This outbreak has drawn comparisons to previous health crises in the region, such as Ebola and the Marburg virus, though officials have not yet identified the pathogen responsible for the current illness.

The government has pledged to ramp up efforts to contain the disease, with a focus on both preventive measures and medical support for the affected population.

## Biden pledges millions for railroad to Zambia, Congo

LUANDA

US President Joe Biden on his visit to sub-Saharan Africa pledged another \$600 million for a cross-continent rail corridor project Wednesday, telling regional leaders that "Africa has been left behind for much too long."

Biden used the third and final day of his visit to Angola to showcase the Lobito Corridor railway, where the U.S. and allies are investing heavily to refurbish 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) of train

lines in Zambia, Congo and Angola.

The project aims to advance the U.S. presence in a region rich in cobalt, copper and other critical minerals used in batteries for electric vehicles, electronic devices and clean energy technologies. By the end of the decade, the rail line could even go a long way toward linking southern Africa's west and east coasts.

"It's a game changer," Biden said, and cited the transformational effect of building the transcontinental railroad in the United States. Cargo that once took

45 days to get to the United States - usually involving trucks to South Africa - will now take less than 45 hours, he said. He also predicted the project could transform the region from a food importer to exporter.

Altogether, Biden said the U.S. has invested \$4 billion along the Lobito Corridor. He was joined by the presidents of Angola, Congo and Zambia. Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi said the project could create tens of millions of jobs in his country, saying it will "change the trajec-

tory of our region for good."

Angola's President João Lourenço said it will be "a lynchpin for...economic development" in the region.

Biden said the Lobito Corridor constituted the largest U.S. investment in a train project outside the country.

The U.S. is promoting the Lobito Atlantic Railway upgrade as a catalyst that it hopes will spark a new era of Western private sector investment in this part of Africa. The corridor has also drawn financing from the European Union, the Group

of Seven leading industrialized nations, a Western-led private consortium and African banks.

The corridor won't be completed for years, meaning much of the work would come during the administration of Donald Trump, who takes office Jan 20. The Biden White House says Republicans in Congress have supported past efforts to promote African business interests through targeted investments and that such initiatives have appealed to Trump and his key advisers in the past.

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SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

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

## There is no way we can afford to take lightly the unity we treasure

THERE is a classic literary expression or idiom that 'let those with ears hear' what is being said, not because there was anyone out there with no ears but rather because not all ears are blessed with the ability to comprehend. Well-placed observers in the way political activity is being managed in various parts of the world at present are worried some countries are increasingly falling into that category, believing that election-time and other forms of violence can result into something of lasting benefit.

While Father of the Nation Mwalimu JK Nyerere was still in office and visited the main campus of the University of Dar es Salaam, he was once asked a decidedly provocative question about tribalism. The questioner, a senior lecturer, said the vice was rampant at 'The Hill'.

The reasons he gave were sort of bewildering to most of those in the packed hall, but Tanzania's founding president did not treat it lightly. He cited examples of changing the rules to enable non-commissioned army officers to move into officer ranks where needed, to avoid having a fractured army.

What remains relevant in his remarks to this day lies in the formulation to the effect that one should desist from creating a problem of tribalism by ignoring it.

A former prime minister has meanwhile only days ago cautioned the nation along much the same lines regarding the conduct of the recent local government election and recent cases of abductions and killings.

The key issue was that these incidents threaten national unity, which is true, but the problem is that it doesn't need a top-level leader to tell the public as much, as it ought to be clear to just about anyone and everyone.

There is no denying that when people fail to express themselves, register

their feelings in polls and various other settings or scenarios, they may elect to embark on alternative ways - some obviously far from welcome.

The more onerous observation hinged on how crime poses a substantial threat to the country's peace and harmony, if the government fell short of taking decisive remedial or preventive action.

The former premier was emphatic that when it came to politics, everyone has his or her opinion and state organs will not be united when these divisions come into the open. That spoke an immense lot.

There is a traditional expression that where there are elders nothing will go wrong and, with a bit of reflection, the top leadership could definitely agree that we need to mend these bad ways. Late into his retirement, Mwalimu Nyerere once told an editors' gathering to the effect that 'if you eat human flesh, it will haunt you and you will be bound to keep doing as much'.

Getting used to violence becomes normal, and then there are ruptures all over the place, from all nooks or crannies of society; and the country simply degenerates into a failed state.

As if these expressions were insufficient to make a big enough impact, we could borrow another reminder, which talks about 'sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind'.

Criminal elements wrongly believing that they are abducting isolated individuals, where our currently indulgent social norms rush to view the victims with contempt as 'loud-mouthed' and whatever else, are unaware that they erode faith in the state, whether it is slowly or rapidly.

The former premier is perfectly right: national unity is not something to experiment with; the misdirected effort will backfire - and likely with a vengeance.

## Tanzania will do better seeking investors in real land restoration

OUR delegation to the 16th Conference of the Parties on the United Nations convention on combating desertification has been quite busy.

There have been deliberations first on a list of 16 projects for environmental restoration, and then moving a proposal on land degradation. Tanzania is reported to have appealed for global support to empower researchers and youth to effectively engage in science, technology and innovation (STI) initiatives towards bridging knowledge gaps on land restoration and drought resilience.

The research support plea was made at a ministerial dialogue on mobilising political support and investments for the implementation of the African Great Green Wall Initiative, where Tanzania has developed an action plan for ten years - 2023-2033.

The figures indicated suggest that we are seeking US\$546m or thereabouts for its implementation, thus seeking partners to roll it out. This is including by rooting for the formation of technology-sharing platforms to facilitate access to innovative land management tools. Looking at the proposal, it may appear that what we are seeking is a chance to obtain the knowledge needed for curbing the spread of desertification or systematic land degradation.

There is hence a difference between knowledge and technology, as we have for decades had a fair share of the technology for uplifting degraded land. Nor is there a shortage of technology in the sense of tools or instruments and how to use them, which calls for application, not research per se.

The biodiversity and anti-desertification conference is in many

ways an extension of the climate change consultation process of a few weeks earlier, as desertification is a particularly acute result of climate change.

Desertification starts as land degradation, more often due to drought. When ecology is vastly dislocated, a few thorny trees remain and seasonal grass sprouts when it rains heavily for a day or two, then it stops - until the next 'rainy' season.

The leader of our country's delegation urged mainly for increased accessibility to global climate and land restoration financing mechanisms - the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund. These facilities are more effectively used as leveraging sources, putting in money as encouragement to a country's own plans, and thus projects.

If the Treasury can't put up say 50 per cent of the funds needed and then seek leveraging from global instruments, it is appropriate it seeks credible investors in that sphere for us to proceed.

When this method if generally applied in seeking global financing, we are likely to have most of the projects proposed leveraged but not funded. Trouble would there be the deep-rooted preference for actual funding for public sector projects, clearly visible among delegations to both conferences and hence the walkout at a late hour at COP29, as held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22 - with a placid compromise later.

In a sense, the crisis around the world isn't about climate change or vast desertification but the relentless failure and chaotic scenery of public sector environment management.

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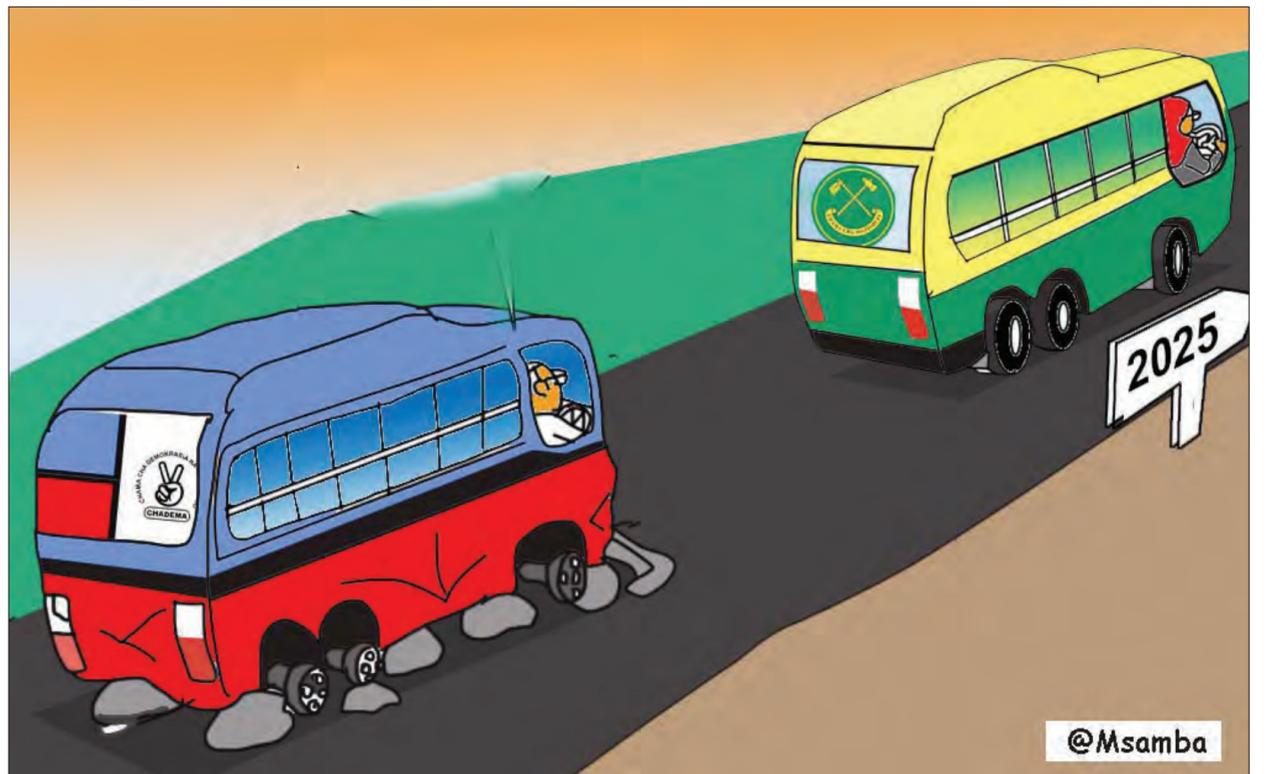
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## How an App transformed farming for rural Tanzanian women

By Kizito Makoye

IN the sun-scorched soils of Moshi, where every drop of rain counts, two female farmers have defied the odds through technology. Mwajuma Rashid Njau and Mumili Rajab, once locked in a daily struggle to survive, have found a mobile phone their best ally.

For years, farming was a way of life they struggled to master. Their fields, a patchwork of red earth and wilting crops, symbolized hardship rather than prosperity. Pests came with the seasons, the soil quality deteriorated, and their harvests barely provided enough to feed their families. But now, a simple app - Kiazi Bora - has changed everything.

On a sweltering afternoon, Njau was out in the field, staring helplessly at the rows of wilting sweet potatoes ravaged by pests, when he realized things could be different. She had no idea how to stop it - until she opened the Kiazi Bora app on her phone.

"This app has changed everything," Njau, 38, says with a tired but hopeful smile. "I didn't know where to start, but now I can check my phone, and it tells me exactly what to do."

The Kiazi Bora app, designed specifically for small-scale farmers like Njau and Rashid, focuses on helping them grow nutritious orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP) to feed their families and earn income. The app offers simple instructions on planting and pest control to farmers with little education.

The app, Kiazi Bora ("quality potatoes" in Kiswahili), wasn't just another farming tool - it was powered by cutting-edge AI voice technology. And for the first time, it spoke their language.

Creating Kiazi Bora wasn't easy. Kiswahili, a language spoken by over 200 million people, presented unique challenges for AI developers. The problem? There simply wasn't enough high-quality voice data to train the technology.

"One of the biggest challenges has been the availability of diverse, high-quality data," said EM Lewis-Jong, Director of Mozilla Common Voice, a global project dedicated to making AI accessible to speakers of underrepresented languages.

"Kiswahili is a diverse language with many regional variants, and our tools are primarily designed for English, which complicates things further."

To solve this issue, SEE Africa, the non-profit behind Kiazi Bora, turned to Mozilla's Common Voice platform. Unlike other AI data collection methods, which often rely on scraping the web or underpaid gig workers, Common Voice harnesses the power of community. "We use a crowd-sourced model where people voluntarily contribute their voice data," explained Lewis-Jong. "This ensures that the data reflects the true diversity of the language, including different accents and dialects."

This community-driven approach has already seen tremendous success. In Tanzania, the Kiazi Bora app is now used by over 300 women, empowering them



Women in Kilema village harvest orange sweet potatoes. Credit: Kizito Makoye/IPS

with knowledge on how to grow and market their crops. "These women are learning in Kiswahili, their first language, which makes a huge difference," noted Gina Moape, Community Manager for Common Voice. "We've seen firsthand how access to information in their own language improves both their nutrition and their ability to participate in economic activities."

But Kiazi Bora is just one example of how voice-enabled technology can make a real impact.

For Mozilla, these projects reflect a broader vision: democratizing AI so that it serves everyone, not just speakers of dominant languages. "If data creation is left to for-profit companies, many of the world's languages will be left behind," said Lewis-Jong. "We want a world where people can create the data they need, capturing their language as they experience it."

That's why Mozilla's Common Voice is not just a tool but a movement. Its open-source platform allows communities to collect and contribute voice data that anyone can use, fostering local innovation across Africa. "We're particularly excited about the potential for African languages," Lewis-Jong added. "Our long-term vision is to integrate more African languages into global voice recognition technologies, and Common Voice is a critical part of making that happen."

For Rashid, 42, who had once lived in uncertainty, the app was a useful tool. "Before, I felt powerless," she recalls. "When pests attacked, I would just watch as my crops withered. Now, I can fight back. I know what to do."

Both women have honed their

skills and improved crop yields. The app taught them how to manage soil health, optimize planting schedules, and handle pest outbreaks.

Their orange-fleshed sweet potatoes stand out in contrast to the dusty earth, a sign of resilience and renewal.

The duo, who were entangled in a cycle of poverty, now speak with pride about their success.

"We've learned to control our future," Njau says. Through Kiazi Bora, Njau and Rajabu have unlocked opportunities to improve their livelihoods and break free from poverty.

Njau, who had to drop out of school when her family moved to a remote village, calls the app her "teacher." She explains, "I never completed school, but this app has taught me everything I need to know about farming. It's like a teacher that's always there when I need it."

The voice-enabled Kiswahili features make it user-friendly. "The app speaks to me in a language I clearly understand," Njau says.

Through the app, Njau and Rajabu learned how to process potatoes into flour and pastries, which fetch a higher market price.

Rajabu explains, "I didn't know you could make flour from sweet potatoes or that you could sell it for more money. Now, I have customers who buy the flour because it lasts longer than fresh potatoes." This new skill has allowed them to diversify their income.

In just a year, their income increased from zero to USD 127 per month. The extra income has enabled them to take care of their fami-

lies, reinvest in their farms, and secure a better future. "With the money I've made, I've been able to send my children to school and even save some for emergencies," says Njau.

The potatoes, which are rich in vitamins, have helped them fight malnutrition in their communities. While neither Njau nor Rajabu had children with malnutrition, they both knew families who struggled with it. Thanks to the app, they now understand the importance of incorporating OFSP into their daily meals to ensure their children stay healthy.

Rajabu was quick to share the app with her relatives. "I told my sister about it, and now she's also growing OFSP. Her children are healthier, and she's even making money from selling sweet potato flour," she says proudly.

For both women, the app has empowered them as farmers, businesswomen and community leaders. "I feel confident now," Rajabu says. "This app has changed my life, and I know it can help other women like me."

Both Njau and Rajabu see immense potential for Kiazi Bora to help other rural women. They advocate for expanding the app beyond OFSP farming to include other crops like vegetables and edible roots, as this could further diversify their income streams and enhance food security in their communities.

"Women in rural areas need this technology," Rajabu emphasizes. "We need to make sure that we can feed our families and earn better incomes."

IPS

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we briefly looked at Tanzania's economic performance, one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In 2020 it became a lower-middle income economy five years ahead of Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

The latter envisages a strong, diversified, resilient and competitive economy which can effectively cope with the challenges of development and which can also easily and confidently adapt to the changing market and technological conditions in the regional and global economy.

In March this, alongside Rwanda and Uganda, it met for the first time criteria for graduation from the status of UN least developed countries (LDCs) since the establishment of the LDC category in 1971.

Tanzania appears also in UNIDO Country Classification Edition 2024 as an emerging industrial economy (EIE) and belongs to the group of middle-income industrialising economies (MIEs).

As an emerging economy, it is grouped alongside other 14 countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Viet Nam.

As a MIE, Tanzania still remains at comparatively low levels of industrialisation - that is - it is an economy that can benefit most from prioritising industrial development in its policy strategies.

However, UNIDO cautions that "it must be noted that the UNIDO country classification 2024, as well as designations such as 'industrial', 'industrialising' or 'emerging', are intended for statistical purposes only, with the aim of facilitating the organisation and presentation of statistical information. They do not express a judgment about the stage reached by a particular economy in its development process or any association between economies."

On the other hand, with Tanzania's positive economic outlook, one would think its democratic profile could manifest a similar outlook. Yet, looking at electoral process complaints raised by stakeholders during the civic election held on November 27 Tanzania is still more of

# Tanzania's democratic profile should match economic gain



Dar es Salaam, the financial centre of Tanzania

a fledgling than emerging democracy or a fast developing democracy.

Some of the problems raised by stakeholders include registering some underage schoolchildren as eligible voters, the involvement of law enforcers in ballot stuffing, disqualification of the majority of opposition party candidates from the list of contesters, and some polling stations had muddled or blurred lists of voters which made some voters return home without voting.

As a result, while ruling party candidates scooped overwhelming victory (99.1 per cent) opposition party candidates ended up with a very narrow margin victory (0.9 per cent). Critics suggest if similar flaws are repeated in the next year's general electoral process they could arouse public dissatisfaction and violence. So, prudence is needed on how to properly prepare and hold the general election which reflects people's wishes.

Two opposition parties, Chadema and Act-Wazalendo, claimed there was no free and fair civic election and wished the entire civic election was cancelled and held again because it was marred by marked irregularities. However, the leaders

of 14 smaller parties hailed the ruling party for emerging victorious and said although there were minor flaws they were satisfied with the electoral process, and for them the civic election was free and fair.

Electoral justice in many parts of the world and especially in Africa is still more of an ideal than a reality. This is evidenced in "The Global State of Democracy (GSoD) 2024: Strengthening the Legitimacy of Elections in a Time of Radical Uncertainty". This report, which covers 173 countries, shows marked uncertainty in periodic democratic elections across the world.

It "outlines mounting threats to the quality and robustness of elections, a pattern highlighted by a dramatic 10-point fall in average turnout over the past 15 years, but reflected in different ways and to different degrees in every region of the world."

The report says last year "the average level of electoral participation (measured in terms of the percentage of the voting-age population that voted) had declined to 55.7 per cent (from 67.9 per cent in 1975), while the percentage of elections that were followed by riots or protests had risen to 27.6 per cent

(from 3.8 per cent in 1975)."

It says last year only 42 countries (of the 173 data) demonstrated a net positive change—the number of factors of democratic performance exceeded the number of factors that showed a decline—a figure that pales in comparison with the 79 countries that suffered more declines than advances (net negative change). This, the report says, translates into saying, while about one in four countries makes progress, four out of every nine are worse off.

This year's GSoD global ranking shows country performance for each of the categories of democratic performance—representation, rights, rule of law, and participation. Tanzania in particular ranks 107th in representation, 80th in rights, 52nd in rule of law, and 84th in participation out of 173 surveyed countries worldwide. Representation is subdivided into the following components: credible elections, local democracy, inclusive suffrage, effective parliament, elected government and free political parties. Rights (civil rights - freedom of association and assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of expression; access to justice, basic welfare, political equality, gender equality, economic equality and social group equality). Rule of law (judicial independence, predictable enforcement, personal integrity and security and absence of corruption). Participation includes electoral participation, civic engagement and civil society. All these attributes constitute dynamic democracy.

The GSoD 2024 is produced and published by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), an intergovernmental organisation with 35 member states. It was founded in 1995, with a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide.

**Today's quote: "In a... nation, whose citizens are to be led by reason and persuasion and not by force, the art of reasoning becomes of first importance." - Thomas Jefferson.**

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## The Law and You



By Oritro Karim

**A**S the Sudanese Civil War continues to ravage the people of Sudan, conditions for internally displaced persons grow more dire every day. The situation in Sudan is currently the biggest displacement crisis in the world. Famine, violence, and gender-based violence are rampant. Described as "an invisible crisis" by the United Nations (UN) new emergency relief chief, Tom Fletcher, many believe that the humanitarian response has been largely ineffective in tackling the urgent and growing scale of needs.

The latest figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimate that approximately 11.5 million people have fled their homes since the wake of the war. Roughly 8.5 million people have been dispersed throughout Sudan's borders while 3 million have fled to neighbouring nations such as Chad, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) mass displacement has given way to one of the world's biggest educational crises. It is estimated that 90 percent of Sudan's 19 million school-aged children lack access to any form of formal education.

Sudanese displacement camps have seen a steep rise of violence over the past few days. On December 1-2, intense gunfire and shelling was reported around the Zamzam camp, one of Sudan's largest shelters, located south of El Fasher, North Darfur. According to humanitarian organizations, at least five people were killed and eighteen were injured. This led to the evacuation of a hospital within the camp and suspension of medical services.

In a report released by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Clementine Nkweta-Salami condemned the attack and urged for stronger protections to be established for civilians.

"I am deeply concerned by reports of the indiscriminate shelling of Zamzam camp, health clinics, and shelters of displaced people. Their protection is paramount. Civilians and civilian infrastructure are protected under international humanitarian law and should never be a target," said Nkweta-Salami.

The UN has described conditions in the Zamzam camp as being at a "breaking point." Heightened violence has exacerbated already dire conditions for the nearly 500,000 displaced persons residing in this camp. Health clinics, residential areas, and the humanitarian response has been severely strained due to the sheer scale of suffering.

According to a press release from the UN, famine has been persistent in the Zamzam camp since August 2024, making it the only location globally where famine has been declared this year.

The medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), has been on the frontlines assisting displaced

# Heightened insecurity in Sudan threatens nationwide collapse



Two women and a child in a displacement shelter in Sudan. Displaced women and children are the most vulnerable populations. Credit: UNICEF/Ahmed Mohammed Elfatih

persons facing severe injuries or war-related conditions. On December 1, MSF received eight injured people, including children as young as four years old. These patients faced conditions such as chest trauma and bone fractures.

MSF reports that thousands of children are currently being treated for malnutrition and starvation. A series of studies were conducted to assess the mortality rate of 400 households in the Zamzam camp.

Out of 46,000 children, it is reported that approximately 30 percent are struggling with acute malnutrition, while 8 percent are facing severe malnutrition. Furthermore, 10 percent of children under five years old struggle with severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening condition.

The World Food Programme has called for a cessation in violence to allow humanitarian aid to reach affected commu-

nities. "We've been pushing for months to get to these communities. We have the food. We have the trucks. We have the staff on board to ensure this aid gets there. Now, we need all warring parties and armed groups to allow this vital food and nutrition to arrive safely," said Alex Marianelli, WFP's Operations Deputy Country Director in Sudan.

Additionally, gender-based violence remains a pervasive issue plaguing displaced communities all across Sudan. According to statistics from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), approximately 65 percent of all women and girls experience sexual, physical, and gender-based violence in their lifetime. Sudan also ranks as one of the nations with the highest number of reported cases of intimate partner violence.

"Every day countless South Sudanese women and girls endure unthinkable suffering due to gender-based violence

and conflict-related sexual violence," said South Sudanese Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Aya Warille. "These acts are more than mere statistics. They are profound violations of human rights that fracture the very fabric of our society. They rob our mothers, sisters and daughters of their dignity and place an immense burden on our future. This is not just a women issue, it is a societal crisis that speaks to the core of our humanity."

Sudanese civilians and humanitarian officials have described aid efforts as being inadequate, relative to the massive, nationwide scale of suffering. Twenty years ago, we had presidents and prime ministers engaged to stop atrocities in Darfur.

There are today many times as many lives at stake - this is the world's worst crisis - but we are met with deafening silence. We must wake up the world before famine engulfs a generation of children," said Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Secretary General Jan Egeland.

Despite many believing that Sudan has been largely "ignored" by the international community, the UN reiterates that Sudan is a pressing concern for them.

"This crisis is not invisible to the UN, to our humanitarians on the front-line risking and losing their lives to help the Sudanese people," said Fletcher.

Reasons for the limited humanitarian response can be attributed to widespread social insecurity that has been exacerbated by violence and an overall lack of funding.

Mobility and aid deliveries have experienced increasingly common restrictions and blockages. Additionally, the UN's goal of 2.7 billion USD for the humanitarian response in Sudan has only been 57 percent funded. This poses significant challenges in sustaining life-saving aid efforts in the face of a crisis that deepens in severity on a daily basis.

LUANDA

**O**UTGOING U.S. President Joe Biden visited oil-rich Angola from Monday to Wednesday, fulfilling a two-year-old promise to visit Africa as his term draws to a close.

During his bilateral meeting with Angolan President Joao Lourenco, Biden again brought up his "all in Africa" pledge to bolster trade between the United States and the continent and increase investment.

Biden's promise may not go very far.

Angola, the sole stop on Biden's trip, appeared to be the focal point of his Africa policy, marked by a key investment in the Lobito Corridor – a railway network spanning over 2,000 km and connecting Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Zambia. It includes the 1,344-km Benguela Railway, and a new greenfield railway planned as a branch line from Angola's existing network into northern Zambia.

The United States plans to invest in a European consortium that won a 30- to 50-year concession for the project as part of Biden's Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI) partnership.

The Portuguese-speaking African country has never been a traditional "ally" of the United States. Few American companies have invested in Angola's infrastructure, let alone its agriculture, industry, or trade sectors.

The Biden administration's rush to announce significant investments in Angola seems purposeful. In July 2022, a European consortium, including Portugal's Mota-Engil and Switzerland's Trafigura, won a decades-long concession for the Lobito Corridor contingent on building a new railway to Zambia.

However, sources revealed that the European companies hesitated and delayed paying the "entrance fee" after re-evaluating the project's commercial value.

In the first half of 2023, the Biden administration finally seized on the project as an African success story and quickly included it in the PGI.

After Biden's high-profile announcement of large-scale U.S. investment in May 2023 in the project, Angola officially handed over the project to the European consortium in July. After courting "allies" and adding more investments, Biden finally managed to weave the "Lobito story" into his legacy just before his term ends.

However, a March report by Africa Intelligence, a

# How far can Biden's Africa commitments go?



Outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden is pictured during his state visit to Angola in Luanda, Angola, Dec. 3, 2024. (Photo by Julio Kikebu/Xinhua)

Paris-based publication focusing about the U.S. commitment. It noted that the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), a state agency financing the Lobito

Corridor project, doubted the viability of the greenfield railway.

"The DFC has been studying the commercial interest of the Angola-Zambia segment since last July but is not convinced of its relevance. It would require the construction of an entirely new railway line in both countries, which would be much more expensive than rehabilitating the existing Angolan and Congolese lines," the report said.

Biden's attempt to leave a political legacy in his remaining time in office and invest 4 billion U.S. dollars in the corridor has led some analysts to worry that the next U.S. administration might abandon the hefty commitments made by Biden's government due to concerns over the project's commercial viability and its prior demonstrated bias against African nations.

If the project is abandoned halfway, the biggest losers, aside from the frontline European "allies" involved in its operation, will be the African partners in desperate need of infrastructure development, who may miss their strategic development window.

At the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the United States committed to advancing two-way trade. However, in the case of Angola, U.S. goods exports to Angola in 2023 fell by 8.8 percent year on year, while U.S. imports from Angola decreased by 26.8 percent from the previous year.

There is ample evidence that, throughout the U.S. commitments to Africa, the United States has never forgotten its own economic or political interests. It has faced accusations of transparency and corruption regarding its multi-million and multi-billion-dollar investments and aid in single projects.

Jose Semedo, an Angolan congressman, recently wrote on the news website Angola24Horas that Western companies, including U.S. firms, reap astronomical profits under the guise of mine clearance.

He said that these Western non-governmental organizations pretend to be active in demining activities while making millions, and despite holding conferences and boasting about their brilliant results, Angolans continue to die. ■

# China follows targeted strategy in poverty alleviation, eliminates root causes of poverty through development

By He Yin

**R**ECENTLY, the launch ceremony of the Portuguese edition of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on poverty relief, "Up and Out of Poverty," and a seminar on the governance of China and Brazil were held in Rio de Janeiro, capital of Brazil.

Osmar Junior, executive secretary of Brazil's Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, noted that over 30 years ago, while working in Chinese impoverished areas, Xi led the local people in finding suitable ways out of poverty. His book "Up and Out of Poverty" holds even greater significance in a world of turbulence and transformation, added Junior.

Junior noted that the book shares profound insights into national governance and social development, offering valuable lessons on poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

As the world's largest developing country, China has always given top priority to the fight against poverty in its national governance. It has lifted 800 million people out of poverty, setting an example for global poverty reduction.

In this process hailed as "the greatest leap to overcome poverty in history," China has blazed a poverty reduction trail and formed an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics. Many of the experiences are worth learning from for other countries, which is why books like "Up and Out of Poverty" have become essential reading for many international dignitaries.

In the battle against poverty, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has fully leveraged its role in overall planning and coordinated the efforts of all sides, forming a magnificent force of unity and action to fight poverty.

China has included poverty alleviation in its Five-

sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy; worked to ensure that secretaries of Party committees at the provincial, city, county, township, and village levels tackled poverty alleviation as a major priority, and that all Party members were mobilized in the fight; and assigned 255,000 work teams and more than 3 million first secretaries and officials to villages nationwide, where they worked on the front lines of poverty reduction.

Uzbekistan has intensified efforts to reduce poverty in recent years, piloting China's anti-poverty experience in various regions across the country. Nearly 10,000 Uzbeks have participated in online training programs introducing China's experience and practices.

The country has achieved significant results in poverty reduction, creating a community-based anti-poverty system that involves the establishment of assistance registries for impoverished households, women and youth, which is a key component of anti-poverty efforts.

The ancient Chinese philosopher Han Fei Zi said, "The key to achieving your aspirations lies not in overcoming others, but in overcoming your own weaknesses." Similarly, to shake off poverty, it is essential to shake off the mindset of poverty.

China has remained committed to mobilizing the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of impoverished people so that they have the drive to lift themselves out of poverty.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat noted that he felt a strong sense of self-reliance in China's poverty alleviation endeavors, which he believes is the fundamental principle behind China's fascinating achievements in poverty reduction.

A targeted approach is the crux of the fight against poverty. China followed a targeted and development-driven strategy in poverty



A poverty alleviation official (right) instructs a local villager to deal with rice diseases and insect pests in Miwang village, Mawang township, Youyang Tujia and Miao autonomous county, southwest China's Chongqing municipality, Aug. 3, 2023. (Photo by Qiu Hongbin / People's Daily Online)

alleviation, under which development is fundamental to eliminate the root causes of poverty.

China adopted a set of targeted policies tailored to local conditions, such as setting up a national registration system and assigning officials to villages to identify the targets of poverty alleviation and determine who to help; establishing a poverty exit mechanism and giving counties a five-year period of grace from the day they emerged from poverty to make clear how to help, how to apply an exit mechanism for those who have emerged from poverty, and how to ensure that people do not return to poverty.

China has launched five key measures through which people would be lifted out of poverty, namely new economic activities, relocation from uninhabitable areas, recompense for eco-protection, education, and social assistance for basic needs. Besides, China has set standards in six areas to ensure the precision of work: identifying the poor accurately, arranging targeted programs, utilizing capital efficiently, taking household-based measures, dispatching first Party secretaries based on village conditions, and achieving the set goals.

Targeted poverty alleviation has proved to be China's

"magic weapon" for winning the battle against poverty, and a major innovation in the theory and practice of poverty reduction, greatly enriching and expanding the pathways for poverty reduction for humanity.

Drawing on China's targeted poverty alleviation approach, Khon Kaen province in Thailand has achieved tangible results in poverty reduction.

A local official said that China not only allows the world to understand the importance of targeted poverty alleviation and see the possibility of poverty eradication, but also provides the courage and experience to address poverty issues.

In December 2018, the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly adopted the first-ever resolution addressing poverty eradication in rural areas, which contains the Chinese concept of "targeted poverty alleviation."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke highly of the Chinese experience, saying targeted poverty reduction strategies are the only way to reach those farthest behind and achieve the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China's experience can provide valuable insights to other developing countries, he added.

Poverty is not predestined, nor is it unconquerable. China's experience in poverty alleviation indicates that with strong will and determination, as well as practical action, one can make steady progress towards overcoming poverty.

China has joined the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty. It stands ready to continue carrying out and supporting international cooperation in poverty reduction. Together with all parties, China is committed to building a world of common prosperity and free of poverty.

## Conservation agriculture transforming farming in southern Africa countries

BULAWAYO

ON the dusty plains of Shamva District in Zimbabwe, Wilfred Mudavanhu's maize field defies drought.

With the El Niño-induced drought gripping several countries in Southern Africa, Mudavanhu's maize crop is flourishing, thanks to an innovative farming method that helps keep moisture in the soil and promotes soil health.

Once harvesting just 1.5 tonnes of maize (30-50 kg bags) each season, Mudavanhu's harvest jumped to 2.5 tonnes of maize (50 bags) in the 2023/2024 cropping season.

Mudavanhu is one of many farmers in Zimbabwe embracing conservation agriculture, a method that prioritizes minimal soil disturbance, crop rotation, and soil moisture conservation. The practice is complemented by other methods such as timely control of weeds, mulching, and farming on a small plot to gain high yields.

Researchers say the conservation agriculture method is proving a lifeline for farmers grappling with climate change.

For more than 20 years, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) has promoted research on conservation agriculture in Southern Africa with the aim of getting farmers to increase their crop yields.

Under conventional farming, smallholder maize yields have often been below 1 tonne per hectare in Zimbabwe, according to researchers. Adopting CA practices has led to yield increases of up to

90 percent. While in Malawi farmers have experienced maize yields increased by up to 400 percent, crops are integrated with nitrogen-fixing trees such as *Faidherbia albida*. In Zambia, maize yields under conventional farming have been at 1.9 tonnes per hectare, and these have increased to 4.7 tonnes per hectare where farmers have used conservation agriculture practices.

But beyond high yields, conservation agriculture saves moisture and enhances soil health, offering farmers a long-term solution to the growing problem of soil degradation, a looming threat in the face of climate change, researchers said.

"As the climate crisis deepens, CA has become essential for Southern African farmers, offering a resilient, climate-smart approach to boost productivity and withstand climate change impacts, reinforcing sustainable food security," Christian Thierfelder, a principal scientist at CIMMYT, told IPS, explaining that CA could be a game changer for the rainfed cropping system in the region.

About 3 million farmers in Southern Africa are practicing CA, Thierfelder said, adding: "The more climate change hits as seen in recent droughts, the more the farmers will adopt CA because the traditional way of doing agriculture will not always work anymore."

The use of machines is attracting smallholder farmers to adopt conservation agriculture. CIMMYT has researched using machines suitable for smallholder CA systems.



Christian Thierfelder, Principal Scientist at CIMMYT, poses in a field that is being tested for conservation agriculture at Henderson Research Station, Harare, Zimbabwe. Credit, Busani Bafana/IPS

The machines have been found to increase intercropping methods farmers use while addressing the challenges of high labour demands associated with conservation agriculture.

Traditionally, farmers spend hours digging planting basins, a time-consuming and labor-intensive process. The basin digger has mechanized the land preparation stage, reducing the number of people needed to dig the basins.

Thierfelder said CIMMYT has partnered with registered service providers in Zimbabwe and Zambia, who offer mechanization services that improve farming efficiency and reduce labour demands. One such innovation, the basin digger—a cost-effective, low-energy machine—reduces labour by up to 90 percent.

Cosmas Chari, a farmer and service provider in Shamva, used to spend a day digging basins for planting, but now he takes an hour using the basin digger.

Mudavanhu became a mechanization service provider after integrating CA with mechanization. As a service provider, Mudavanhu hires out a two-wheeled tractor, a sheller, and a ripper to other farmers practicing CA.

Similarly, another farmer, Advance Kandimiri, is also a service provider practicing CA. "I started being a mechanization service provider in 2022 and adopted CA using mechanization," said Kandimiri, who bought a tractor, a sheller, and a two-row planter.

"Conservation agriculture is more profitable than conventional farming that I was doing before I learned about CA," said Kandimiri.

Data from CIMMYT's research indicates that farmers adopting CA practices can earn extra income of approximately USD 368 per hectare as a result of getting higher yields and reduced input costs.

Conservation Agriculture in the Region Farmers across Southern Africa have found success after adopting CA practices with remarkable results.

In 2011, during a visit to Monze in Zambia's Southern Province, Gertrude Banda observed the significant benefits of CA firsthand. Farmers practicing CA for over seven years demonstrated how planting crops without tillage using an animal traction ripper led to reduced labour in land preparation and improved crop yields.

Banda says she was motivated by this

experience to adopt CA on her own 9-hectare farm, where she grows cowpeas, groundnuts, and soybeans. She practices crop rotation, alternating maize with various legumes to enhance soil fertility and improve crop yields. Additionally, she uses groundnut and cowpea residues for livestock feed. She earned about USD 5,000 from selling her soya crop.

"Today, my entire farm follows CA principles," Banda said. "All my crops are planted in rip lines, and I rotate maize with various legumes to maintain soil health."

Over 65,000 farmers in Malawi and 50,000 in Zambia have adopted CA, according to CIMMYT, whose research shows that farmer education, training, and technical guidance are vital for farmers to make the shift.

However, widespread adoption of conservation agriculture has remained low despite its acknowledged advantages. Smallholder farmers face challenges in accessing inputs and equipment, said Hambulo Ngoma, an agricultural economist at CIMMYT.

Besides, farmers have limited knowledge of effective weed control and struggle with short-term yield uncertainties, which can discourage consistent practice, Ngoma said.

"While CA has proven its worth, adoption rates are still relatively low across Southern Africa," Ngoma said, adding, "Many farmers lack the resources to invest in the tools and training required for effective implementation."

Fruitful Partnerships to Promote Conservation Agriculture Blessing Mhlanga, a cropping systems agronomist with CIMMYT's Sustainable Agrifood Systems program, said the success of CA goes beyond technology and techniques but is hinged on education and including CA principles in national policies. In Zambia, for instance, CIMMYT, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), helped design a mechanization strategy that has paved the way for mechanized CA to be incorporated into government-led agricultural programs.

"Technologies like intensification with Gliricidia, a fast-growing nitrogen fixing tree, strip cropping, and permanently raised beds are now part of Zambia's national agriculture agenda," explained Mhlanga, who noted that the adoption of CA by smallholder farmers can be transformative, particularly in regions reliant on rainfed cropping.

Mhlanga said with more than 250 million hectares of land currently under CA globally and adoption rates of the CA practices increasing by 10 million hectares annually, the future of CA is promising. However, much work remains to be done in providing smallholder farmers like Mudavanhu with the right tools and knowledge to adopt conservation agriculture fully, and that real change requires collective action from all sectors of society.

## From freedom fighter to first female president

WINDHOEK

NETUMBO Nandi-Ndaitwah, from the governing South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), has been voted in as Namibia's first female president after last week's disputed election.

The electoral commission said she had won more than 57 per cent of vote, with her closest rival Panduleni Itula, getting 26 per cent.

Following logistical problems and a three-day extension to polling in some parts of the country, Itula said the electoral process was "deeply flawed".

His Independent Patriots for Change (IPC) party said it would challenge the results in court.

Most opposition parties boycotted the results announcement on Tuesday evening in the capital, Windhoek, the Namibian newspaper reports.

Windhoek is reported to be calm on Wednesday, with neither celebrations nor protests and people carrying on with their normal lives.

After the announcement of her victory, Nandi Ndaitwah said: "The Namibian nation

has voted for peace and stability."

Swapo has been in power in the large but sparsely populated southern African country since independence in 1990.

A party stalwart, Nandi-Ndaitwah, who is currently the vice-president, is a trusted leader having served in high government office for a quarter of a century.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa extended his congratulations to Nandi-Ndaitwah on X on Wednesday.

"Your election as fifth President of the Republic and the first woman in our region to hold this high office is a testament to democracy and its ability to transform our societies," his statement read.

Once sworn in, she will join an exclusive club as at the moment Tanzania's Samia Suluhu Hassan is Africa's only female president.

In the parliamentary elections held at the same time, Swapo narrowly held on to its majority, winning 51 of the 96 elected seats - a loss of 12. The IPC won 20 seats, and will be the official opposition.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan congratulated President-elect,



Nandi-Ndaitwah for emerging victorious.

President Samia posted on her X handle that Tanzania is looking forward to work with her to further strengthen the long-standing bilateral relationship.

"On behalf of the Government and the People of the United Republic of Tanzania, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,

President-elect of the Republic of Namibia, on your historic victory in the 2024 Namibian general election," reads part of her message on X.

"I am looking forward to working with you in strengthening the all-weather fraternal bonds and historical ties between Tanzania and Namibia."

The President-elect Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, from the governing South West

Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), had been voted in as Namibia's first female president after last week's election.

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Once sworn in, Nandi-Ndaitwah will become the second female President in Africa joining the only current female President in the continent, Dr Samia.

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## Africa's women-led startups struggle to find investors

NAIROBI

BUSINESSES started by women have received less than 5 percent of venture capital funding in Africa over the past decade, according to a new report.

The report says investment in female-started businesses decreased further last year, frustrating businesswomen and those who want investors to give them greater con-

sideration.

Female-founded businesses are the driving force behind innovation and inclusive growth in Africa, but those businesses face many challenges when seeking investment, according to the report by business research platform Briter Bridges and non-profit organization V54 Open Impact.

Akosua Lefty, a Ghanaian businesswoman who special-

izes in developing products for natural hair, said she has struggled to attract interest from potential investors over her two years in business.

An investor will express interest then never reach out again, she said, or will want to make money immediately, which may not be possible.

Briter Bridges and V54 Open Impact say that of all the capital venture funding across Africa in the past 10

years, less than 5 percent went to women founders.

Elizabeth Mwangi, founder of Gwiji, which connects women cleaners to clients, got her first funding in 2020, which helped her develop an app that could help support and empower women to make a living.

She said the next funding she got was in 2023, when she was nearly giving up on Gwiji. She earned the Aurora

Tech Award, a global honor that focuses on women. Following that, she was able to get \$30,000 in funding that enabled the company to get an office and launch secondary programs that help women.

Mwangi said she is partnering with more organizations, like the U.K. government-backed Transform, to widen her reach beyond Nairobi.

The aim, she said, is to em-

power more women from informal settlements, because every day she gets calls from women across Kenya who want to join Gwiji and earn a decent income. Partnering with Transform, she said, allows Gwiji to diversify its services and employ more women.

African women face more challenges beyond funding, including gender bias, lack of access to support networks,

culture and policy changes.

Lefty said she is ready to be patient and build a business that can withstand the challenges of being a woman.

Mwangi and Lefty are urging other women in business not to be discouraged, but to build businesses that help solve community problems and to keep seeking opportunities and investors who support their dreams.



## BUSINESS

## This is how a Citi economist sees the Trump government treating sub-Saharan Africa

NAIROBI

Donald Trump's first presidency has often been described as transactional, prioritizing "America First" policies that reshaped U.S. foreign relations.

Trump's trade policies, particularly his tariffs on Chinese goods, created ripple effects in global trade flows and commodity prices, challenging many Sub-Saharan African (SSA) economies reliant on exports to major markets like China.

"Sub-Saharan economies were caught in the crossfire of the U.S.-China trade war. The devaluation of currencies and the tightening of global financial markets under Trump's policies placed further strain on already vulnerable economies." David Cowan, Citi's Chief Economist for Africa, highlights.

Cowan also points to the limited focus on African debt sustainability during Trump's first term. Many SSA countries, heavily dependent on external borrowing and Eurobonds, struggled with fiscal challenges exacerbated by a lack of concerted U.S. support for debt restructuring.

According to Cowan, Trump's upcoming visit to Africa during the 2025 G20 Summit in South Africa marks a turning point in U.S.-Africa relations. As the first U.S. president to attend a G20 Summit on African soil, the visit validates the continent's rising global relevance.

"Trump's America First policy deprioritized Africa in traditional diplomatic terms, but his administration's actions on trade and tariffs indirectly influenced SSA economies, particularly through global supply chains and shifting investor sentiment." He adds that the visit offers African leaders an opportunity to reengage with the U.S. and reposition the continent as a strategic partner in global trade and investment.

China's extensive economic footprint in SSA through infrastructure investments and debt-financing agreements remains a focal point in U.S.-Africa relations. Cowan believes Trump's Africa policy may seek to counterbalance China's influence by promoting U.S.-backed private sector investments in critical sectors like technology and renewable energy.

"The Trump administration's Africa strategy could center on positioning the U.S. as a viable alternative to Chinese dominance," says Cowan. "This

is particularly relevant in areas such as infrastructure and green energy, where Africa needs long-term partnerships to drive sustainable growth."

Under Trump's leadership, the pivot toward bilateral trade deals is likely to continue, potentially reshaping frameworks like AGOA. Cowan notes, "Trump's emphasis on balanced trade could mean stricter conditions for African exports, but it also presents opportunities for nations with robust industrial bases to negotiate favorable terms."

Cowan cautions, however, that Trump's transactional approach may limit the scope of long-term partnerships, particularly in the context of regional initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The US Dollar strengthened to a near 1-year high on Wednesday with markets pricing in Donald J Trump's victory in the 2024 elections.

The Euro slid to a 4-month low, the Yen fell to a 3-month low with the Mexican peso plummeting to 2022 levels. While Trump has advocated for a weaker dollar, his policies are likely to drive up inflation and economic growth, prompting the Fed to keep rates higher, in turn boosting the dollar.

With higher interest rates, borrowing costs and treasury yields are expected to remain elevated despite the worrying growing government debt in the US and the bulging deficits.

Yields on the US treasuries soared with the benchmark 10-year paper rising 18 basis points to 4.47% - highest since July. The 2-year paper saw yields rise about 5 basis points to 4.31%. The 30-year paper saw the highest single day increase of 23 basis points since 2020 mirroring a change in market dynamics.

Trump claimed victory after securing a decisive lead with 266 electoral votes while also winning the popular vote, capturing the swing states' including Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia.

A Trump's presidency is expected to have softer regulation on cryptocurrency, steering the crypto market higher. On Wednesday, Bitcoin rallied to an all time high of US\$74,300.

The Federal Reserve is expected to give an interest rate review on Thursday with the US inflation rate still hovering above the Fed's threshold.

## Govt to launch Vision 2050 first draft next week

By Francis Kajubi

**T**HE first draft of the National Development Vision 2050 will be brought to public awareness on December 11 this year in Ungaia where the President of Zanzibar Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi is expected to grace the event.

Addressing journalist yesterday in Dar es Salaam about the steps reached in the preparation of the vision, the Minister of State in the President's Office, Planning and Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo said as of October this year, a total of 1.17 million citizens and development stakeholders have shared their opinion through various ways.

He said that 15,483 of the comments were based on surveys at the household level; 1.11 million were collected through Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD); 13,459 through the website; 12 conferences attended by 22,779 people; specific and detailed interviews with 44 various leaders including those in power and retirees.

Other methods involved 220 meetings and seminars and 33 documents collected.

"Other steps involved learning from various countries that have made great strides in development from the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and America," he said.

Prof Mkumbo said that the views of citizens and stakeholders focused on four major areas:



Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office, Planning and Investment

Evaluation of the implementation of the National Development Vision 2025 based on the areas of success and the challenges that have arisen; current state of the country; expectations and aspirations towards 2050; and priorities to be considered.

He said the desires and expectations of citizens and stakeholders in the vision that is being prepared are divided into five areas: A stable, prosperous economy that improves their lives; better community services (education and health); good governance, justice, protection and security. Others are the development of technology and innovation and the protection and sustainable use of national resources.

Citizens and stakeholders mentioned five sectors to be considered as national priorities towards the year 2050: Agriculture; industrial production; infrastructure; better community services; and minerals, oil and gas.

"The launch of the Vision 2050 draft will go hand in hand with the launch of the second phase of gathering stakeholders' opinions. This phase will be about the opinions of the validation of Vision 2050;

The collection of opinions and validation will be concluded on January 18, next year for the Prime Minister to receive the second draft," said Prof Mkumbo.

Between January and March 2025, the Vision 2050 draft will be

discussed by permanent secretaries, the National Planning Commission and the Cabinet.

Between April and May 2025, the Draft Vision 2050 will be received, discussed and officially approved by the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

"The preparation of Vision 2050 goes hand in hand with the preparation of the Long-Term Perspective Plan - LTPP which will translate the vision and aspirations contained in Vision 2050," said Prof Mkumbo.

The government in collaboration with various development stakeholders has been implementing the National Development Vision 2025 in implementing short and long term development plans.

Based on the National Planning Commission Act Article 6 (2) (b) President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan instructed the government to start preparing a new vision for development where the process was launched on April 3, 2023.

The preparation of the new development vision goes through 11 important steps. The government started by preparing and approving various guidelines.

The next step was the vision process which is implemented at three levels, which are the Secretariat under the National Planning Commission, the Central Team of Experts, and the Steering Committee of the Vision under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

## So, how is UN Tax Convention essential for Tanzania, Africa?

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

It has been revealed that A UN Tax Convention is very essential for Tanzania because it offers a chance to negotiate fairer tax deals, ensuring accountability in industries like extractives.

This was said by Edmund Matotay, the National Programme Coordinator with the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the breakfast meeting organised by the Policy Forum, the Norwegian Church Aid, and the ISCEJIC themed: The UN Tax Convention: Africa's Role in Advancing Fair Tax Policies and Promoting Tax Justice

Matotay further noted that the UN Tax Convention would promote harmonized tax policies across Africa, benefiting local businesses and combating illicit financial flows [IFFs] by taxing based on the sources of economic activity.

The convention would also help achieve tax justice through transparency measures like information exchange and country by country reporting. Now it's the time for Tanzania to support this global effort for fair and equitable tax policies.

Why do we need one UN body: A United Nations Tax Convention?

The body will promote equitable Tax policies tailored to the unique socio-economic contexts of African countries, ensuring fair and progressive systems. It would help combat tax avoidance and evasion by setting international standards and norms.

Having a unified body will provide opportunities for capacity building, training, and technical support that would be provided to nations like Tanzania, which often lack resources to develop effective tax policies.

A UN platform would also enhance cooperation among African countries, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration. Aligning tax policies with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) it would ensure adequate financing for essential services while giving African countries a stronger voice in international tax discussions.

Furthermore, it would promote



transparency and accountability in tax systems, boosting public trust for achieving human development.

Issues like tax evasion and avoidance continue to undermine Tanzania's economic growth, with substantial revenue lost each year. This weakens essential public services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Tanzania, like other nations, faces challenges in navigating global tax policies that undermine domestic resource mobilization.

Current international tax rules fail to tax multinational corporations where their economic activities occur, leading to significant revenue losses, especially from illicit financial flows.

For instance, underreporting of trade commodities in Tanzania resulted in estimated USD 2.7 billion lost revenue annually, affecting efforts to strengthen domestic resources. Tanzania's economy, reliant on natural resources, suffers from tax avoidance, transfer mispricing, and complex ownership structures.

It would address the challenges posed by the digital economy, by ensuring that the multinational tech companies pay their fair share of taxes in African countries where they generate profits.

African countries are interested in addressing the systemic failures that affect DRM to ensure that countries can rely more on DRM for revenue generation, reducing dependency on debt and foreign aid.

For her part, Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (Saut) Senior Lecturer Norah Kawiche said that the coming of the UN Tax convention was crucial because multinational companies that have a tendency of shifting untaxed profits through IFFs will no longer have room to avoid paying taxes. According to her, "Adopting the UN Tax Convention would enable Tanzania to collaborate with other countries in exchanging crucial information on tax evasion and avoidance."

"It would also strengthen our capacity to recover taxes that have already been moved out of the country," she explained.

The UN Tax Convention would grant us access to over 100 countries, promoting greater cooperation and information sharing.

Israel Ilunde has noted that the coming of the UN Tax Convention will help our country and other countries curb IFFs which have been growing daily.

East Africa is also facing the same challenge as the East Africa Business Council (EABC) reports USD 6 million annual losses resulting in illicit financial flow trade.

These global tax rules hinder national growth and reduce investments in critical social sectors like education and health.

A condition of African countries, alongside nations such as Norway is advocating for a single UN body to manage global tax policies.

With growing international attention on tax transparency

and fairness, particularly in developing nations, the UN Tax Convention offers Tanzania and other countries a chance to have a stronger voice in global tax policy and decision making.

The global challenges on tax justice lie on the issues such as high net worth individuals and multinational companies which trade and exploit resources around the world make billions of dollars but pay little in taxes.

Countries are losing USD480 billion in tax annually, on the other hand initiatives on the negotiations on international tax rules have been done in Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] since the 1960s without any significant progress.

The situation is worse in the African continent; the Mbeki Report reveals that Africa is losing USD 50 billion per year on tax abuse.

Meanwhile, the Tax Justice Network has calculated that if nothing changes, the world would lose nearly USD 5 trillion to tax havens over the next decade.

What is a UN tax convention? Is a move towards inclusive, transparent and democratic decision-making where all countries have a way to make global tax rules work better for all countries?

Countries worldwide are undergoing global tax reforms, which aim to reshape the international tax system, currently dominated by OECD members and Bretton Woods's institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.

## 'Apple library' with a lost world on its limbs

LONDON

The explosion of crisp, commercial apple varieties in the last century doomed many other breeds into obscurity. But in a field in Kent in the UK, some of them live on.

A few miles from the sea in Kent in the south of England, hedges of hazel, ivy and briar stand like ramparts separating kingdoms of fruit.

In one field are quinces, dense as golden anvils. Nearby are grey medlars, hard and sour. Pears gleam through red leaves. But the real stars are the apples - more than 4,000 trees, of more than 2,000 varieties. Their fruit clusters along wand-like branches and carpets the ground in a fragrant layer of softly rotting flesh. They smell of a thousand warm afternoons spent snacking in a hammock or up a tree. I kneel under the branches of a particularly laden tree to find the label with the name. It reads, aptly: "Weight."

This is the United Kingdom's National Fruit Collection, a living repository of apples once grown in the British Isles, as well as other fruit. It is not the only apple library out there.

The USDA's Plant Genetic Resources Unit in Geneva, New York, and New Zealand's Plant & Food Research's collection, among others, host thousands of

apple varieties. But unlike those collections, which include wild relatives of apples, collected in Kazakhstan or on salty beaches in Alaska, to aid apple breeders in search of new traits, this collection is a record of the British love affair with the fruit. "There's a history of apple production here," says Matthew Ordidge, a senior research fellow at the University of Reading near London and the nation's curator of apples. In the lively café at the collection at Brogdale Farms in Faversham in Kent, he recalls a proclamation made a 100 years ago by apple enthusiast Edward Bunyard: "No fruit is more to our English taste than the apple."

Be that as it may, just a handful of apple varieties are grown commercially in Britain now. "Apple fruit production in the UK is not that big a business," explains Ordidge. "We only produce somewhere around 35% of home produce; we import the rest." Even the apples grown domestically are often of varieties from elsewhere, like Gala (from New Zealand), Jazz (also New Zealand) and Cameo (from the USA).

This state of affairs dates to the 1970s and 1980s, when imported apples like French-grown Golden Delicious stormed the supermarkets. When the dust settled, most English apples were no longer commercially viable.

# Z'bar tourism sector picks up momentum

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

EFFORTS made by the Zanzibar government to boost tourism industry has started bearing fruit after the US-based Delaware Investment Ltd Company set to spend 60bn/- for the construction of a five-star hotel in the islands.

The move is a response to Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi's call to investors to come and invest in the tourism sector.

Rishen Patel, tour company's CEO unveiled this here yesterday, during the visit of journalists who visited the construction of the hotel located on the outskirts of Zanzibar city.

He said that the good environment that the Zanzibar government has put in investment has attracted them to invest a large amount of money and that the construction of the hotel will not be the last because the capital they have will make them build and invest elsewhere in the country.

"We've seen a good and friendly environment for investment and so I would like to assure the Zanzibar Investment Authority (ZIPA) that this will not be just one investment, as we are looking at other sectors that we will see fit and we will invest according to the needs" said Patel.

According to Patel, the hotel will have 74 rooms, including special rooms for senior leaders such as the

President, and will also provide direct employment for 300 people, as well as other indirect jobs that are service providers of items that will be used of all time at the hotel.

Patel said that the hotel will be completed in May or June 2025 and if things go according to their expectations then they will ask President Mwinyi to open it as they are relieved by the great efforts that the Government continues to make by opening the doors of investment.

Contractor building the hotel, JHS Enterprises Ltd, through its Director Harbinder Singh Reehal, has said that despite the challenges of finding building materials in Zanzibar, the construction of the hotel will be

completed as planned.

"You know here in Zanzibar, sometimes the challenges of building materials become a problem, but you can order cement or mothballs and it will take you a month to get them, but they must be imported from mainland Tanzania and as you know, there are many projects being built here on the islands," said Singh.

According to the Director, 70 percent of the construction has been completed and the remaining 30 percent will be completed by May or June 2025, then the construction will be complete despite the challenges of obtaining construction materials and the launch will take place as planned.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi



## Boeing plea deal over Max crashes rejected

WASHINGTON

A Boeing plea deal intended to resolve a case related to two fatal crashes of its planes has been rejected by a US judge.

The plane maker agreed with the US government in July to plead guilty to one count of criminal fraud, face independent monitoring and pay a \$243m (£191m) fine.

However, Judge Reed O'Connor struck down the agreement on Thursday, saying it undermined the court and that diversity requirements for hiring the monitor were "contradictory".

Family members of the 346 people killed in the crashes welcomed the ruling, describing the plea deal as a "get-out-of-jail-free card for Boeing".

The Department of Justice said it was reviewing the decision. Boeing did not immediately comment.

In his decision, Judge O'Connor said the government's previous years of overseeing the firm had "failed".

"At this point, the public interest requires the court to step in," he wrote.

He said the proposed agreement did not require Boeing to comply with the monitor's recommendations and gave the company a say in selecting a candidate.

Those issues had also been raised by some families of those killed on the flights, who had criticised it as a "sweetheart" arrangement that did not properly hold the firm to account for the deaths.

Judge O'Connor also focused on the deal's requirements that race be considered when hiring the monitor, which he said would undermine confidence in the person hired.

"In a case of this magnitude, it is in the utmost interest of justice that the public is confident this monitor selection is done based solely on competency," he wrote.

"The parties' DEI [diversity, equity and inclusion] efforts only serve to undermine this confidence in the government and Boeing's ethics and anti-fraud efforts."

Ike and Susan Riffel of California, who lost their two sons, Melvin and Bennett, said the judge had done

"the right thing" in rejecting the proposed agreement.

"This deal didn't hold anyone accountable for the deaths of 346 people and did nothing to protect the flying public," they said in a statement supplied by their lawyer.

They said they hoped the ruling would pave the way for "real justice".

Boeing and the Department of Justice have 30 days to develop a new plan in response to the ruling.

The plane maker has been struggling to emerge from the shadow cast by two, near-identical crashes of its 737 Max planes in 2018 and 2019.

The aerospace giant faced fresh crisis in January when a door panel on a new Boeing plane operated by Alaska Airlines blew out soon after take-off.

The incident reignited questions about what Boeing had done to improve its safety and quality record since the accidents, which were tied to the company's flight control system.

The door panel malfunction happened shortly before the end of a three-year period of increased monitoring and reporting.

Boeing had agreed to the monitoring as part of a 2021 plea deal to resolve a charge it had deceived regulators over the flight control system.

In May, the Department of Justice said Boeing had violated the terms of that agreement, opening up the possibility of prosecution.

Instead, the two sides struck another deal, angering families who had hoped to see the company brought to trial.

In the ruling, Judge O'Connor wrote it was "not clear what all" Boeing had done to breach the 2021 agreement.

Nonetheless, he wrote, "taken as true that Boeing breached the [deal], it is fair to say that the government's attempt to ensure compliance has failed".

Erin Appelbaum, partner at Kreindler & Kreindler, which represents some families of those killed on the 2019 Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, called Thursday's ruling an "excellent decision and a significant victory" for the victims'

families.

"We anticipate a significant renegotiation of the plea deal that incorporates terms truly commensurate with the gravity of Boeing's crimes," she said.

"It's time for the [Department of Justice] to end its lenient treatment of Boeing and demand real accountability."

Investigators said faults by Boeing, Lion Air and pilots caused the crash.

Five months after the disaster in October last year, an Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed, killing all 157 people on board, which led to the grounding of the entire 737 Max fleet.

Faults with the plane's design have been linked to both crashes.

On Friday, air crash investigators in Indonesia released their final report, detailing the list of events that caused the Lion Air jet to plunge into the Java Sea.

"From what we know, there are nine things that contributed to this accident," Indonesian air accident investigator Nurcahyo Utomo told reporters at a news conference.

"If one of the nine hadn't occurred, maybe the accident wouldn't have occurred."

The 353-page report found the jet should have been grounded before departing on the fatal flight because of an earlier cockpit issue.

However, because the issue was not recorded properly the plane was allowed to take off without the fault being fixed, it said.

Further, a crucial sensor - which had been bought from a repair shop in Florida - had not been properly tested, the report found. On Friday, the US aviation regulator revoked the company's certification.

The sensor fed information to the plane's Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System - or MCAS. That software, which is designed to help prevent the 737 Max from stalling, has been a focus for investigators trying to find the cause of both the Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines crashes.

Indonesian investigators identified issues with the system, which repeatedly pushed the plane's nose down, leaving pilots fighting for control.

## Bitcoin surges past \$100k for first time

LONDON

The price of Bitcoin has for the first time broken past the \$100,000 mark, hitting a new record high.

The value of the world's biggest cryptocurrency has been boosted by hopes US President-elect Donald Trump will adopt crypto-friendly policies.

The milestone was reached hours after Trump said he would nominate former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) commissioner Paul Atkins to run the Wall Street regulator.

Mr Atkins is seen as being far more pro-cryptocurrency than the current head of the SEC, Gary Gensler.

The \$100,000 milestone prompted celebrations from cryptocurrency fans around the world.

Bitcoin's wildly fluctuating value has always attracted interest, with its backers reacting with delight when it has passed previous price thresholds - and defiance during its slumps.

But this particular landmark has been especially keenly anticipated. For weeks charts, memes and predictions have swirled around social media about when the price would hit the figure thought to be one of the holy grails of the crypto world.

Millions of viewers even tuned in to online watch parties as the price hovered close to \$100k.

The value of a single bitcoin is one of the barometers of optimism in the cryptocurrency industry which is now estimated to be worth \$3.3tn, according to analysis firm Coin Market Cap.

Trump's election victory last month was the catalyst for the latest surge.

The president-elect has vowed to make the US "the crypto capital of the planet" - a remarkable turnaround given as recently as 2021 he was calling Bitcoin a "scam."

Also remarkable is just how Bitcoin's price has rocketed. A valuation of \$100k represents a 40% increase on election day in the US, and more than double the price it started the year at.

But there's lots more to Bitcoin

than the dizzying changes in its value.

From its enigmatic inventor to the bringing down of the so-called Crypto King, it's a story with many twists and turns, which has seen the making - and losing - of huge fortunes.

So here's the BBC's list of the seven wildest moments - so far - in Bitcoin's tumultuous history.

Despite its enormous profile, no one actually knows for sure who invented Bitcoin. The idea for it was posted on internet forums in 2008 by someone calling themselves Satoshi Nakamoto.

They explained how a peer-to-peer digital cash system could work to enable people to send virtual coins over the internet, just as easily as sending an email.

Satoshi created a complex computer system that would process transactions and create new coins using a huge network of self-appointed volunteers around the world who used special software and powerful computers.

But he - or they - never revealed their identity, and the world has never worked it out.

In 2014, Japanese-American man Dorian Nakamoto was pursued by reporters who thought he was the elusive Bitcoin creator, but it proved to be a false lead caused by some mistranslated information.

Australian computer scientist Craig Wright said it was him in 2016 - but after years of legal battles, a High Court judge concluded he was not Satoshi.

Earlier this year, a Canadian Bitcoin expert called Peter Todd strongly denied being Satoshi, while in London this month a British man, Stephen Mollah, claimed he was - but no-one believed him.

Bitcoin now underpins a two trillion-dollar cryptocurrency industry - but the first recorded transaction using it was the purchase of pizza.

On 22 May 2010, Laszlo Hanyecz, offered \$41 worth of Bitcoin on a crypto forum in return for two pizzas.

A 19-year-old student obliged and the day went down in history for fans of the currency as #BitcoinPizza day.

A source of memes for those in

crypto community, it also showcased the power of Bitcoin - an internet money that could genuinely buy items online.

Criminals must have been watching too, because within a year the first darknet marketplace was launched selling drugs and other illegal goods in exchange for Bitcoin.

The deal looks pretty bad for Laszlo now too. If he had held onto those coins they would now be worth hundreds of millions of dollars!

In September 2021, President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador, central America, made Bitcoin legal tender.

Hairdressers, supermarkets and other shops had to accept Bitcoin by law, alongside its main currency, the US dollar.

Many Bitcoin enthusiasts and reporters visited the area, briefly boosting tourism to the country.

While President Bukele hoped the move would increase investment in his country and cut costs for citizens exchanging money, it did not become as popular as he hoped.

He is still hoping it will take off but for now the US dollar still remains king in the country.

As well as the huge amount of public money President Bukele spent on trying to make people embrace Bitcoin he also, controversially, bought more than 6,000 bitcoins over the past few years.

The president spent at least \$120m buying up bitcoins at various prices in the hope of making a profit for his cash-strapped country.

It started to look good for him in December 2023 when, for the first time, his stash skyrocketed in value.

A website built by Dutch software engineer Elias Zerrouq is tracking the country's Bitcoin holdings and currently estimates that the coins have risen 98% in value.

In 2021, Kazakhstan became a hot-spot for Bitcoin mining - the process of crunching through the complex calculations that underpin crypto transactions.

These days it takes warehouses full of the latest computers running all day and all night, but the reward is brand new bitcoins for those companies that take part.



# Tanzanian students shine at regional digital talent study camp in China

By Guardian Reporter

TEN Tanzanian students took part in the Huawei Sub-Saharan Africa Leadership, Employability, Advancement, and Possibilities (LEAP) digital talent study camp in China.

The initiative which is aimed to cultivate advanced digital skills and foster innovation among young talents from the region, is part of the company's broader commitment to developing a digitally skilled workforce across Africa.

The camp took place at the company's global headquarters in Shenzhen, and brought together exceptional students from 17 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, including Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, and more.

Tanzania was represented by 10 outstanding students from the University of Dar es Salaam, the University of Dodoma, and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

The study camp offered a comprehensive agenda, including ICT courses on cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), 5G, digital power, cloud computer solutions, and leadership workshops.

The week-long event culminates in the Tech4Good competition, where participants from different countries form teams to develop technology-driven solutions for pressing societal challenges.

Huawei is set to elevate its commitment to developing digital talent in Sub-Saharan Africa by training an additional 150,000 young people through its LEAP digital skills development programme over the next three years.



Tanzanian students pictured at the camp in Shenzhen, China

This initiative is part of Huawei's broader strategy to invest in global resources tailored to meet the specific digital talent needs of local communities. The LEAP programme is designed to bridge the digital skills gap in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing comprehensive training and resources.

The camp focuses on fostering digital leadership, building a skilled ICT workforce, creating a pool of young digital talent, and enhancing digital literacy among citizens. By doing so, the company aims to make a significant impact on the digital capabilities and future prospects of Sub-Saharan Africa.

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# Hydrogen energy now forecast to lead to fast development in China

SHANGHAI

China is poised to experience a boom in hydrogen energy development, driven by strong government policies and a rapid decline in renewable energy costs, according to industry experts.

With government-backed incentives, a growing infrastructure for hydrogen production and storage, and a complementary synergy with solar and wind energy, the number of hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles in operation nationwide is projected to reach around 45,000 by the end of 2025, according to the Hydrogen Energy Industry Promotion Association (HEIPA).

The market size for vehicle-mounted hydrogen storage cylinders in China is expected to reach approximately 38 billion yuan (\$5.23 billion) to 46 billion yuan between 2025 and 2030, said HEIPA, which is under the China Association for the Promotion of Industrial Development, a Beijing-based trade body.

According to HEIPA, China is positioning itself to become a global leader in hydrogen energy development in the coming years. As of October, China has sold a total of approximately 22,790 hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The government plans to have around 50,000 fuel cell vehicles in operation by 2025.

Hydrogen energy, as a rich, green and efficient secondary energy source, has become a key pathway for the global energy system's clean and low-carbon transformation. As of November, 53 countries and regions worldwide have developed hydrogen industry development strategies or roadmaps, it

said.

China has released over 20 national-level policies to support the hydrogen energy industry this year, covering various areas such as standards development, technological innovation, infrastructure, demonstration and promotion, and equipment upgrades, said Wei Suo, head of HEIPA. The policy framework is continuously being refined and improved, he said. Wei said the development of the hydrogen energy sector has shifted from focusing on technological breakthroughs in key areas and pilot demonstrations in the transportation sector to achieving technological advancements across the entire industry chain and scaling up applications in multiple fields.

"Research across the industry chain is also gradually moving from complete manufacturing to core material development, applied technology research and fundamental research," he said.

Transportation is a leading sector in the development of the hydrogen energy industry, with its commercialization playing a critical role in driving broader industry growth. China has prioritized expanding the use of hydrogen in transportation as a key strategy for accelerating the development of the hydrogen sector, rolling out a series of supportive policies, said the association.

Industry experts believe hydrogen energy, as a clean and versatile energy source, holds the potential to significantly reduce carbon emissions and drive the transformation of the energy sector.

## UZALO

### MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

SATURDAY 7 Dec		SUNDAY 8 Dec		MONDAY 9 Dec		TUESDAY 10 Dec		WEDNESDAY 11 Dec		THURSDAY 12 Dec		FRIDAY 13 Dec		SATURDAY 14 Dec		SUNDAY 15 Dec		MONDAY 16 Dec		TUESDAY 17 Dec		WEDNESDAY 18 Dec		THURSDAY 19 Dec		FRIDAY 20 Dec		SATURDAY 21 Dec		SUNDAY 22 Dec			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi

## WORLD

## DR Congo on 'maximum alert' over unknown disease, test results

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is on "maximum alert" over the emergence of an unknown disease that has killed more than 70 people, said DRC Public Health Minister Roger Kamba on Thursday.

The test results to confirm the characteristics of this disease are expected this Friday or Saturday, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

## Maximum alert

This disease "of still unknown origin" reported in the Panzi area of the southwestern province of Kwango has affected 382 people since October, said Kamba at a press briefing.

The affected people presented symp-

oms that "are similar to the flu," said the minister, noting some 40 percent of the cases concern children.

Kamba said 61 percent of children in Kwango have already suffered from malnutrition, which could aggravate the effects of this disease.

So far, 71 deaths have been reported, 27 of them at health facilities and 44 others in local communities, he said, adding that around 300 people have recovered.

"We are on maximum alert. We consider that this is a level of epidemic that we must monitor to the maximum," Kamba noted.

"We do not know if we are dealing with a viral disease or a bacterial disease," explained Dieudonne Mwamba, director general of the National Institute of Public Health of the DRC during an online press briefing by the Africa CDC on Thursday.



A cow herder walks in a public field on the Route Nationale 2 between Bukavu and Kamanyola in the province of Sud-Kivu in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sept 22, 2024. AFP

## Pending results

"We do not even know the mode of transmission," Jean Kaseya, director of the Africa CDC said during the online press briefing, noting that the results to confirm the characteristics of this disease are expected this Friday or Saturday.

Specialized intervention teams have been sent to the field to identify the nature of this disease, Kamba said. "We are still waiting for the first results" to determine the cause and treatments, he added.

"We are more or less in the assertion that it is respiratory," said the DRC min-

ister.

The emergence of this disease coincides with the seasonal flu which lasts from October to March and peaks in December, he added.

Speaking of the hypothesis of COVID-19, Kamba said the mortality rate reported in Kwango, around 7.8 percent, does not correspond to the profile of COVID-19, "but we remain cautious in our analyses."

"These are hypotheses pending the results of the sampling," Kamba said, adding that efforts have been hindered by the poor medical and logistical conditions on the ground.

## EAM Jaishankar discusses India-Japan ties, tourism growth, and challenges with China

NEW DELHI



AT the India-Japan Forum Inaugural Session Conversation, EAM S Jaishankar said, "We've never had problems between India and Japan but not having problems doesn't mean everything works well... I would say how do you take good sentiment and make it into a practical plan."

He further mentioned the growing trend of Indian tourists, stating, "When I look today at the kind of spike in Indian tourists... our passport issuer is going up actually at the rate of almost 10 to 15 per cent a year. We are issuing between about 13 million to 15 million passports every year and these are 10-year validities. In this country, foreign travel is growing and interest in foreign tourism is growing but we haven't yet seen any of this directed at Japan. If you look at Southeast Asia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Gulf, Europe, Indian tourists are really going there in very large numbers."

EAM Jaishankar also reflected on the shared experiences of India and Japan in terms of their proximity to China, noting, "In a way, India and Japan do share the attribute of both being neighbours of China... In our particular case, we had a stable relationship with China. It was growing in many respects, in terms of trade, it was very, very substantial and still is very substantial. There had been a certain amount of investment, mostly from China to India. There were some issues we have which is a very imbalanced trade. We have had a lot of market access issues in China."

The Minister went on to elaborate on the impact of the recent tensions with China, particularly after the border clashes in 2020. He explained, "Our entire relationship with China was predicated on the fact that the border areas would remain peaceful and stable and we had agreements to ensure that. In 2020, the Chinese chose to bring a lot of forces to the border areas and obviously we responded with counter-deployments. Then we had an incident in which a number of soldiers got killed and obviously this impacted the relationship. So it has taken us 4.5 years to negotiate the disengagement of forces, which is really the fact that the militaries are too close at some places along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)."

Jaishankar concluded by emphasising the ongoing challenges in de-escalating the situation with China, stating, "We still have challenges left with us. We still have to de-escalate because what we have done is disengage forces from close proximity but we have a de-escalation because there's still a very large number of forces... Now, we have to sit down and discuss with China how we rebuild our relationship and that is an exercise that still has to be undertaken."

ANI

## Russia committed to preventing Ukraine from acquiring nuclear weapons – MFA

MOSCOW



MOSCOW is determined to prevent the scenario of Kiev acquiring nuclear weapons, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"Moscow is firmly determined to prevent any of these scenarios. The Kiev regime acquiring nuclear weapons is completely unacceptable to our country," she noted in a statement dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Budapest Memorandum.

Zakharova pointed to alarming statements by Kiev officials, "which not only question the viability of the Budapest Memorandum but could also be interpreted as an outright attempt to review Ukraine's non-nuclear status."

"Such a destabilizing move would contradict Ukraine's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), blatantly undermining the nuclear non-proliferation regime and creating unacceptable risks to international security," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman stressed.

"As Western countries make belligerent statements, take extremely hostile actions against Russia, and continue fueling the confrontation they started in the Ukraine crisis, we must warn of the risk of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which could potentially have very severe consequences, and send sobering messages to support such warnings," Zakharova pointed out. "Russia does not threaten to use nuclear weapons against anyone, and any statements claiming otherwise are nothing but deliberate lies aimed at Moscow. We conduct our nuclear deterrence policy in the most serious and responsible manner," she concluded.

## WB wins pledges for \$100b replenishment of fund for poorest nations

WASHINGTON

DONOR countries have pledged a record \$100 billion three-year replenishment of the World Bank's fund for the poorest nations, providing a vital lifeline for their struggles against crushing debts, climate disasters, inflation and conflict.

The World Bank made the announcement early on Friday in Seoul at a pledging conference for the International Development Association, which provides grants and very low interest loans to some 78 low-income countries.

The total exceeds the previous \$93 billion IDA replenishment announced in December 2021. Countries will contribute about \$24 billion directly to IDA, but the fund will issue bonds and employ other financial leverage to stretch that to the targeted \$100 billion in grants and loans through mid 2028.

But the two-day pledging conference fell short of the \$120 billion goal that some developing countries had called for, partly because the dollar's strength - pushed up by Donald Trump's US presidential election victory - diminished the dollar value of



This screengrab taken from a video on the official Facebook page of the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group shows the pledging conference for the IDA in Seoul, South Korea, on Dec 6, 2024.

significant increases in foreign currency contributions by several countries.

At a G20 leaders' summit in Brazil last month, Norway increased its pledge by 50 percent from 2021 to 5.024 billion kroner. That's \$455 mil-

lion at current exchange rates, but at the start of 2024, it would have been worth \$496 million.

South Korea boosted its pledge by 45 percent to 846 billion won (\$597 billion), Britain by 40 percent to 1.8 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion), while Spain

boosted its contribution to 400 million euros, a pledge worth \$423 million - \$10 million less than the day it was announced in October.

US President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion contribution, up from \$3.5 billion in the previous round.

## Russia becomes stronger in Ukraine conflict, while Kiev weakens – Hungarian PM

BUDAPEST

RUSSIA has become stronger during the Ukrainian conflict, while Kiev has weakened, as Europe lacks the funds to support it, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said in an interview on the morning program of Kossuth Radio.

"Russia has grown stronger, while Ukraine has weakened. It turns out that Eu-

rope is also very weak; we have no money for the war," the prime minister said.

He expressed hope that the conflict in Ukraine would eventually come to an end. Orban believes that once the crisis is over, it will be necessary to discuss the creation of a revised security system in Europe.

"When this war is over, one way or another, we will have to settle the European



security environment," the prime minister added.

According to him, "the negotiations will be difficult and prolonged, but for now, the priority should be securing a ceasefire" in Ukraine.

"We must contemplate the reorganization of Europe, which would ensure the safety of European nations, as well as define America's role in Europe's security framework," the head of

government specified. He believes that "this is a goal for the next one to two years."

Orban reminded that the United States, as the dominant NATO power, plays an essential role in Europe's security structure.

"If they pack up and, after leaving Europe, return home, a security void would immediately appear here," the prime minister said.

## Maintaining global vision, China staunch supporter of global development

CHINA has been deepening international cooperation in poverty reduction, continuously sharing its anti-poverty experiences with other developing countries.

For instance, the Cambodia-China Friendship Village for Poverty Alleviation Project has brought enormous changes to a local impoverished village, significantly improving villagers' livelihood; and in Madagascar, with hands-on guidance from Chinese agricultural experts, local farmers saw a substantial increase in hybrid rice yields.

In Fiji, China's Juncao technology has not only enabled local farmers to grow high-

quality edible and medicinal mushrooms, but also boosted livestock farming by providing premium livestock feed; and in Guyana, solar-powered streetlights donated by Chinese companies illuminate the nights of Moraikobai village, making it safer in the dark for villagers.

These cooperation stories highlight China's active role and lasting contributions to global poverty alleviation efforts.

"China will always be a member of the Global South, a reliable long-term partner of fellow developing countries, and a doer and go-getter working for the cause of global development."

These remarks were made by Chinese President Xi Jinping in his speech on Fight Against Hunger and Poverty at the Session I of the 19th G20 Summit.

During the speech, Xi once again pointed out that prosperity and stability would not be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer, and countries should make global development more inclusive, beneficial to all, and more resilient. He also outlined China's eight actions for global development. His remarks fully demonstrated that China, always maintaining a global vision, is committed to building

a just world of common development with all parties and is always ready to help people in other developing countries break free from poverty.

China is always active in sharing its experiences in poverty alleviation and supporting developing countries in exploring their own unique approaches to poverty reduction and sustainable development in line with their specific national conditions. China has hosted a range of seminars and exchange activities, including the ASEAN-China Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the International Forum on Sharing Poverty Re-

duction Experience, the Africa-China Poverty Reduction and Development Conference, and the International Seminar on Poverty Eradication and Responsibility of Political Parties, to share its poverty reduction experiences with other developing countries.

It has trained over 400,000 development personnel for over 180 countries and regions, significantly enhancing their capacity building in poverty reduction.

In August this year, during an official visit to China, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji Sitiveni Rabuka toured two villages in Malipo county,

Wenshan Zhuang and Miao autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province, to learn about China's poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.

He also visited a poverty eradication-themed exhibition in Ningde, southeast China's Fujian province, where he had exchanges with the Party School of Ningde Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China on poverty reduction experiences and took extensive notes. He was impressed by the remarkable achievements in poverty eradication and development that China has accomplished under Xi's leadership.

Pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation is an important part of China's eight actions for global development.

In 2019, Xi delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, during which he stressed, "We need to take a people-centered approach, give priority to poverty alleviation and job creation to see that the joint pursuit of Belt and Road cooperation will deliver true benefits to the people of participating countries and contribute to their social and economic development."

People's Daily

# Xi Story: Small projects with big impacts

## BEIJING

IN a signed article published by a Peruvian media outlet last month, Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote about "small yet smart" livelihood programs, lauding their role in making the China-Peru "paisano friendship" more tangible and beneficial.

With Xi affirming that China is ready to launch more such projects, the positive effects are set to continue in Peru, where people endearingly refer to the Chinese people as "paisano," a local term meaning fellow countrymen.

From sharing agricultural technology to setting up vocational workshops, these seemingly small projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have already delivered huge benefits to many in partner countries with the care and support of Xi.

One small-yet-smart project features a Chinese "magic" grass that has taken root in countries like Papua New Guinea (PNG), where it improves barren soil and helps local farmers escape poverty.

Discovered by Chinese scientists, the wondrous grass -- or Juncao -- technology uses grass instead of timber as a substrate when growing mushrooms, making it more economical and environmentally friendly than conventional means.

When working in east China's

Fujian Province more than two decades ago, Xi introduced the Juncao approach to a visiting provincial governor from PNG. Soon after, Xi dispatched the inventor of Juncao to the Pacific island country to provide on-site training for local farmers.

"After I became Chinese vice president, I continued to promote Juncao technology when visiting the South Pacific, Africa and South America," Xi said at a meeting on BRI construction in 2021.

He highlighted the role of BRI projects in improving people's well-being, saying small-yet-smart projects could deliver direct impacts on people.

"Projects on people's livelihood are an important way to rapidly boost the sense of fulfillment of people in Belt and Road partner countries. They could produce immediate and evident results," Xi said at the meeting.

Today, the Juncao technology is being applied in more than 100 countries, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs for local people.

Luban Workshop, a Chinese vocational education program, is another small-yet-smart project that has enjoyed Xi's support.

While meeting Djiboutian President Ismail Omar Guelleh this September, Xi specifically mentioned the Luban Workshop in Djibouti -- the first one in Africa. He underlined joint



Juncao expert Chen Kehua (L) and a local technician check bags of mycelium at Central African Institute of Agronomic Research in Bangui, the Central African Republic, Feb. 6, 2024. Xinhua

efforts to ensure the sound operation of the workshop, expecting it to help cultivate more high-quality talent for the economic development of Djibouti.

Over the years, China has helped establish over 30 such workshops in countries across Asia, Europe and Africa, offering diploma-level training to nearly 10,000 students and vocational training to over 31,000 locals.

Other small-yet-smart projects have also prospered worldwide. In Mongolia, Chinese

medical teams have helped more than 1,000 cataract patients regain their sight. In Ghana, Chinese bamboo weaving techniques are being used by local craftsmen to refine their handiwork and increase incomes.

These projects, designed to suit the local conditions, are evidence of how Belt and Road cooperation has helped address the pressing needs of local people. With the BRI ushering in a new golden decade, China is poised to bring about more palpable changes for peo-

ple in partner countries.

China will carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects, and enhance vocational education cooperation through Luban Workshops and other initiatives, Xi said at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation last year.

"The Belt and Road development is not meant as empty rhetoric. It represents real work that could be seen and felt to bring real benefits to countries and regions involved," Xi once said. **Xinhua**

## Belt and Road Initiative brings unprecedented development opportunities to Kenya, says expert

### NAIROBI

THE China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has driven infrastructure development and economic growth in Kenya, facilitated economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between regions, and brought unprecedented opportunities for the country's development, said a Kenyan expert.

Dennis Munene Mwaniki, executive director of the China-Africa Center at Kenya's Africa Policy Institute, told Xinhua in a recent interview that the BRI has achieved remarkable results since its proposal, having greatly benefited Kenya as one of the key participating countries.

"Infrastructure development is a particular area where Kenya has seen significant improvements through participation in multiple BRI projects, such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the expansion of the Mombasa Port," he said. "These projects have enhanced domestic transportation and connect-



People visit the Photography Exhibition on Pragmatic China-Africa Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative in Nairobi, Kenya, on March 22, 2024. Xinhua

ivity with neighboring countries."

The SGR project is one of the most important infrastructure projects in Kenya in recent years, not only connecting major cities like Nairobi and Mombasa but also extending further to Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mwaniki said.

This cross-regional connectivity has boosted trade be-

tween Kenya and its neighbors while strengthening economic cooperation and cultural exchanges across Africa, he added. As the SGR project continues to improve and operate, Kenya's logistics efficiency is expected to rise, fueling long-term economic growth.

Underscoring the BRI's key role in driving the transition to clean energy in Africa, Mwaniki

noted that China, a leader in new energy technology, has partnered with Kenya on several renewable energy projects, including solar and wind power development. These collaborations have bolstered Kenya's energy independence and supported the broader green transformation across Africa.

"China has helped African countries cultivate young talents and enhance their capabilities in the field of new energy technology through scholarships, financial support, and technology transfer," he said.

Mwaniki also praised the BRI for countering the rise of anti-globalization and trade protectionism, which have posed significant challenges to the global economy.

The BRI has revitalized globalization by promoting international cooperation and trade, helping to reduce regional conflicts and maintain global peace and stability, he said.

In response to Western criticism of the BRI, Mwaniki said such negative views are driven

by the self-interest of certain countries or groups, noting the BRI has had a significant impact on Africa, driving infrastructure development and boosting the continent's position in global development.

"These opposing voices may originate from countries or groups that wish to keep Africa underdeveloped because they benefit from Africa's underdevelopment," he said. "However, the arrival of the BRI has brought change to the African continent, giving African countries more voice and self-development capabilities."

Mwaniki expressed confidence that the BRI will continuously expand its scope and impact as more countries join and cooperation deepens, injecting new momentum into the global economy. "Kenya will continue to actively participate in various cooperation projects under the BRI, jointly address global challenges, and contribute to promoting regional cooperation and development," he said. **Xinhua**

# China's Juncao technology brings win-win outcomes to Fiji

In 2014, with the joint efforts of the leaders of China and Fiji, the China-Fiji Juncao Technology Demonstration Center was established. Nine years later, the China-Pacific Island Countries Juncao Technology Demonstration Center (CPICTDC) was unveiled in Fiji.

"The giant Juncao grass grows amazingly. It gets 5 to 8 centimeters taller per day in November," said Lin Xingsheng, team leader of the China-Fiji Juncao Technology Demonstration Center.

"We have built a modern agricultural science and technology park covering an area of 3 hectares, integrating the 'plant-fungi-animal' cycle. In addition, there is also a breeding base of about 10 hectares for Juncao seeds," Lin added.

The Chinese technical personnel at the demonstration center actively explored and, based on the local climate and soil conditions, cultivated a variety of mushrooms using high-quality Juncao grass as nutrients, bringing tangible benefits to local farmers.

The establishment of the demonstration center has ended the history of Fiji's inability to grow mushrooms, making mushroom cultivation an emerging industry for prosperity, said Ateleni Kaloumaira Vuinakelo, area field officer from Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, who closely collaborated with Chinese experts in 2012 to introduce Juncao technology to Fiji.

Under the careful guidance of Chinese experts, the Fijian people gradually mastered the skills of cultivating over 10 varieties of edible mushrooms such as oyster mushrooms, Ganoderma lucidum, and termite mushrooms, leading to a significant increase in income.

According to Vuinakelo, Juncao technology has changed the agricultural development pattern of Fiji. Juncao grass can not only cultivate high-quality edible and medicinal mushrooms but also serve as high-quality feed, driving the development of animal husbandry, she said, adding that it is a "golden key" for the people of Fiji to get rid of poverty and become prosperous.



A Chinese expert (left) instructs a Fijian farmer to manage Juncao in the field. (People's Daily/Bai Yuanqi)

Water systems are well developed within Fiji, but riverbank erosion is a major issue in the local riverside areas, leading to soil erosion and severe damage to the local ecosystem. Sant Kumar, a former agri-

cultural staffer now running a hectare of farmland on the outskirts of Nadi, Fiji, told People's Daily, "The government invests significant funds each year in river channel management, but the results are minimal."

During a technical training session, Kumar learned about the robust root system of giant Juncao grass and its ability to stabilize soil. Therefore, he planted this grass variety on the riverbank of his farm.

"They were like a dense net, firmly securing the fertile soil," he said. Today, lush giant Juncao grass grows along the riverbank, effectively preventing landslides.

"Giant Juncao grass has also brought additional economic benefits," Kumar said, pointing to the mature mango trees on the bank.

"The soil improved by giant Juncao grass is very suitable for growing fruits. Abundant fruits not only meet our own needs but can also be sold to multiple markets. The combination of Juncao grass and fruit trees has brought us substantial income. I recommend the government to vigorously promote this sustainable development model, so as to achieve a win-win situation for the economy and the environment," Kumar noted.

According to statistics, the land planted with giant Juncao grass has experienced a 97.05 percent to 98.9 percent reduction in soil erosion compared to corn fields, and a decrease of around 80.0 percent to 90.9 percent in water loss.

"Giant Juncao grass has enormous potential in promoting ecological restoration and sustainable development. Its well-developed root system acts as a 'barrier' against soil erosion and 'remedy' for land salinization," said Su Ribai, an expert from the CPICTDC. Vuinakelo noted that many Fijians

affectionately called Juncao grass as "grass of happiness" because it has helped many farmers escape poverty, and improve their lives, adding that the Fiji-China Juncao grass cooperation is a livelihood project that every household can join, not only cultivating agricultural professionals in Fiji but also providing new ideas for ecological governance in Pacific island countries.

In recent years, with the deepening of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, "grass of happiness" has not only entered numerous households in Fiji but also helped cultivate a large number of local talents who have grown into the backbone of the Juncao grass industry, injecting new vitality into local agricultural modernization.

Up to now, the demonstration center has successfully held more than 50 training sessions in Fiji, training over 2,700 local Juncao grass technical personnel.

Zhou Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Fiji, said that as a demonstration project of South-South cooperation, Juncao technology has been applied and promoted in 106 countries and regions worldwide, contributing to 13 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, and providing Chinese wisdom and solutions for poverty alleviation and ecological protection in many countries. **People's Daily**

## South Korea's ruling party demands suspension of Yoon Suk Yeol's powers

### SEOUL

THE head of South Korea's ruling party has called for suspending powers of President Yoon Suk Yeol, citing "credible evidence" that he sought the arrest of political leaders after the imposition of martial law, Al Jazeera reported.

People Power Party (PPP) leader Han Dong-hoon, who had earlier expressed his opposition to efforts to impeach Yoon, stated "newly emerging facts" had tipped the scales against Yoon Suk Yeol.

Han said, "I learned last night the president ordered the defence counter-intelligence commander to arrest major political leaders, characterising them as aristocratic forces, and mobilised intelligence institutions in the process," according to Al Jazeera report.

He further said, "I have said that to prevent this country from descending into further chaos, I would try to stop the impeachment bill from passing this time."

PPP leader called it necessary to stop Yoon Suk Yeol from exercising his powers as South Korea's President. He said, "But based on what has been revealed, to protect South Korea and our people, I believe it is necessary to stop President Yoon from exercising his powers as president promptly."

Han said that South Korea's President did not acknowledge that imposition of martial law was illegal and wrong and there was a "significant risk" that he could make similar move again if he continues to remain in office.

Martial law was declared in South Korea for about six hours on Tuesday after Yoon made the announcement in a televised address to the nation in which he cited threats from "anti-state forces" and North Korean sympathisers.

The members of National Assembly mobilised for reversal of Yoon's order in a 190-0 vote. South Korea's President lifted order at about 4 am (local time). However, he announced the decision after troops had descended on the National Assembly and scuffled with legislators and protesters. **ANI**

## Global trade to hit record \$33 trillion in 2024: UNCTAD report

### GENEVA

THE United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) projected global trade to reach a record USD33 trillion in 2024, reflecting a USD1 trillion increase compared to 2023.

This represents an annual growth of 3.3 per cent, showcasing the resilience of global trade despite ongoing challenges.

According to UNCTAD's latest Global Trade Update, the robust growth in trade services, which increased by 7 per cent this year, contributed significantly to this expansion, accounting for half of the overall growth.

In contrast, goods trade grew by a modest 2 per cent, remaining below its 2022 peak.

The report highlighted challenges for developing economies, traditionally key drivers of global trade. These economies faced a 1 per cent contraction in imports and a similar decrease in South-South trade during Q3 2024.

On the other hand, advanced economies led the quarter's growth, with stable demand driving a 3 per cent rise in imports and a 2 per cent increase in exports.

Despite obstacles, the report emphasised opportunities for developing countries to capitalise on high-growth sectors. Trade in ICT goods and clothing surged by 13 and 14 per cent respectively in Q3 2024, underscoring the potential for diversification into value-added industries.

Sector-specific data revealed declines in traditional sectors critical to developing economies. Energy trade fell by 2 per cent in Q3 and 7 per cent over the year, while metals trade contracted by 3 per cent. **ANI**



## Fei Toto lauds Azam's winning streak, eyes titles and CAF Champions League return

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AZAM FC attacking midfielder Feisal Salum, popularly known as Fei Toto, has praised his team's remarkable run of consecutive victories in the Premier League, citing the streak as a major morale booster.

Fei Toto also expressed his determination to contribute more goals whenever opportunities arise.

Azam FC have been in scintillating form, securing seven consecutive wins. The victories include triumphs over Namungo (1-0), Tanzania Prisons (2-0), Ken Gold (4-1), defending champions Young Africans SC (1-0), Kagera Sugar (1-0), Singida Black Stars (2-1), and Dodoma Jiji (3-1).

This dominant run followed their last defeat on September 26, when they lost 2-0 to Simba SC.

Since joining Azam from Young Africans, Fei Toto has been instrumental in the team's success. He has been involved in nine of Azam's 19 goals this season, demonstrating his significance to the squad.

The team has collected 30 points from 13 matches, with nine wins, three draws, and just one loss, solidifying their place as serious title contenders. Speaking about the team's current form, Fei Toto highlighted the unity and confidence within the squad.

"The consecutive victories have built our confidence and fostered a strong team spirit. Our goal is to ensure we return to the CAF Champions League next season," he said.

He acknowledged the positive impact of recent changes in the technical bench, emphasizing how competition among players has improved the team's performance.

"Despite the changes, the squad has been well-prepared. Every player is fighting for their spot, which is exciting and motivating for the entire team," he noted.

Reflecting on Azam's slow start to the season, Fei Toto credited the players' ability to adapt to the coach's system and training ground instructions

as the secret behind their resurgence.

"We didn't start well, but now we have embraced the coach's philosophy. Following his instructions has been crucial to our current success," he added.

Fei Toto also shared his satisfaction with his individual contributions since joining Azam.

"I am not proud of myself; the numbers speak for themselves. I am happy to be part of this team and to help it achieve its goals. My aim is to fight for this team to win titles and reach new heights," he said.

He reiterated the team's collective ambition to secure titles and earn a spot in one of Africa's major international competitions.

"We are hungry for success. With the quality of players we have, winning all the titles we compete for is a realistic goal," he declared.

Fei Toto's stellar performances have not gone unnoticed, with reports linking him to South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns and Kaizer Chiefs.

Chiefs' interest is particularly notable, given the presence of Nasreddine Nabi, who coached Fei Toto during his time at Young Africans.

At just 26 years old, Fei Toto is considered one of Tanzania's finest midfielders. His versatility allows him to operate as a defensive midfielder (No. 6), central midfielder (No. 8), or attacking midfielder (No. 10).

Last season, he was the second-highest goal scorer in the league with 19 goals, trailing only his former Yanga teammate Stephane Aziz Ki, who netted 21 goals.

While the transfer rumours intensify, Azam remain committed to keeping their star midfielder.

The club views Fei Toto as a cornerstone of their ambitions and will likely fight hard to retain his services amid growing interest from top clubs.

With Azam riding high on their winning streak and Fei Toto playing a pivotal role, the team appears well on track to achieve their goals this season.

## Caravans cricketers close in on TCA Delaware Champions League title



Caravans Cricket Club.

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

CARAVANS cricketers would be all out to inch closer to clinching the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League title as they come up against Pak Stars A in the last-four clash in Dar es Salaam today.

The Jitin Singh-led Caravans garnered progression to the showdown's last-four phase after commanding a 52-run defeat of Lions A in the knockout tie, termed Eliminator, at the Leaders Club venue early this week.

The clash witnessed Caravans cricketers notch 155/7 in the allotted 20 overs once they took the crease first.

Seasoned cricketers Akhil Anil, Amal Rajeevan, and Kassim Nassor put stellar batting showing at the crease to play a crucial role in the acquisition of the score.

Rajeevan went in after an early dismissal of the opener, Issa Safari, and sought to have Caravans getting off to a confident beginning, having notched 19 runs.

Safari's short stay came about

as he was trapped for leg before wicket (lbw) by medium pacer Goodluck Andrew of Lions A leaving Caravans with just seven runs after 1.1 overs.

Rajeevan put up several great shots and pushed Caravans to 37-3 when the cricketer left the crease in the fifth over.

Anil, the cricketer who had the best figures when Caravans batted, ended with 53 runs in his impressive outing.

The seasoned cricketer's solid showing saw Caravans reach 123-4 upon his dismissal with 23 balls remaining.

Nassor was equally in great form at the crease, blasting 46 runs that significantly boosted Caravans' total.

The remainder of Caravans batsmen failed to live up to expectations having been dismissed after short spells.

Youthful performer Johnson Nyambo ended two runs short of a two-digit figure and cracked a six in his short spell.

The batting squad failed to stop the skid following Nyambo's exit, with the rest of the batsmen having struggled to rake up meaningful figures.

Nineteen extra runs made up of four byes, 10 leg byes, and

five wides, were somehow a boost to Caravans' total.

Lions A's Umar Shaikh ended as the only member of the bowling unit boasting good figures, having taken 2-28 and a 7.00 economy rate.

Despite facing an achievable target of 156 runs, Lions A cricketers faltered when they took the crease, ending the innings with 103/9 in 20 overs.

The top-order should be credited for the acquisition of the total, as it had Lions A vainly battling to outperform their opponents.

Seasoned cricketer Kashif Ahmad, who opened the innings, had the best day at the crease, as the performer's knocks were pivotal to Lions A's triple-digit figure.

The other opener, Ejaz Aziz, did not last long at the crease, leaving with 11 runs to his name. Skipper Mohamed Salim battled to boost Lions A's figure having posted 17 runs.

In his brief stay, Salim saw Lions A reach 51-2 upon his exit in the eighth over.

Ahmad ended nine runs short of a half-century in his stay at the crease with his spell helping Lions A reach 80-3 when he

got out in the 12th over.

Shaikh made his way back with nine runs as Lions A found it difficult to counter the pressure from Caravans' bowlers.

Youthful cricketer, Rehman Atif battled to mount a late surge, which was, however, foiled by Caravans' bowling unit, with the young cricketer ending with 11 runs.

Seasoned spinner Nassor (3-14) and Anil (3-24) masterminded Caravans bowling surge, which proved decisive.

Winners of the last-four encounter between Caravans and Pak Stars A will confront Aces A in the showdown's final on Sunday.

Aces A cruised to the final based on securing the top place in the standings upon the conclusion of the round-robin phase.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

Strikers, Pak Stars A, Delaware Upanga SC A, Aga Khan SC, Caravans, Aces A, and Lions A are the participating teams in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

## Simba urge fans to rally behind team ahead of crucial showdown

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Media and Information Manager, Ahmed Ally, has called on fans to rally behind the team as they gear up for a challenging CAF Confederation Cup Group A encounter against Algeria's CS Constantine.

The Msimbazi Street giants head into the match following a lackluster 1-0 win over Bravos Do Maquis in their opening fixture at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Despite securing victory through a first-half penalty by Jean Charles Ahoua, Simba's overall performance left fans disappointed.

While Simba enjoyed a slight edge in possession (54% to 46%), the Angolan side proved more threatening, especially in the second half.

Simba struggled to create scoring opportunities and squandered the few chances they managed to generate, raising concerns among

supporters.

As Simba prepare for their encounter at Stade Mohamed-Hamlaoui, Ally (pictured) has urged fans to understand the unique demands of CAF interclub competitions, where results often take precedence over style.

"I understand the fans' frustration after the first match against Bravos Do Maquis," Ally admitted. "However, the coach is the first person to evaluate the team's performance. While he acknowledged the lack of control during the game, he was satisfied with the result and is focused on addressing performance gaps with the technical bench."

Ally emphasized the importance of pragmatism, particularly in away matches, stating: "This season's CAF Confederation Cup is incredibly competitive, with teams showing significant improvement."

"The game against CS Constantine is a differ-



ent challenge in a tough environment. Our priority is to secure a draw or win, rather than focusing on playing beautiful football in a hostile setting."

Simba have faced challenges ahead of the crucial clash. Second-choice goalkeeper Aishi Manula is unavailable due to illness, with fourth-choice goalkeeper Hussein Abel stepping in as a replacement.

Additionally, key players Joshua Mutale, Val-

entino Mashaka, and Yusuph Kagoma are sidelined due to illness and injuries.

Despite these setbacks, Simba remain determined to deliver a strong performance. The team is undergoing intensive training sessions, with head coach Fadlu Davids emphasizing defensive discipline and strategic counterattacks.

Simba have set their sights on surpassing the quarterfinal stage, a bar-

rier they have struggled to overcome in previous CAF interclub competitions.

With a win or draw in Algeria, the Tanzanian giants could position themselves favourably for advancement in the tournament.

Simba fans will be watching closely as their team takes on the challenge of CS Constantine, knowing that every point in the group stage is vital for their continental aspirations.

## Everton out to dent Liverpool's title bid in last Goodison league derby

By Martyn Herman

DENTING Liverpool's title ambitions will be a big enough incentive for local rivals Everton today but the fact it is also the last Merseyside Premier League derby at Goodison Park will add extra spice to the occasion.

Everton will move out of their spiritual home since 1892 at the end of the season, taking up residence at their swish new 52,000 capacity Bramley-Moore Dock stadium.

While the club's owners and fans hope that will mark the beginning of a new era of success after many years in the doldrums, the new ground may struggle to recreate the fevered atmosphere of derby day at Goodison Park.

Just under 40,000 will witness the 245th clash between the rivals on Saturday lunchtime but the decibel level will sound like much more as Sean Dyche's hosts try to beat the leaders and create one last abiding memory for the blue half of the city.

The first Mersey derby at Goodison Park in October 1894 resulted in a 3-0 victory for Everton and while a similar outcome might be fanciful, given the current form of table-topping Liverpool, the form book may go out of the window.

That said, Liverpool have lorded it over their 'friendly' neighbours in recent times, losing only three derbies in the last 14 years although significantly the last time they made the short trek across Stanley Park it proved costly.

Everton's 2-0 win at Goodison in April paved the way for their top-flight survival while dealing a massive blow to Liverpool's hopes of winning the title in Juergen Klopp's final season in charge at Anfield.

Klopp's replacement Arne Slot will get his first taste of the Merseyside rivalry on Saturday but judging by the way he has started his reign he will take it all in his calm stride.

Liverpool have won 18 of their 21 games under Dutchman Slot, although Wednesday's 3-3 draw at Newcastle United in one of the best games of the Premier League season so far did reduce their lead to seven points.

Slot's side have the chance to widen the gap to 10 points ahead of the later kick-offs but will be wary of an Everton side buoyed by a 4-0 drubbing of fellow strugglers Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday, their best display of the season.

### LONDON CHALLENGE

While Liverpool have established themselves as favourites for the title, Arsenal and Chelsea, who both have 28 points from 14 games, have shown they are ready to fight them all the way.

Arsenal appear to have emerged from an autumnal slump and a 2-0 victory over Manchester United on Wednesday was their third in a row in the league and they will be expected to maintain their form at London rivals Fulham tomorrow.

"When you have a blip in the league you get written off," Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice said. "People get carried away. You just need to be around it in February time. Liverpool have dropped points, they're seven away so we will see what happens."

Chelsea's new manager Enzo Maresca publicly dismissed his side's title prospects this week but it would be interesting to know if he will stick to that view after a 5-1 victory at Southampton on Wednesday maintained the club's momentum.

## Tottenham manager Postecoglou cops flak from angry fans

BOURNEMOUTH, England

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou confronted fans after his side's tame 1-0 Premier League defeat at Bournemouth on Thursday which increased the pressure on the Australian.

Postecoglou's side were unrecognisable from the one that beat Manchester City 4-0 in their last away game, producing a lacklustre display and conceding from a basic set-piece.

They have now lost six of their 14 league games this season and sit 10th in the table, below Bournemouth.

Boos were heard from the visiting fans after the final whistle and Postecoglou engaged a few in conversation.

"They are disappointed, rightly so. They gave me some direct feedback which I guess is taken on board," he told reporters.

Asked what was said, he added: "Probably not for here mate. I've got no issue with it. I didn't like what was being said because I'm a human being but you've got to cop it."

"I've been around long enough to know that if things don't go well, you've got to understand the frustration."

Postecoglou faces a crucial few weeks if the season is not to start unravelling. His stuttering side host high-flying Chelsea on Sunday and travel to Rangers for a crucial Europa League clash next week. After a trip to bottom club Southampton they face Manchester United in the League Cup quarter-finals and host leaders Liverpool shortly before Christmas.

It's like a crazy year, and especially Paris marathon in the finish line,

REUTERS

# Club World Cup draw pairs Man City with Juventus; Chelsea face Flamengo

By Harry Poole

ENGLISH Premier League defending champions Manchester City will face Juventus in the group stage of the Fifa Club World Cup next summer, while Chelsea meet Brazilian side Flamengo.

Pep Guardiola's City, who beat Brazilian side Fluminense to win the tournament for the first time in 2023, begin their title defence against Morocco's Wydad and also play Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates in Group G.

Chelsea, winners of the 2021 final, were also drawn alongside Mexico's Club Leon and Tunisian side Esperance Sportive de Tunisie in Group D.

The revamped Fifa Club World Cup, which has been expanded to 32 teams, will take place in the United States between 15 June and 13 July next year.

### \*Fifa Club World Cup 2025 draw in full

**Group A:** Palmeiras, FC Porto, Al Ahly, Inter Miami

**Group B:** Paris St-Germain, Atletico Madrid, Botafogo, Seattle Sounders

**Group C:** Bayern Munich, Auckland City, Boca Juniors, Benfica

**Group D:** Flamengo, Esperance Sportive de Tunisie, Chelsea, Club Leon

**Group E:** River Plate, Urawa Red Diamonds, Monterrey, Inter Milan

**Group F:** Fluminense, Borussia Dortmund, Ulsan, Mamelodi Sundowns



Fifa president Gianni Infantino unveiled a new Club World Cup trophy (Getty Images)

**Group G:** Manchester City, Wydad, Al Ain, Juventus

**Group H:** Real Madrid, Al Hilal, Pachuca, Salzburg

### \*Inter Miami in curtain-raiser after taking controversial spot

A complex and lengthy draw ceremony was held across two separate Miami locations and lasted more than 90 minutes, during which a new Club World Cup trophy was revealed.

There was also a video message from incoming US president Donald Trump, whose daughter Ivanka drew the first team.

Lionel Messi's Inter Miami will take on

Egyptian side Al Ahly at the Hard Rock Stadium in the opening match, staged in Miami.

Elsewhere, Paris St-Germain were drawn against Atletico Madrid in Group B, while Bayern Munich meet Benfica in another all-European group-stage match-up.

Teams will play each other once in the group phase and the top two will progress to the knockout stage.

Teams from each of the six international football confederations will be represented at next summer's tournament, including 12 European clubs - the highest quota of any confederation.

The European places

were decided by clubs' Champions League performances over the past four seasons, with recent winners Chelsea, Manchester City and Real Madrid guaranteed places.

Al Ain, the most successful club in the UAE with 14 league titles, are owned by the country's president Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan - the older brother of City owner Sheikh Mansour.

Real, who lifted the Fifa Club World Cup trophy for a record-extending fifth time in 2022, will open up against Saudi Pro League champions Al-Hilal, who currently have Neymar in their ranks.

One place was reserved for a club from the host nation, which controversially awarded to Inter Miami, who will contest the tournament curtain-raiser. Messi's side were winners of the regular-season MLS Supporters' Shield but beaten in the MLS play-offs, meaning they are not this season's champions.

Matches will be played across 12 venues in the US which, alongside Canada and Mexico, also host the 2026 World Cup.

Fifa is facing legal action from player unions and leagues about the scheduling of the event, which begins two weeks after the Champions

League final at the end of the 2024-25 European calendar and ends five weeks before the first Premier League match of the 2025-2026 season.

But football's world governing body believes the dates allow sufficient rest time before the start of the domestic campaigns.

The Club World Cup will now take place once every four years, when it was previously held annually and involved just seven teams.

Streaming platform DAZN has secured exclusive rights to broadcast next summer's tournament, during which 63 matches will take place over 29 days.

BBC

## Mbappe under scrutiny as rocky Real Madrid brace for Girona clash

By Fernando Kallas

WITH an unrecognisable Kylian Mbappe firmly under the spotlight after missing his second penalty in a week, Real Madrid will travel to Girona today to face last year's surprise package in LaLiga.

A flimsy Real were left licking their wounds after a 2-1 loss at Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday, their fourth defeat in the last seven games in all competitions.

Real, who are missing a host of players through injury including talisman Vinicius Jr, missed a golden opportunity to close the gap on leaders Barcelona, whom they trail by four points with a game in hand.

Their absentee list also includes Eduardo Camavinga, Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao, the last two out for the season with ACL tears, but perhaps Real's biggest concern has been the form of Mbappe.

Real have been far from the dominant side that won the Champions League and LaLiga double last season and fans and pundits have questioned why it is taking so long for Mbappe to become the difference maker he was expected to be when he signed for

the Spanish giants in the summer.

The France captain and World Cup winner (pictured) arrived from Paris St Germain with sky-high expectations to boost an already stellar squad, but so far he has been a shadow of his old self, looking tentative and out of sync with the rest of the team.

While he has scored 10 goals in all competitions, seven from open play, his all-round game has often been poor and on Wednesday at Bilbao he did not factor again.

and that's why I didn't thought that I'm going to win, you know,

His penalty miss was a tame effort that made it easy for goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala to palm away, almost a carbon copy of the spot-kick he missed the previous week in Real's Champions League loss at Liverpool.

Anelotti admitted after the game that Mbappe was not in his best form and the France captain vowed to bounce back.

"Bad result. A big mistake in a match where every detail counts. I take full responsibility for it. A difficult moment but it's the best time to change this situation and show who I am," Mbappe posted on Instagram.



After a stuttering start to the season, Girona have been much improved. They are on a four-game unbeaten run in the league and

are eighth in the LaLiga standings on 22 points.

Yet their growing optimism suffered a blow on Wednesday as they were shocked in a 4-3

penalty-shootout defeat in the Copa del Rey by 10-man fourth-division side Logrones, who knocked them out in the second round.

Logrones had an unlikely hero in Pol Arnau, a 19-year-old left back who had to play as stand-in goalkeeper and saved a spot-kick from Girona striker Abel Ruiz to seal the home side's stunning victory.

League leaders Barcelona travel to Seville to play Real Betis on Saturday with a feeling of relief after thrashing Mallorca 5-1 on Tuesday to return to winning ways in LaLiga for the first time in a month.

Third-placed Atletico Madrid, on a seven-game winning streak in all competitions, will host struggling Sevilla on Sunday.

REUTERS

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Club World Cup draw pairs  
Man City with Juventus;  
Chelsea face Flamengo

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FILE: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho at the end of the Premier League match at Old Trafford, in Manchester, Britain on December 10, 2017. REUTERS

## 'Won my Premier League trophies fairly': Mourinho hits back at Guardiola

ISTANBUL

JOSE Mourinho said the Premier League trophies he won at Chelsea were achieved fairly, responding to Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola's comments that he had six English top-flight titles while the Portuguese coach only had three.

Guardiola, whose team lost 2-0 at Liverpool on Sunday, held up six fingers to home fans to indicate the number of league titles he won in response to chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning."

Mourinho, while managing Manchester United, had similarly held up three fingers to opposing fans during an underwhelming league campaign, before being sacked in December 2018 after a loss to Liverpool.

Guardiola was asked at a press conference whether he could face a fate similar to Mourinho.

"I hope not in my case... he won three, I won six... but we are the same like that," Guardiola answered.

In his response to the Spaniard, Mourinho alluded to City's charges over alleged violations of the Premier League's financial rules ranging from 2009 to 2018, which the club has always denied.

"Guardiola said something about me... he won six trophies and I won three, but I won fairly and cleanly," Turkish outlet Hurriyet quoted Mourinho as saying yesterday, ahead of his team Fenerbahce's clash with Besiktas.

"If I lost, I want to congratulate my opponent because he was better than me. I don't want to win by dealing with 150 court cases."

City did not immediately respond to a request for comment about Mourinho's statement.

Mourinho has taken shots at City before, saying he was hoping he could add a fourth Premier League medal to his cabinet if City are stripped of their titles and United, who finished second in 2017-18, are awarded the Premier League trophy.

Fourth-placed City visit Crystal Palace today.

REUTERS

## Dauids dismisses weather concerns as Simba targets CAF Confederation Cup Group A glory



Simba players are pictured on Thursday during a training session in Constantine, Algeria preparing for their CAF Confederation Cup Group A match against CS Constantine. The match will be held tomorrow. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC head coach Fadlu Dauids has downplayed concerns about the chilly conditions in Constantine, Algeria, where his team will face CS Constantine in a crucial CAF Confederation Cup group stage match scheduled for tomorrow.

The match will kick off at 7:00 p.m. East African Time, with the city of Constantine experiencing temperatures of 12°C considerably colder than Dar es Salaam, which averages around 30°C.

Despite the stark difference, Dauids remains optimistic about his squad's adaptability.

"We are fine. We've had two days of training, and the play-

ers have adjusted to the weather conditions here," Dauids assured during a pre-match interview.

The coach highlighted the importance of the final training sessions, including one held yesterday and another set for today at the official match venue. These sessions, he explained, are critical for fine-tuning the team's strategy and gaining a comprehensive understanding of his squad's

readiness.

"After today's training, we'll practice on the official field that we'll use for the match. This session will be crucial for us as we finalize our preparations. I'm happy with the condition of my players; everyone is eager for this game," said Dauids.

Simba's preparation has been seamless so far, with the team arriving in Constantine without any major challenges.

The club's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, expressed gratitude for the smooth journey and praised the team's focus ahead of the match.

"We are grateful to have arrived safely, even though it was late at night. Coach Fadlu has prepared a solid training program that began today and continues tomorrow. Everything is in order, so Simba fans

shouldn't worry," Ally said.

Ally also called on Simba's supporters and members to keep the team in their prayers as they aim for a positive result.

"We urge our fans to continue praying for the team. The match is critical, and their support is invaluable," he added.

Tomorrow's game carries significant weight in Group A, where all four teams currently sit level on three points after the opening round of matches.

Simba kicked off their campaign with a narrow 1-0 victory over Angola's Bravos do Maquis, while CS Constantine secured a similar result against Sfaxien of Tunisia.

A win for either Simba or Constantine could see them take an early lead in the group, setting the stage for a potentially decisive second round of matches.

Simba are looking to maintain their momentum and capitalize on their good form in continental competitions.

Despite the cold weather, Dauids and his squad appear confident and ready to rise to the challenge in Constantine.

## Simba face key challenge in stopping Dib as they prepare for CS Constantine clash

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

AS Simba SC gear up for a pivotal CAF Confederation Cup Group A encounter against Algeria's CS Constantine, their focus will undoubtedly be on neutralizing the opposition's talismanic playmaker, Brahim Dib.

The Algerian attacking midfielder (pictured) has been a standout performer this season, showcasing both his goal-scoring ability and knack for delivering in crucial moments.

Dib's form makes him a key player Simba must contain to secure a positive result in tomorrow's match.

Dib's impact for CS Constantine has been felt both domestically and in continental competitions. In the Algerian Ligue 1, he has scored five goals in 11 matches, including a memorable hat-trick in a 3-2 victory over JS Kabylie on October 12, 2024.

In the CAF Confederation Cup, Dib's influence has been just as critical. After scoring in the preliminary rounds, he added another goal in CS Constantine's 1-0 win over CS Sfaxien in their Group A opener.

His ability to deliver in high-pressure situations underscores his importance to the Algerian side.

While Dib has been the standout performer, striker Zakaria Benchaa is another player Simba cannot afford to overlook.

Benchaa played a pivotal role in CS Constantine's qualification for the group stages, scoring four goals in four matches during the preliminary rounds.

Although he has yet to find the back of the net in domestic league play this



season, Benchaa's prowess in continental matches makes him a dangerous presence in the attacking third.

Despite their attacking strengths, CS Constantine have shown defensive frailties. In 11 league matches, they have scored 12 goals but conceded 10, revealing vulnerabilities that Simba could exploit.

Simba head coach Fadlu Dauids has emphasized the importance of disciplined defending, particularly when playing away from home.

"We need to excel in our defensive organization and limit mistakes," Dauids remarked before the team's departure to Algeria.

"Strengthening our defensive line and midfield positioning has been a priority, as we need to neutralize their threats effectively. At the same time, we have prepared to launch quick counterattacks and recover defensively with urgency."

To contain Dib, Simba's defensive midfielders, including Abdulzack

Hamza and Che Malone Fondoh, must work tirelessly to close down spaces and disrupt CS Constantine's attacking rhythm.

Meanwhile, midfielders Fabrice Ngoma and Debora Fernandes will need to limit Dib's time on the ball and stifle his creativity.

Simba's ability to transition quickly from defense to attack could prove decisive. Exploiting the gaps in CS Constantine's defense will provide opportunities for forwards Jean Charles Ahoua and Leonel Ateba to make an impact.

Both teams enter the game tied on points after narrow 1-0 victories in their opening Group A fixtures. For CS Constantine, a home victory is crucial in their quest for group supremacy, while Simba aim to secure a result that would strengthen their chances of advancing to the quarter-finals.

A win for Simba would put them in pole position in Group A, while a draw would still leave them well-placed for qualification.

Dib's form and influence make him the focal point of CS Constantine's attack, and his performance will likely be pivotal to the match's outcome.

For Simba, a collective defensive effort, disciplined positioning, and tactical adaptability will be essential in neutralizing Dib and exploiting their opponents' defensive weaknesses.

With so much at stake, tomorrow's clash promises to be a fiercely contested encounter, with both teams battling for control of Group A and a step closer to CAF Confederation Cup glory.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
13:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
14:00 SKONGA (I)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (I)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dandoo Za Michezo  
17:00 ASLEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kall Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA I  
20:00 DADAZ (I)  
21:00 SPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA I (I)

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09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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