



Civic leaders reaffirm stand on child, 'forced' marriages

By Getrude Mbago

RELIGIOUS and civil society leaders at mid-week took bold stand in support of girls' rights, pledging to work tirelessly to prevent child and forced marriages while promoting gender equality countywide.

Diverse religious leaders and non-governmental organisations have committed to using their platforms to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education and empowerment, underscoring that every girl has the right to grow up free from early marriage and harmful practices.

They aired these sentiments in Dar es Salaam at a stakeholder workshop for designing collaborative ways to promote girls' rights and combat violence, where a number of speakers acknowledged the detrimental impact that early and forced marriages have on girls' development.

The event, organised jointly by the Msichana Initiative, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the interfaith standing committee on economic justice and integrity of creation (IS-CEJIC), brought together key stakeholders, including religious leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs) and development partners.

The focus was on the role of faith leaders in advancing gender equality, particularly in the light of reforms to the minimum age for marriage.

Sheikh Khamis Mataka, the ISCEJIC co-chairman, appealed to the government to strengthen policies and laws to further protect girls.

"The education and training policy and the Education Act should be reviewed to ensure better protection for girls. Compulsory education should be extended up to Form Six rather than the current Form Four, to ensure that girls can complete their studies properly," he said.

The Marriage Act of 1971 needs to be amended to prevent girls who can pursue studies from being married off, he stated, with several religious leaders pledging to use their influence in various places of worship to raise community awareness on the harmful consequences of forced marriage.

They also vowed to advocate for stronger legal protections for girls and offer support to survivors of child marriage, where the co-chairman noted that religious texts emphasize that marriage should be a respectful and voluntary union, not forced upon anyone.

Rev. Monica Lugome of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) highlighted the liturgical emphasis on proper child upbringing, which includes ensuring that every child's right to education and a fulfilling life is respected.

"As religious leaders, it is our duty to guide our communities toward justice and fairness. It is time to end the harmful practice of child marriage and give every girl the chance to achieve her dreams," she said.

Rev. Dr Longino Rutagwela, the principal for the Songea Catholic Institute of Technical Education, highlighted the importance of ensuring that those who enter into marriage are well grown up to face difficulties of life and not children.

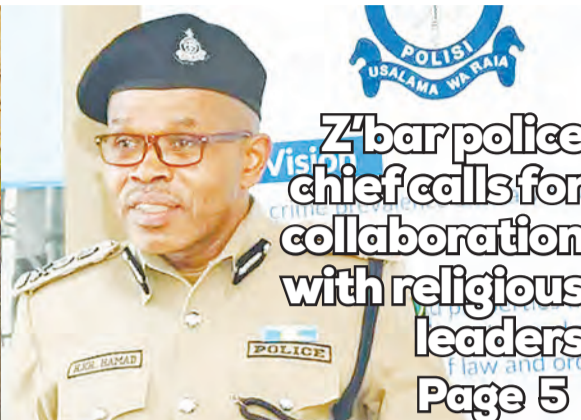
"Forcing children into marriage denies them essential rights to education and a fulfilling life, as they are burdened with the



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● Tanzania needs \$19bn to address climate issues in the next five years, says Samia

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses a high-level side event to the commemoration of the East African Community's Silver Jubilee in Arusha city yesterday. From-R: Burundi's Vice President, Prosper Bazombanza; Kenya's President, William Ruto; Uganda's President, Yoweri Museveni; and Somalia's President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Photo: State House

The election process was marred by incidents of intimidation against citizens, especially those collecting nomination forms, the arrest and abduction of citizens, threats against party agents, and widespread use of fraudulent ballots

Ruling party sweeps civic polls, opponents cry 'foul'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE ruling CCM has secured a landslide win, taking 12,150 village chairman positions accounting for 99 percent of the total seats in local government elections.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) said in a statement on Thursday night that CCM had won by a landslide, meanwhile as opposition parties raised queries on irregularities.

Chadema obtained 97 seats in the tally, representing less than one percent of the poll results, with the minister affirming that in eight wards, there were candidates who had passed away thus necessitating a fresh poll, meanwhile as 37 wards did not hold polls as scheduled due to various disturbances, including deaths of candidates after the nomination process was completed.

Kilwa District had two such wards, Nanyumbu (1), Itilima (1), Ikungi (1), Manyoni (1), Uyui (1), and Mbarali (1), while at the Sumbawanga municipal council, "no winner

was declared as the votes between two candidates were tied."

Twelve wards will repeat the voting as the results were tied, and nine wards will re-conduct elections as the sole candidate "failed to receive a sufficient number of votes."

The statement said that the ACT Wazalendo party won 11 seats, the Civic United Front (CUF) obtained ten seats, and NCCR Mageuzi won one seat.

Results for the position of ward chairman had CCM securing 62,728 seats, Chadema getting 853 seats, ACT Wazalendo 150 seats,

CUF 78 seats and NCCR-Mageuzi secured 10 seats.

UDP secured six seats, UMD two seats and ADC one seat, it elaborated, while affirming that CCM secured 4,213 seats for the position of street chairman, Chadema getting 36 seats, ACT Wazalendo nine seats, CUF four seats and CHAUMA one seat.

In a statement, ACT Wazalendo said that opposition parties were running against state agencies

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Stone Town structures for painting in annual bonanza

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA) has announced a plan to paint all 2,711 buildings within the protected area of Stone Town, including those slated for major

repairs.

Ali Said Bakari, the STCDA director general, set out this initiative here yesterday as part of the schedule for the year's Stone Town bonanza, starting today and concluding on December 2 at Forodhani Park.

Stone Town Day is held annually on December 2, to raise awareness on the con-

servation and development of the Stone Town of Zanzibar, with Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi expected to preside over the climax of the event, he said.

It marks a milestone in the preservation of Zanzibar's cultural heritage, after being set up in 2021 by President Mwinyi, to commemorate the historical

significance of Zanzibar's Stone Town and promote ongoing conservation and development efforts.

December 2 was the day in 2000 when the Stone Town was inscribed as a UNESCO world heritage site, while this year's celebrations will include the launch of a major campaign to paint all the buildings in

the conserved area. The repainting effort will be conducted thanks to the support of Infinity Company, the director noted, underlining that the initiative aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of Stone Town while preserving its unique architectural heritage.

The festivities, themed "Dr Mwinyi: The Light of the

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Independent National Electoral Commission chairman Judge Jacobs Mwambegele pictured in Arusha city yesterday opening a one-day meeting between the commission and electoral stakeholders. Photo: INEC

Ruling party CCM sweeps civic polls, opponents cry 'foul'

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rather than the ruling party, demanding that the poll be annulled and a new voting schedule set out.

It said that the entire election process, from the drafting of regulations, voter registration, candidate selection, voting, to the announcement of results, was compromised by election management authorities assisted by state agencies, including the security forces.

"The election process was marred by incidents of intimidation against citizens, especially those collecting nomination forms, the arrest and abduction of citizens, threats against party agents, and widespread use of fraudulent ballots," he said.

Chadema on its part called for an emergency meeting of its national ex-

ecutive committee to discuss what had transpired during the civic polls.

John Mrema, the party's director of protocol, communication and foreign affairs, said the party's position on the election will be made public after the meeting.

Among the party's criticisms are that candidates and their agents were arrested at polling stations, and in some areas voting started late due to delays in the delivery of ballot papers or confusion with voter lists, as some books were sent to incorrect stations.

The statement pointed at ballot papers that were already marked before the voting process had even begun, urging the relevant authorities to "unconditionally release the party leaders and members who are being held in various locations."

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overwhelming responsibilities of building families at an early age," he stated.

Sarah Shija, the NCA programmes manager, expressed optimism that the faith-based commitment to ending child marriages would lead to significant changes in

public awareness and bring about lasting transformation.

"Through the faith and positive change for children initiative, NCA and its partners work with faith-based institutions and religious leaders to promote positive social and behaviour change in communities, raise awareness and mobilize communities to respect and uphold children's rights—especially the

rights of girls who face various challenges," she explained.

Rachael Boma, programme specialist for women's access to justice at UN Women Tanzania, emphasized the critical role for religious leaders in protecting children and shaping social and cultural norms that can prevent violence.

"Religious leaders are trusted figures in their communities,

uniquely positioned to promote children's well-being. They can speak out against harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, abuse and neglect," she asserted.

She declared that child marriage, which disproportionately affects girls, intensely limits educational and economic opportunities while jeopardising their

health and safety. While Tanzania has made significant strides in addressing the issue, much work remains to be done to fully eradicate child marriage by amending laws setting 18 as minimum marriage age, the UN official emphasised.

Rebecca Gyumi, executive director of Msichana Initiative, stressed the importance of involving religious leaders in the fight against

child marriage, noting that their influence reaches rural areas where the practice remains widespread.

"By framing the fight against child marriage as both a moral and religious issue, we hope to inspire a cultural shift that supports girls' rights and ensures their futures are not shaped by early marriage," she added.

Stone Town structures for painting in annual fete

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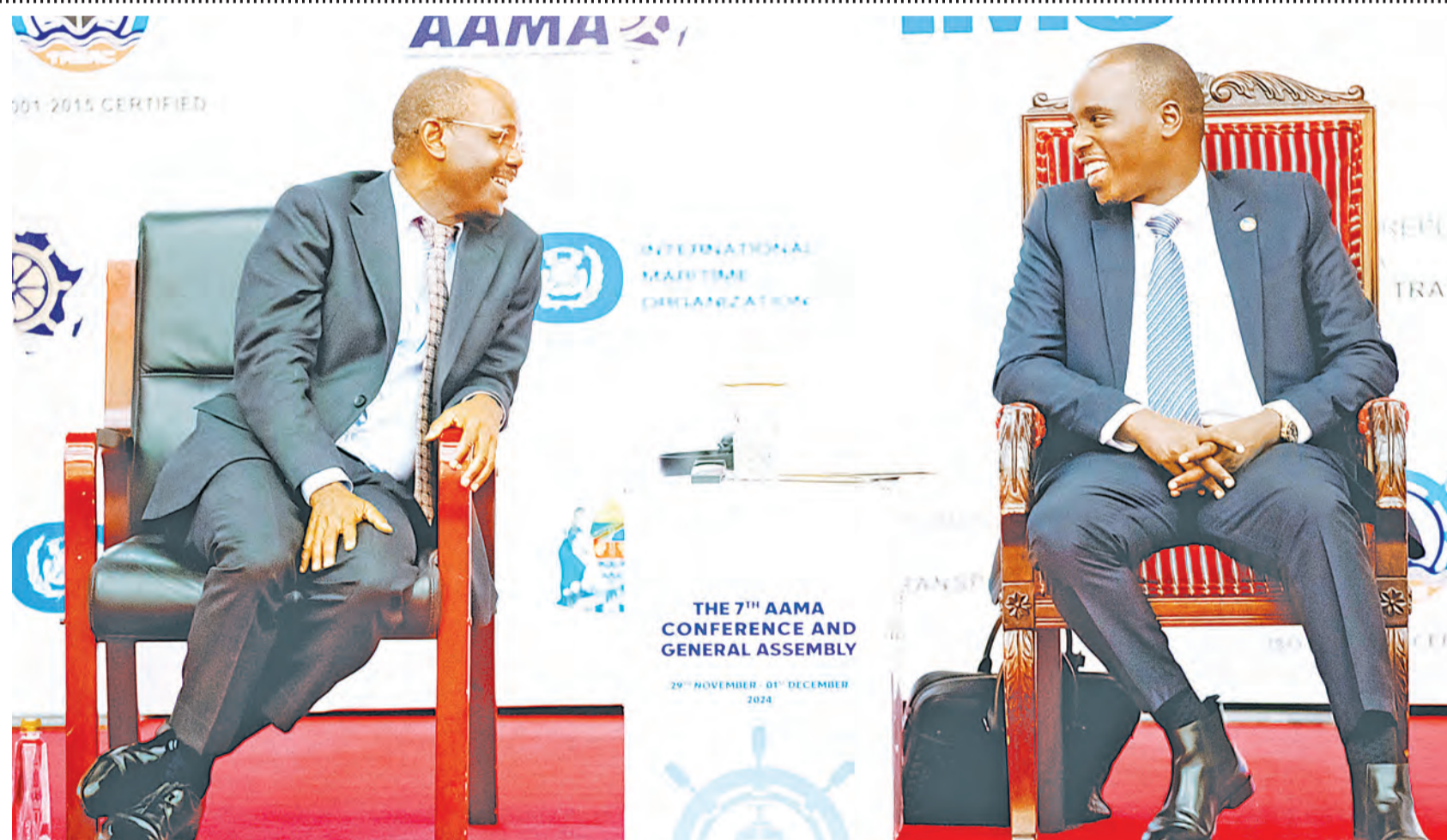
cultural heritage. Other highlights of the event include tours of newly established gardens, an update on the progress of the Judiciary Museum at the historic court building at Vuga, and plans for the development of a cemetery museum.

The celebrations coincides with the global 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, running from November 25 to December 10, with this alignment underscoring the event's commitment to raising awareness on various social issues while celebrating the cul-

tural richness of Zanzibar.

Mohamed Bajubeir, a member of the organizing committee, highlighted the importance of the event in raising public awareness about the ongoing improvements on the heritage site, evolving as a cultural and historical hub.

Recognised by UNESCO for its outstanding universal value, Stone Town's cultural diversity, architectural heritage and historical significance in Indian Ocean maritime trade and the abolition of the slave trade underscore its global importance, he added.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging ideas with Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa on the sidelines of the conference and general assembly of the Association of African Maritime Administrations. Photo: DPMO

EAC leaders mark Silver Jubilee of 1999 protocols

By Guardian Correspondents, Arusha

EAST African Community leaders yesterday pondered various angles on which the quest for federation can be furthered, at the Silver Jubilee of the EAC Treaty, signed mid-1999 in the travel capital of Arusha.

The discussion came at an open forum prior to the summit to be held today, where Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said that despite its weaknesses, the EAC was the most institutionalized regional bloc, with a working customs union, a common market protocol, and even a court for citizens' grievances, along with various agencies facilitating integration.

Kenyan President Dr William Ruto point-

ed at the complex issue of sequencing the East African federation, noting that the three main country unions were supposed to unite by 1963 when Kenya obtained its independence, 'but early in 1964 the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar came about.' Intimating that its circumstances cast a shadow on the feasibility of the wider plan.

The Kenyan leader also remarked on suggestions by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the need to unify the two parallel processes on African initiatives for peace in DRC, one proceeding from the Angolan capital of Luanda and another anchored in the Nairobi process.

The latter significantly involves EAC member states while the Luanda process chiefly elicits support from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) where DRC and Tanzania are members.

He pleaded that DRC wishes that the Nairobi process be amplified and provide the guarantee for positive movement of the situation in the EAC partner state.

The leaders similarly discussed how the countries are working to solve current challenges of socioeconomic development in the region and Africa generally, with host President Samia Suluhu Hassan stating that Tanzania needs at least \$19bn to address issues related to climate in the next five years.

The country is struggling to raise funds to that effect, he said, underlining that Africa requires \$1.3trn for the purpose but so far the continent has been able to raise \$300bn to pursue those efforts.

"Energy transition is an important issue for our countries and we have started to implement the programmes," she said, pointing at local efforts for cleaner sources of energy such as solar and wind. "We have already started a solar project in Singida," she said, sidestepping the more prevalent gas transition theme.

She said that to reduce deforestation there is need to supply clean energy through rural electrification and natural gas

or even coal-based treated briquettes.

Tanzania will early next year host a global energy meeting, to be attended by multilateral agencies like the World Bank, the African Development Bank and development partner agencies.

In other remarks, President Museveni suggested that while the colonialists drew the borders of the respective countries, "East Africans have been a single society for thousands of years."

"The Berlin Conference which partitioned the African continent took place in 1884, just 140 years ago and before that our forefathers and grandfathers were one for thousands of years," he declared.



Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy Board chairman Stephen Wassira (L) delivers keynote speech at the academy's 19th graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is the academy's rector, Prof Harun Mapesa. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Doctors Without Borders calls new approach to handling of GBV cases

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AN international medical organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), has proposed a new approach to handling gender-based violence (GBV) cases, with the primary goal of protecting victims from further trauma.

Dr Froilan Mwabesa, Health Coordinator, shared this initiative during a media briefing in Dar es Salaam, marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. He stated that the current system often exposes victims in ways that leave them vulnerable and re-traumatised.

He stressed the need for a more compassionate, streamlined process that reduces exposure while safeguarding the dignity and safety of those affected. This approach aims to minimise re-traumatisation and ensure victims receive both the care and legal attention they need.

"The system often fails to protect those it is meant to help. When a child is abused, for example, the news spreads quickly, causing more distress. This public exposure undermines their privacy and dignity, making it one of the biggest challenges in addressing GBV," he said.

Dr Mwabesa called for urgent reform, advocating for more compassionate, confidential pathways that allow victims to receive the care and legal support they deserve, without enduring further trauma.

He outlined MSF's multidisciplinary approach to GBV, which involves medical professionals, social workers, and commu-

nity sociologists. He emphasised the importance of creating safer, more efficient pathways that minimise victim exposure and prioritise emotional well-being.

"In areas with inefficient systems, victims face additional painful steps. After receiving medical care, they must visit the police for the PF3 form, then return to the hospital where a new file is opened, exposing sensitive information to multiple staff. This violates the victim's privacy," he noted.

Dr Mwabesa recommended simplifying the process, where the doctor directly submits the PF3 to the police, eliminating unnecessary steps that could further traumatised the victim.

Tommaso Santo, MSF Country Director, also revealed plans to expand the organisation's support to other regions after their successful work in Liwale, Lindi region.

He highlighted that MSF's investment in health infrastructure in the Lindi region has led to a significant reduction in maternal and child mortality, as well as fewer women needing surgery.

Santo explained that in Tanzania, MSF has provided healthcare to Burundian refugees and responded to outbreaks of measles, malaria, and Marburg fever in 2023.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening pathways to care, particularly for pregnant women, to reduce the risk of maternal and newborn deaths. This work benefits both refugees and host communities alike.

Tanzania anticipates to host 2025 World Travel Awards, boosting tourism sector

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA is expected to host the World Travel Awards (WTA) for Africa and the Indian Ocean in 2025, marking a significant milestone for the country's tourism sector.

Dr Hassan Abbas, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, recently announced in Dar es Salaam, upon his return from Madeira, Portugal, that Tanzania will host the 2025 World Travel Awards (WTA) for Africa and the Indian Ocean. This comes after

the country was honored with the 2024 World's Leading Safari Destination award.

Dr Abbas explained that hosting the 2025 WTA would significantly boost Tanzania's global visibility as a top tourism destination, highlighting its world-class safari attractions alongside its diverse tourism offerings. He emphasized that the event would not only spotlight Tanzania's established safari destinations but also showcase the country's broader range of experiences, including its beaches, cultural heritage, and natu-

ral wonders.

"Hosting the 2025 WTA will be more than just a ceremonial milestone; it presents a unique opportunity to enhance Tanzania's position as a leading global tourism destination," said Dr Abbas.

The Permanent Secretary credited Tanzania's success in winning the 2024 World's Leading Safari Destination award to the strong collaboration between the government and tourism stakeholders, who have worked together to promote the country's rich natural and cultural attractions.

He also acknowledged the crucial role played by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, whose initiatives, such as The Royal Tour and Amazing Tanzania, have significantly raised the country's global profile.

"The award reflects growing international confidence in Tanzania's tourism offerings and the warm hospitality that visitors experience," Dr Abbas said, urging Tanzanians to continue providing exceptional service and maintaining the country's welcoming atmosphere.

In addition to celebrating this achievement, Dr Abbas called on Tanzanians to work together to protect the country's natural resources, ensuring they remain sustainable for future generations and continue contributing to the economy.

Ephraim Mafuru, Director General of the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), highlighted the importance of diversifying tourism products to encourage longer stays and higher spending from international visitors. He noted that Tanzania is focusing on expanding its range of

attractions to fully capitalize on the economic potential of tourism.

Dr Thereza Mugobi, Director of the Tourism Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, stressed the need for all stakeholders to align with government policies and regulations to ensure sustainable growth in the sector.

With a renewed focus on broadening the tourism experience and integrating local communities into the growth strategy, Tanzania is well-positioned for long-term success in the global tourism market.



Henry Msambila (R), a manager with the Weights and Measures Agency, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday explaining to visitors to the ongoing International Tourism Fair Grape Festival on the correct use of measurements in the packaging of drinks made from grapes. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Farmers in Hai District turn to fruit crops for economic growth

By Godfrey Mushi, Hai

THE growing lucrative potential of fruit crops such as strawberries, vanilla, and avocados has prompted Hai District in Kilimanjaro to focus on cultivating these crops as alternative economic drivers for its residents.

Speaking about the initiative yesterday, Hai District Chairman Edmund Rutaraka explained that, for example, strawberries thrive at altitudes of 1,500 metres and above sea level. In Tanzania, they are expected to perform particularly well in regions such as Morogoro, Mbeya, Iringa, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro.

"We have decided that, since strawberries grow best in areas with moderate temperatures, and their yields increase significantly when cultivated using modern methods—especially in greenhouses—we will encourage our community to invest in this form of agriculture," Rutaraka said.

Regarding avocado farming, Rutaraka mentioned that discussions are currently underway with an investor who has been awarded the tender to build a processing plant for avocados. The project aims to create more economic opportunities for farmers, who have been reliant on private buyers, many of whom complain about fluctuating prices.

Rutaraka instructed Hai District Executive Director Dionis Myinga, along with the Cooperative Officer and the Council's Lawyer, to remind the investor about the

terms of their contract and to ensure the project begins as planned.

Hai legislator Saashisha Mafuwe added: "We explore ways to strengthen and uplift the local economy, which is why we are focusing on investment in avocado farming."

"The Mrososangu Cooperative Union signed a contract with this investor, which is being overseen by the Registrar of Cooperatives in the country," Mafuwe explained. "In the agreement with Mrososangu Cooperative Union, we secured investor James (a foreign investor), and we agreed that by 2025, construction of the avocado processing factory will begin. The factory will process both high-quality avocados and those deemed unfit for export, turning them into avocado oil."

Mafuwe noted that, although he has visited the site, the investor has yet to start construction.

Zephania Gunda, Hai Town Council Executive Officer, shared that the first resolution from the District Council is for farmers, particularly those in the middle and highlands, to set aside land for avocado farming, as the climate is ideal for the crop and the market demand is strong—especially for dry-season production through irrigation.

The second resolution encourages capable farmers to build local avocado processing factories, as some farmers are currently forced to sell their produce to processing plants abroad, since Tanzania lacks sufficient local facilities.

WMA warns producers, traders over defiance in wine, grape processing

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Dodoma Region has announced that it will take action against wine and grape processing traders who fail to adhere to correct measurement standards in their businesses.

During a visit to wine sellers at the Dodoma Zabibu Tourism International Fair, held at the Railway

Station in Dodoma City, WMA's Regional Manager, Karim Zuberi, emphasised that the agency will continue conducting surprise inspections.

Traders found guilty of violating the law will face strict penalties, including fines.

Zuberi stressed that all traders, including those in the wine industry, must comply with regulations by ensuring their packaging ad-

heres to correct measurements, to prevent deceiving consumers.

"Dodoma is a leading region in grape cultivation and one of the country's strategic agricultural areas. I urge farmers and traders to ensure that grapes, whether sold locally or for export, are measured and packed according to the correct standards," he said.

He also underscored the importance of accurate measurements

for wine producers, advising them to pack wine in the correct volumes and label their products accordingly, in line with the Weights and Measures Law, Chapter No. 340. "In Dodoma, many traders add value to grapes by producing wine. It is crucial that wine is packaged in correct volumes, whether in drums or bottles, and that each package is clearly marked with its volume," Zuberi said, emphasising

fairness between sellers and buyers.

Zuberi added that the WMA is working to improve its services by collaborating with stakeholders in the measurement industry and engaging the public. The agency has also participated in various exhibitions and events to promote measurement standards across the country.

Zuberi invited the public to visit

the WMA booth at the fair to learn more about the agency's services, including inspections of new and existing water meters, electricity meters, and other measurement tools.

Wine trader Zaituni Ramadhani thanked the WMA for their visit and professional guidance on improving her product packaging, particularly valuable insights on labelling and packaging standards.

Govt allocates 77.3bn/- to tackle water scarcity in Manyara Region

By Jaliwason Jasson, Babati

THE government is set to implement 32 new projects aimed at rehabilitating, inspecting, researching, and drilling deep water wells in Manyara Region to address water shortages caused by limited water sources.

The projects, which are part of the 2024/25 financial year budget, have a total value of 77.3bn/-.

James Kionaumela, Acting Manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Manyara, explained on Thursday that the initiative follows the average water production across 209 schemes in the region, which currently generates 42,000.7 litres of water per day.

"Currently, there are 22 ongoing projects worth 90.9bn/-, addition to 32 new projects focused on rehabilitation, inspection, research, and well drilling," he said.

Kionaumela further highlighted that out of the 440 villages in the region, RUWASA serves 396, with 277 villages having access to piped water, while 52

villages rely on hand pumps and solar-powered systems.

He also reported that water access in rural areas stands at 75 percent, benefiting 1.5 million people, with 1.06 million people having direct access to water.

In related news, Manyara Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga revealed that the region received 190bn/- for the 2023/24 financial year to fund various development projects in sectors such as water, health, education, administration, agriculture, business, and energy.

Sendiga noted that in education, a science school for girls has been completed, and a boys' school is under construction, set to be completed by December. Additionally, 249 classrooms have been built in primary schools, 389 latrines constructed, and 14 laboratories set up.

In healthcare, she mentioned that 19 dispensaries and 11 health centres have been built, and medical equipment has been purchased for two district hospitals.



A total of 106 chairpersons and 530 members of local government authorities in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam Region, take the oath of allegiance and integrity before Magomeni Primary Court Senior Resident Magistrate Winnie Kairanya on Thursday after emerging winners in Wednesday's mainland Tanzania civic polls at the district level. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

S. A citrus export volumes decline amid climate and market challenges

By Special Correspondent

SOUTH Africa's citrus industry experienced an unexpected dip in export volumes this year, presenting growers with significant challenges related to climate, market demands, and logistics.

The Citrus Growers Association (CGA) has stepped in to address these issues, supporting farmers as they navigate a tough season.

Exporting South Africa's high-quality citrus remains a priority, with new opportunities being pursued in China and India.

Justin Chadwick, CEO of the

CGA said this season's lower-than-anticipated export figures were due to increasingly unpredictable climate-related disruptions.

"We can't control the weather, but we're committed to providing growers with the tools to adapt," he said.

According to Chadwick, the CGA promotes sustainable farming practices as a long-term solution to climate challenges. Nearly half of South Africa's citrus farms now use solar power, reducing reliance on the grid.

Other methods, such as mulching, which improves soil health

and reduces pesticide needs, are also becoming more common.

However, these solutions come at a cost. "Installing solar power to offset 30 percent of a farm's energy needs requires an investment of around R2 million. While beneficial, the financial impact cannot be ignored," Chadwick said.

He added that market demands had further compounded the year's difficulties. Disparate sustainability standards across global markets have also created inefficiencies.

"We are working with banks and

agricultural partners to align sustainability metrics and reduce duplication," Chadwick said.

Logistical issues at South African ports have worsened the situation for exporters. Chadwick said there was an urgent need for improved efficiency through public-private partnerships.

"The delays in the Transnet-IC-TSI deal at Durban Pier 2 are frustrating. More private involvement in container terminals is critical to unlocking economic growth and creating jobs," he said.

With export volumes set to increase in the coming years due to

recent plantings, resolving these bottlenecks is more important than ever.

The rise in local processing of citrus, particularly for juice, has also shifted dynamics. While this has provided growers with an alternative market, Chadwick cautioned against overreliance.

"Juice prices are favourable now, but there's no guarantee this will last. Exporting fresh citrus remains a priority, as global markets value the quality and taste of South African fruit," he said.

The CGA is actively pursuing

new export opportunities in Asia, particularly in China and India, to ensure that increased production can be absorbed by international markets. "Expanding market access is vital to keeping our growers competitive," Chadwick said.

Chadwick said sustainability had emerged as a key focus for the industry this year, with the CGA driving initiatives to help farmers adapt to climate change. From supporting responsible water use through drip irrigation to promoting the SIZA Environmental Standard, the association is committed to long-term solutions.



Tanzania's Ambassador to the Comoros, Said Yakub (L), welcomes a delegation of 20 specialist doctors from various hospitals in Tanzania shortly after their arrival there to serve at a one-week medical camp. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NeST scoops "best innovative public procurement system project" award

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Electronic Public Procurement System (NeST) has won an award for "Best Innovative Public Procurement System Project" in Africa following a rigorous competition during the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) meeting, in Kampala Uganda.

The award, which was presented to the Director-General of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Dennis Simba, under the auspices of the African Union (AU) on Thursday in Kampala, Uganda, was a result of NeST emerging in the top five out of 69 entries.

Speaking to reporters after receiving the award, Simba, whose authority manages the system, stated that the award was a significant honour for Tanzania, as public procurement is one of the largest areas of public spending across Africa.

"This is a great honour for us, as we competed against 69 participants, and made it into the top five," he said, noting that NeST was the public procurement system in the competition, which marked a major achievement for both Tanzania and system itself.

Simba said: "Special recognition

must go to the President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who facilitated the introduction of the Public Procurement Law of 2023 and the development of NeST, which has now been acknowledged as being the best in Africa."

Simba further stated that, since NeST was solely developed by Tanzanian experts, PPRA was ready to collaborate with other African countries to ensure availability of the technology that contributes to transformative changes in public procurement across the continent.

"I thank the Ministry of Finance for facilitating the NeST project and for their close supervision at every step to ensure that the vision of President Samia is practically implemented," he said.

He also stated that the building of this system has been made possible through collaboration between PPRA and the e-Government Authority (eGA), that provided experts and guidance.

Meanwhile, Kenya's healthcare delivery system, won the Overall Award and Uganda was presented with a Special Award as the host of the AAPAM Conference, which brought together participants from various African countries.

Zimbabwe farmers turn to maggots to survive drought

HARARE

SOUTHEASTERN Zimbabwe farmers like Mari Choumumba turns to an unconventional solution to survive the devastating effects of drought, farming maggots.

Initially met with resistance, the idea of breeding maggots seemed unappealing, especially in a region where flies have long been associated with cholera outbreaks.

After drought decimated the staple crop of corn in the Nyangambe area, experts from the government and the United

States Agency for International Development (USAID) introduced the concept of farming black soldier fly larvae to provide an alternative source of animal feed and garden manure. However, many farmers were hesitant, believing that all flies could spread cholera.

Choumumba recalls the initial reaction: "When this concept was introduced to us, we were just coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic and people were excited, thinking that donors had brought food aid.

But after realizing it was about black soldier flies and

maggots, most people then began to shun the idea because of the misconception was that all flies cause cholera."

A year later, Choumumba has embraced the practice. With a smile, she tends to a cement pit covered in wire mesh, where she feeds rotting waste to the maggots—her new meal ticket. After harvesting the larvae, which she does about once a month, she turns them into high-protein feed for her free-range chickens, which she both for consumes and sells.

Maggot farming has also proven to be an environmen-

tally sustainable practice. "Nowadays, nothing goes to waste or is thrown away, whether it's corn leaves, banana skins, or orange peels," says Choumumba. "Instead of throwing that away and littering the environment, we tell our fellow villagers to bring that to us, we have good use for it, it is food for our maggots."

What began as a means of survival has quickly become a profitable venture.

Choumumba mixes the harvested maggots with drought-tolerant crops like millet, cowpeas, and sunflower to create

chicken feed. With 15 kilogrammes of maggots harvested every 21 days, she can produce about 375 kilogrammes of feed.

She sells both eggs and free-range chickens to restaurants, and supplies fellow villagers with affordable feed, which costs a fraction of traditional store-bought animal feed.

Before maggot farming, rural farmers spent up to 80 percent of their chicken production costs on feed. However, the USAID reports that this expense has dropped by approximately 40 percent since maggot farm-

ing began.

The larvae of the black soldier fly, which can lay between 500 and 900 eggs in a single cycle, feed on decaying organic matter, such as kitchen scraps, fruit and vegetable waste and animal manure. The process transforms the waste into a nutrient-rich protein source for livestock.

Robert Musundire, a professor of agricultural science and entomology at Chinhoyi University of Technology, explains, "The black soldier fly maggots, or the meal, in terms of protein composition alone,

are between 55 to 60 percent crude protein."

The success of this project has garnered attention from donors and governments, who see maggot farming as a cost-effective, sustainable solution for Africa's agricultural sector, which is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

As the continent faces growing challenges to food security, the black soldier fly presents a viable alternative that could transform farming practices and improve livelihoods for farmers like Choumumba.



Kinondoni district commissioner Saad Mtambule (3rd-L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting an Improved Community Health Fund (ICHF) card to Nasri Azizi, who has openly declared that he is living with HIV. It was a district-level World AIDS Day commemoration event. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Egypt's nuke power plant one step closer to launch

EL-DABAA

WORK has recently commenced on the installation of the core catcher for Unit 4 of the El-Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Egypt.

Rosatom's Engineering Division is the general designer and contractor for the plant, which will be Egypt's first nuclear power facility.

The core catcher is a crucial part of the plant's passive safety system, designed to prevent the release of radioactive materials in the event of a severe accident that results in the destruction of the reactor vessel. The system is made up of several components, with a total weight of over 700 tonnes; the core catcher body alone weighs 155 tonnes.

Alexey Likhachev, Director General of Rosatom, commented, "The core catcher is one of the key safety components of Generation III+ power units. It is symbolic that we are beginning the installation of the core catcher at Unit 4 on Nuclear Energy Day, which was celebrated in Egypt on November 19."

The construction of all four units at the El-Dabaa NPP is progressing rapidly, adhering to international

safety standards. Likhachev emphasised Rosatom's commitment to prioritising safety in every project, including the Egyptian plant.

El-Dabaa will consist of four 1,200 MW power units, each equipped with pressurised water reactors (VVER-1200) of the Russian Generation III+ design. This evolutionary reactor type complies fully with international safety regulations. In August, a similar core catcher was delivered to the Paks-II NPP in Hungary for its new units.

Egypt's Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Mahmoud Esmat, confirmed that the El-Dabaa NPP project is under continuous supervision and is progressing on schedule to complete all stages and connect to the grid. He outlined the energy sector's strategy, which aims to balance energy sources, diversify power generation, and integrate renewable and clean energy solutions to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Esmat highlighted the importance of the peaceful use of nuclear energy as a vital component of Egypt's sustainable development strategy, particularly for electricity generation.

Zanzibar police chief calls for collaboration with religious leaders on spiritual education

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Police Commissioner, Hamad Khamis Hamad, has emphasised the importance of collaboration between the police force and religious leaders to provide spiritual education to prisoners and suspects, aiming to transform their behaviour and lives.

He made these remarks on Thursday during a meeting with the Zanzibar Mufti, Sheikh Saleh Omar Kaab. The discussion focused on strengthening cooperation between the Mufti's office and the police force for the benefit of public security and community welfare.

Hamad explained that spiritual education would play a crucial role in helping prisoners reintegrate into society with improved morals after serving their sentences. He further stated that, in fostering peace and stability, religious leaders have a duty to preach unity, national peace, and the importance of following the law and respecting government authorities.

"It is also crucial to strengthen unity among different religious denominations to reduce social conflicts and combat crimes and harmful behaviours that contradict religious teachings," Commissioner Hamad said. He highlighted the need for cooperation

between religious leaders and the police in condemning criminal behaviours such as drug abuse, alcoholism, theft, and educating the public about the dangers of these crimes using the moral principles shared by all religions.

Hamad also urged religious leaders to encourage the community to adhere to road safety laws, including wearing helmets, obtaining valid driving licenses, and refraining from driving under the influence of alcohol. He called on them to promote good morals, such as respecting public property and avoiding bribery.

Additionally, he stressed the importance

of religious leaders educating young people about their responsibilities to society, the significance of being good citizens, and the role religion can play in guiding those who engage in risky or harmful behaviour.

"The collaboration between the police force and religious leaders in overseeing religious worship and celebrations is crucial for ensuring the safety of worshippers. It is also important to evaluate challenges that arise during major religious celebrations and find permanent solutions," Hamad said.

He also noted the need for training security guards at places of worship in emergency preparedness, while urging the community

to address social challenges related to customs and traditions, such as practices that conflict with religious teachings, including witchcraft and superstitions.

Hamad further urged the public to resolve family conflicts through legal and religious means, rather than resorting to violence or seeking revenge. He also highlighted the need for increased security at places of worship and discussed ways to protect them from crimes, such as theft and property damage.

For his part, Mufti Kaab praised the police for their efforts in strengthening the country's security and urged them to continue



George Simbachawene (R), Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), views a sketch of what is being developed in Dar es Salaam into a Tanzania Government Flight Agency workshop. He was on an assessment tour of progress at the site on Thursday. Photo: President's Office (PSM&GG)

Zimbabwe expects economic development rebound in 2025

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube has projected a strong economic recovery in 2025, with growth expected to accelerate to 6 percent after a challenging 2024.

Zimbabwe's economic rebound is expected to be driven by a recovery in agricultural output and power generation, following the devastating drought that has severely impacted the country this year.

In his budget speech on Thursday, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube outlined an optimistic economic outlook, emphasising efforts to reverse the damage caused by the El Niño-induced drought, which has significantly reduced food production and the supply of hydroelectric power.

Ncube projected a reduction in the budget deficit for 2025, estimating it at just 0.4 percent of GDP, a notable improvement from the 1.4 percent deficit anticipated in 2024.

The drought, which has hit southern Africa hard, has worsened Zimbabwe's economic challenges. The country's agricultural sector, a crucial part of its economy, contracted by 15 percent this year due to inadequate rainfall. However, Ncube forecasts a 12.8 percent growth in agriculture for 2025, as improved rainfall and a recovery in agricultural productivity are expected to boost the sector.

The mining sector, which faced difficulties due to lower global prices for lithium and platinum, is also expected to recover. Growth in mining is projected to rise to 5.6 percent in 2025, up from 2.3 percent in 2024.

The government has faced challenges in stabilising the currency this year. Following the phased abandonment of the Zimbabwean dollar in April, the country introduced the ZiG (Zimbabwe Gold) to stabilise the economy and encourage local transactions.

Global food stakeholders bond to reinforce farmer-led seed systems

HARARE

MORE than 80 global stakeholders from the food and seed sectors convened in Harare this week to share experiences and discuss strategies for creating seed regulations that support local, farmer-led seed systems in both Africa and Europe.

In his opening remarks at the workshop on Wednesday, Vangelis Haritatos, Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development of Zimbabwe, highlighted the crucial role smallholder farmers play in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

He stressed their key contributions in managing, multiplying, breeding, selecting, saving, and using seeds.

"Enabling farmers to maintain and develop this diversity, along with their deep knowledge of traditional practices and agroecology, is vital for ensuring food security and sover-

eignty for both present and future generations," said Haritatos.

The workshop was focused on advancing diversified and pluralistic seed systems, with a particular emphasis on promoting farmer-led systems to meet global challenges in food and agriculture.

It aimed at developing seed legislation that aligns with Articles 5, 6, and 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) – which pertain to the conservation, sustainable use, and protection of farmers' rights. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, underlined the importance of fostering legal and policy frameworks that recognise the contributions of farmers to agricultural biodiversity. "The outcomes of this meeting will help us strengthen seed systems, enhance crop diversity, and build more resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers worldwide,"

he said. The workshop, titled "From Breeding for Diversity to Seed Regulations/Laws: Promoting an Enabling Environment for Farmers' Seed Systems," served as a platform for sharing knowledge between African and European countries, reflecting on the current legal frameworks around seed breeding, registration, certification, production, and the management of community seed banks, with a focus on smallholder farmers.

Effective seed systems are fundamental to successful agricultural transformation, food security, and inclusive market growth. Policy, legal, and regulatory environments are often the first step towards creating opportunities for sustainable agrifood systems.

The primary goal of the workshop was to promote an enabling policy environment that supports the development of local and farmer-led seed systems. This includes enhancing access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) to tackle challenges such

as climate change while ensuring food and nutrition security.

Patrice Talla, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa, praised the alignment of the Benefit-sharing Fund with farmer-led seed systems, saying, "This creates a more enabling environment for the registration and distribution of farmer-led seeds. FAO in Southern Africa is pleased with the tangible benefits flowing back to farmers, particularly in support of the conservation of plant genetic resources." Talla said the workshop aligns with the FAO's International Treaty Benefit-sharing Fund, which supports projects addressing food insecurity, biodiversity loss, and climate change through the sustainable use of plant genetic resources. This gathering provides an essential opportunity to exchange knowledge on key issues such as breeding for diversity, vital for crop conservation and sustainable resource use.

The discussions and outcomes from the workshop will contribute to an information document on the relevance of Farmers' Rights and farmer-managed seed systems, which will be presented at the Eleventh Governing Body Session of the International Treaty in November 2025.

It was organised by the Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) Zimbabwe, the Markets and Seeds Access Project (MASAP), Seeds for the Future (SEFF), and the Consumption of Resilient Orphan Crops & Products for Healthier Diets (CROP-S4HD), with support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and the Benefit Sharing Fund of the International Treaty (ITPGRFA).

African govts urged to pressure wealthy nations for climate aid

ACCRA

CITIZENS across 22 African countries are urging their governments to exert greater pressure on wealthier nations to provide climate aid and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, according to a recent Afrobarometer survey.

The survey reveals that a majority of Africans have experienced worsening environmental conditions, with crop failures and droughts becoming more severe over the past decade.

It found that six in ten Africans are aware of climate change, with most acknowledging its growing impact on their communities.

Among those familiar with the concept, 81 percent agree that climate change is making life more difficult in their countries. This sentiment is even more pronounced in nations such as Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Lesotho.

When it comes to addressing the crisis, most citizens believe their own governments should take the lead, followed by wealthy nations and ordinary citizens. Furthermore, 77 percent of respondents think their governments should actively push

richer countries to provide resources to support those affected by climate change.

An overwhelming 82 percent of Africans also support investing in infrastructure capable of withstanding extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, viewing it as a vital response to climate change and environmental degradation.

The survey highlights how crop failures and droughts have intensified across the continent, with 59 percent of respondents reporting worsening conditions over the past decade. Conversely, around 20 percent noted an improvement in these issues. Other environmental challenges, including floods, landslides, and soil erosion, also vary in severity across different regions.

The findings underscore the widespread belief that climate change is not merely an environmental issue but a pressing economic and social challenge for many African nations. As the continent grapples with increasingly severe weather events, there is a growing demand for international support and investment in sustainable solutions to protect vulnerable communities.



Simanjiro District CCM Chairman Kiria Laizer (in red overall) seated with small miners on Thursday during an inspection tour of tanzanite mining sites near Mirerani township. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

TKA starts hatchery, fish feed unit in Niger

ANKARA

TURKISH Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TKA) has established a hatchery and fish feed production unit as part of the "Guichet Unique 3A" project initiated by Niger's Ministry of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Environment.

The project aims to expand freshwater and pond fisheries while enhancing existing produc-

tion systems.

In Niger, a country where agriculture and animal husbandry dominate, government-supported initiatives in pond and freshwater fisheries, along with alternative production facilities, are increasingly becoming integral to modern, integrated production policies.

The "Guichet Unique 3A" model, implemented by Niger's Ministry of Hydraulics, Sanitation and Envi-

ronment, aims to achieve self-sufficiency in the fisheries sector by addressing the needs of fish farms for fry, feed and technical support.

Carried out by various institutions across different regions, this model plays a critical role in reducing dependence on imports and promoting the growth of fisheries activities.

In line with the initiative, TKA established a hatchery and a fish

feed production unit at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Agriculture at Dan Dicko Dankoulodo University of Maradi.

The facility supports the "Guichet Unique 3A" programme in Maradi, providing fry, feed and technical assistance to fish producers in the surrounding areas.

The units were equipped with state-of-the-art production and training tools to enhance fry pro-

duction infrastructure. Equipment such as broodstock, fish feed, spawning hormones, health kits, water purifiers, oxygen units, analysers and other essential supplies were provided by TKA.

The fully equipped production units were officially handed over to Dan Dicko Dankoulodo University of Maradi during a ceremony attended by the university's Rec-

tor, department heads, TKA representatives and students from the faculty.

The project aims to increase fish production by fulfilling the core needs of fish farms in Niger, promote increased fish consumption, diversify animal production capacities and income sources and support R&D initiatives and academic research to advance fishing techniques.

Countering terrorism and human rights expert to visit Côte d'Ivoire

THE United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, Ben Saul, will undertake an official visit to Côte d'Ivoire from November 29 to December 9, this year.

The visit aims to assess the country's counter-terrorism laws and practices, particularly in relation to their alignment with international human rights standards.

During his stay, Saul will evaluate how Côte d'Ivoire's legal framework addresses terrorism, including its criminal laws, measures to counter the financing of terrorism, and efforts to combat violent extremism.

He will also explore whether these measures respect and uphold fundamental human rights, a key concern in the global fight against terrorism.

As part of his visit, Saul will engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including government representatives, members of the judiciary, law enforcement officials, and policy experts. He will also meet with civil society organizations, community and religious leaders, victims of terrorism, UN personnel, and other relevant actors. The Special Rapporteur is set to visit detention facilities where he will interview individuals suspected or convicted of terrorism-related activities, to understand the practical impact of the country's counter-terrorism efforts on those affected.

The purpose of the visit is to provide constructive recommendations to help Côte d'Ivoire strengthen its counter-terrorism strategies while ensuring the protection of human rights. These recommendations will also aim to support the Ivorian government's ongoing efforts to balance national security concerns with international legal obligations and human rights principles.

A key event of the visit will be a press conference, scheduled for December 9 in Abidjan, held at the UNDP premises (corner of Rue Gourgas and Avenue Marchand). This will offer an opportunity for journalists to learn more about the findings of the visit, although access will be limited to accredited media representatives.

The outcome of this mission will be presented in a report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2026, where the Special Rapporteur will share his findings and recommendations based on his assessment of Côte d'Ivoire's counter-terrorism measures and their compatibility with international human rights law.

Côte d'Ivoire has faced a growing security challenge from terrorist groups in recent years, especially in the Sahel region, which has raised concerns about the effectiveness and human rights impact of counter-terrorism policies in the country.



Development stakeholder Enock Koola (L) presents a certificate of recognition earlier this week to Solomon Nnko for excelling in academic performance at Agape Seminary Secondary School in Moshi District. It was at the school's 28th Form Four graduation ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Ashrack Miraji

ROK reinforces commitment to food security in Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO

THE Republic of Korea has strengthened its commitment to food security in Madagascar with a contribution of 10,000 metric tonnes of rice, along with a \$1 million cash donation to the World Food Programme (WFP).

The support will bolster WFP's emergency food response during the lean season, helping 548,000 vulnerable people in the south and

southeast of Madagascar from October 2024 to April 2025.

Through the contribution, WFP has procured 432 metric tonnes of essential food commodities, including pulses, fortified vegetable oil, and specialized nutritious foods.

The supplies will aid 367,000 people through emergency and nutritional assistance and provide nutritious school meals to 181,000 pupils across 586 schools in ten districts, covering the

regions of Anosy, Androy, Atsimo Andrefana and Atsimo-Atsinanana.

The school meals programme will run for three months, helping to combat malnutrition among schoolchildren.

"We deeply appreciate the Republic of Korea's steadfast support, which is crucial in our mission to combat hunger in Madagascar," said Mamadou Mbaye, acting WFP Country Director and Representa-

tive in Madagascar.

He said: "This contribution will play a key role in addressing the food security challenges faced by the most vulnerable populations."

Madagascar continues to grapple with food security challenges exacerbated by seasonal changes, economic pressures, and the impacts of climate change.

During the lean season, many families struggle to access sufficient food, making

emergency assistance vital for survival.

In addition to the rice donation, WFP is providing both cash-based and in-kind assistance to mitigate the crisis. WFP's integrated response includes providing nutritional support to prevent malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

WFP also collaborates with the Malagasy government to implement school feeding pro-

grams, ensuring that primary school children receive at least one nutritious meal each day.

The Republic of Korea has long been a reliable partner in addressing food insecurity in Madagascar, contributing US\$ 10 million earlier this year alone.

Ji-hyun Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Madagascar, emphasized the significance of this collaboration: "As a trusted partner, the Republic of Korea remains committed to

supporting the people of Madagascar and continuing its strong cooperation with WFP."

The Republic of Korea's ongoing support highlights the enduring partnership between ROK, WFP, and the Government of Madagascar. Over the past five years, Korea has provided US\$ 18 million in food assistance to Madagascar, underscoring its commitment to helping the country navigate through crises and improve food security for its citizens.

Better future for local rural road contractors

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL contractors involved in rural road infrastructure will now have the opportunity to improve their financial capabilities and ensure timely payments from the government, thanks to the launch of the CRDB Bank's Samia Infrastructure Bond, which aims to raise 150bn/-.

The funds raised will be used to pay local contractors and help them address the financial challenges they face in participating in rural road construction projects. The bond sale, commissioned by the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), is the first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa and will close on January 17, 2025, before being listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) secondary market. Speaking at the bond launch in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango emphasized that the initiative is expected to strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in infrastructure development.

"The financial requirements for road construction are substantial, while TARURA still needs to pay contractors. However, financial resources are scarce," said the VP. "The Samia Infrastructure Bond will enable TARURA to accelerate road construction and rehabilitation efforts across Tanzania."

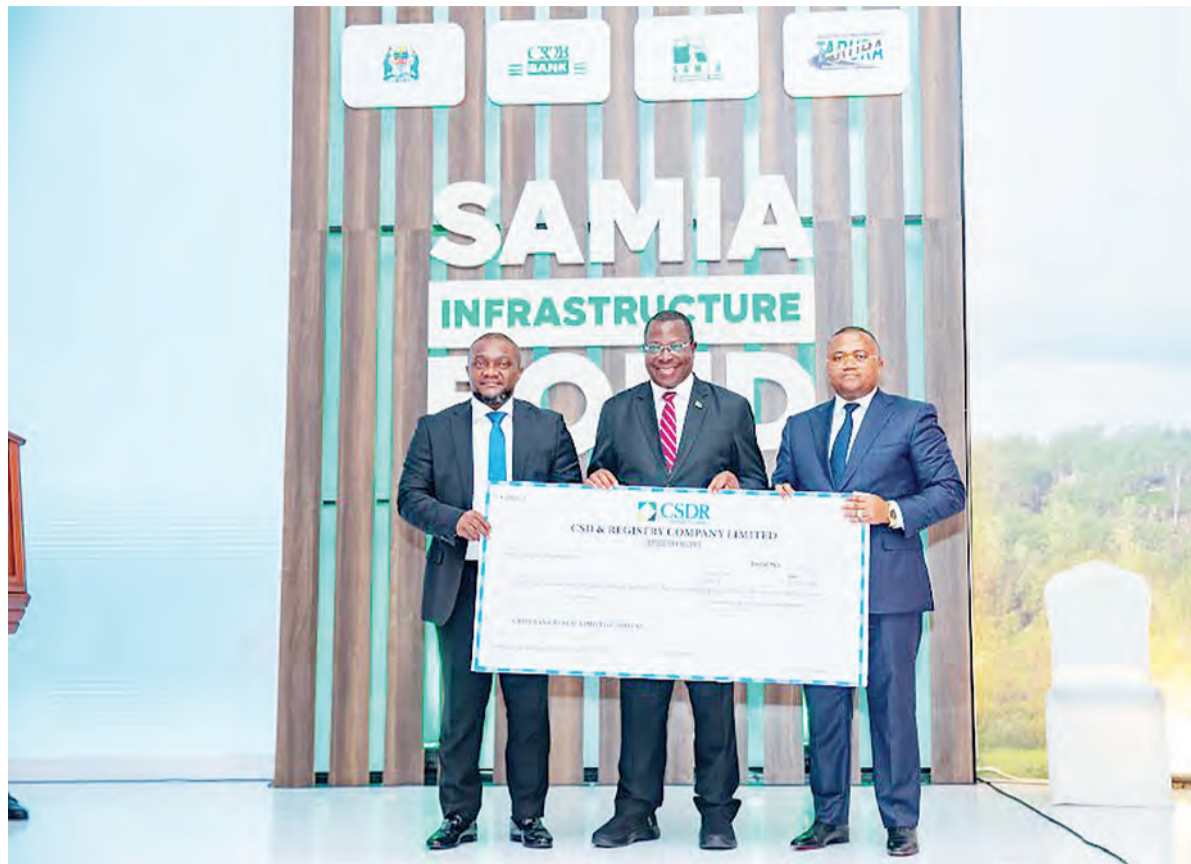
The bond is part of CRDB Bank's five-year Medium Term Note Programme, which seeks to raise US\$300 million (approximately 800bn/-) as approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA).

Dr Mpango also mentioned that the raised funds would allow TARURA to have emergency reserves in case of unforeseen circumstances, such as the 50bn/- spent this year to repair roads damaged by adverse weather, nearly double the initial target amount.

However, the VP directed the CMSA, Bank of Tanzania (BoT), President's Office - Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government, and the Ministry of Finance and Planning to implement an early warning system to manage risks, especially related to banking liquidity and interest rates, which could affect the invested funds.

Dr Mpango also urged TARURA to explore alternative funding sources, including borrowing and private capital, for implementing infrastructure projects. He further called on CMSA and other authorities to enhance public education on savings and investment, citing the 2023 FinScope survey, which shows that nearly 80 percent of Tanzanians save primarily for education, food, and funerals.

CRDB Bank Managing Director



Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango holds a dummy certificate for a Samia Infrastructure bond which he purchased in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after launching it. He is flanked by CRDB Bank group CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) and the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Mohamed Mchengerwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Abdulmajid Nsekela attributed the Samia Infrastructure Bond to the initiative of the Minister of the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government, Mohammed Mchengerwa. He described the bond as a historic milestone for Tanzania's capital market, noting that CRDB Bank has been involved in various empowerment and investment pro-

grammes that support the National Development Programme 2020-2025. These include financing strategic projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), the construction of Terminal 3 at Julius Nyerere International Airport, and Rural Energy Agency (REA) projects.

Dr Nsekela further stated that CRDB Bank has been empowering local contractors by financing

equipment purchases and supporting labour costs.

The minimum investment amount for the bond is 500,000/- offering an annual interest rate of 12 percent, which will be paid quarterly.

Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning Hamad Chande highlighted that the Samia Infrastructure Bond is part of the solution to the

financial challenges facing the urban and rural roads agency.

"The Samia Infrastructure Bond is a key part of efforts to mobilize financial resources for improving rural infrastructure," said Mchengerwa, Minister of the President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government.

Mchengerwa further noted that the bond marks a new chapter in the improvement of infrastructure across various districts in Tanzania. He acknowledged that local contractors often face financial constraints, which prevent them from participating in public works projects that are often awarded to foreign contractors. CMSA CEO Nicodemus Mkama praised the government for creating a conducive environment for attracting investors to Tanzania's capital markets, noting that the country's capital market has seen significant growth, with six historical records set over the past three years.



The bond is part of CRDB Bank's five-year Medium Term Note Programme, which seeks to raise US\$300 million (approximately 800bn/-) as approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority

Nigeria seeks to boost economic ties with France as Tinubu visits Paris

PARIS

FOR the first time in 24 years, a Nigerian president has undertaken a state visit to France, with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu arriving in Paris on Thursday. The two-day visit, aimed at strengthening economic ties and attracting foreign investment, underscores Nigeria's efforts to bolster its global business presence amidst shifting geopolitical dynamics.

The visit holds significant symbolism, marking the first time in two decades that a Nigerian leader has visited France's iconic Champs-Élysées. During his stay, President Tinubu engaged in pivotal discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace, focusing on enhancing trade relations and expanding Nigeria's role as a strategic partner in France's interests across Africa.

"We have been working to stabilise the se-

curity system in Nigeria, and we are making significant progress," Tinubu said during the visit. He added: "We are improving security, and I assure all investors that Nigeria is open for business. I thank you for your collaboration."

In recent years, France has sought to expand its economic and political influence beyond its traditional strongholds in West Africa. This effort has become more urgent following a series of coups and shift-

ing allegiances in the region, particularly in countries like Mali and Niger, where French influence has faced significant challenges. Against this backdrop, President Macron is eager to reposition France as a key partner for African nations such as Nigeria, focusing on economic, security, and technological cooperation. The French president highlighted three key areas of partnership with Nigeria: food security, the extraction and value addition of Nigeria's critical minerals, and col-

laboration on defence and security. Macron emphasised: "For us, economic partnerships position France as a long-term ally. We aim to work with you to improve your country's food security, maximise the value of your critical resources, and support your defence and security strategy."

As part of the visit, the two leaders discussed the establishment of a Franco-Nigerian Business Council to deepen trade and investment ties.



Sophia Mrwati, an entrepreneur specialising in the making of nutrient-enriched foods, pictured in Mbeya city earlier this week making remarks on product quality at a tax forum for the Southern Highlands Zone. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Lebanese begin street clean-up after vital ceasefire with Israel

BEIRUT

IN southern Lebanon, cleanup efforts commenced on Thursday as bulldozers cleared debris from Nabatiyeh, just a day after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect.

The 14-month conflict had left much of southern Lebanon devastated, including Nabatiyeh's historic old souk, which was nearly obliterated during the fighting. Engineer Mehdi Yousef, overseeing the recovery operations, described the extent of the destruction as "deeply saddening and extensive"—far worse than initially anticipated. The old souk, a vibrant market hub dating back to the Ottoman era, was a cornerstone of southern Lebanon's cultural and economic life, and its loss is a severe blow to the region's heritage.

The ceasefire marks the end of hostilities that began in October 2023, following Hamas's attack on Gaza on October 7. In response, Hezbollah, expressing solidarity with Hamas, launched rockets, drones, and missiles into Israel, prompting Israeli airstrikes in return. According to Lebanese health officials, the conflict claimed more than 3,760 lives in Lebanon—most of them civilians—while over 70 people, including civilians and soldiers, were killed in Israel, particularly in southern Lebanon.

The humanitarian toll in Lebanon has been staggering, with at least 1.2 million people displaced by the violence. As the ceasefire takes hold, thousands of Lebanese are returning to their homes despite warnings from both the Lebanese military and Israeli forces about unexploded ordnance and hazardous areas.

While Lebanon begins the arduous process of recovery, the situation in northern Israel remains precarious. Communities along the border, still reeling from Hezbollah's rocket and missile barrages, remain largely abandoned. Around 50,000 residents have yet to return, and the region's security remains tenuous.

Although the ceasefire has brought a temporary reprieve, it has not addressed the deep-seated tensions fueling the conflict. Both sides remain entrenched in their positions, leaving the future uncertain. The recovery of southern Lebanon will hinge on sustained aid and rebuilding efforts, while ongoing diplomatic efforts will play a critical role in shaping the prospects for lasting

Former minister calls for relocation of landslide survivors in Uganda

KAMPALA

RESCUE operations are ongoing in eastern Uganda's Bulambuli District after heavy landslides buried homes across several villages in the mountainous region. The disaster, triggered by relentless rains on the night of November 27, has left a trail of destruction and uncertainty.

On Thursday, Irene Muloni, former Energy Minister and current Woman MP for Bulambuli, called for the immediate

evacuation of survivors from the affected areas. "The government is procuring more land, but this disaster has once again highlighted the risks," she said. "The rains are still falling, the hills are unstable, and water is cascading down with deadly force. I urge residents to leave immediately, even if it means staying with relatives for now. Safety must come first."

At least 45 homes have been buried under mud and debris, with 15 lives lost, including seven children. Rescue teams

are battling treacherous conditions to locate 113 people still missing, but the remote terrain and ongoing rains are hampering their efforts.

Bulambuli District, situated about 280 kilometers east of Uganda's capital, Kampala, has a tragic history of similar disasters. Heavy rains claimed lives and caused widespread damage in the region last year as well.

The rescue operation faces additional challenges as roads remain impassable, and efforts to navigate the terrain have

proven perilous. On Wednesday, two rescue boats capsized while attempting to reach victims stranded along the River Nile, where the Pakwach Bridge has been submerged.

Authorities have raised alarms about the persistent heavy rains, which continue to endanger both rescue personnel and residents. Despite government assurances that more land is being procured to relocate affected families, the urgency of the situation has led to widespread calls for expedited action.

Local leaders and residents are urging swift and decisive government intervention to prevent further loss of life and ensure the safety of those still trapped in high-risk areas. Meanwhile, the local community and national agencies are collaborating to provide immediate relief to survivors, though the scale of destruction has left many families unsure of their future.

As rescue efforts continue, the people of Bulambuli face an uncertain path forward, marked by the dual challenges

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Protecting rights of consumers: We're obliged to swim together

THE commemoration of World Consumer Rights Day (March 15) once befittingly ran under the theme: 'Our money, our rights', which is meant to highlight consumer issues in relation to financial services.

The theme was especially relevant in part because not all financial institutions have been pro-poor enough to make a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens.

WCRD was first observed on March 15, 1983 and has since become an important occasion for mobilising public action on the basic rights of consumers.

Records show that the Day has its origins in former US President John F. Kennedy's declaration of four basic consumer rights: the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, and the right to be heard.

WCRD is rightly viewed as a time for promoting these fundamental rights, chiefly by demanding that they be respected and protected by combating the market abuses and injustices.

The thrust of the annual celebrations has over the years been on issues like campaigning against the marketing of unhealthy food, unethical drug promotion, the need for sustainable universal access to potable water and environment-friendly energy, and the need for corporate control of the GM (genetically modified) link in the food chain.

It is noteworthy that four more rights have long since been added to JFK's memorable list - and these are the right to satisfaction of basic needs, the right to redress, the right to education, and the right to a healthy environment.

One observer expressed grave concern as long ago as the early 1960s over the avalanche of all manner of substandard and counterfeit products in country after country globally.

Indeed, consumers are the largest economic group adversely affected by almost every public and private economic decision but yet standing

as the only important group whose views were seldom heeded.

Yes, our country boasts the Tanzania Bureau of Standards, fair trade/competition commissions or consultative councils.

All these are officially there to promote healthy competition and fair trade for the good of consumers, businesses and the community.

Too bad, not all have always lived up to expectations in ensuring that all individuals, businesses and corporate bodies comply with national and other competition, fair trading and consumer protection laws and policies.

This is despite the fact that it is quite long since the United Nations General Assembly adopted international guidelines on consumer protection.

These rights are all for the well-being of present and future generations. But how much is being done to help the public make informed choices about goods and services in their midst so that they can knowledgeably take appropriate measures in the face of shoddiness or unfair pricing?

The run-up to WCRD is usually characterised by bold pronouncements, flamboyant exhibitions, etc., all underlining the need to help consumers across the globe lead healthy and otherwise rewarding lives.

But there is every need for countries and nations without exception to focus more on the importance of ensuring the safety of all the food we eat, all the drinks we consume, all the medicines we take, etc.

This entails enhancing public awareness on suspicious or outright dangerous manufacturing and marketing practices, exposing harmful technologies and production processes, and ensuring that legislation on consumer rights is enforced.

One only wished we were all ready to join the war and fight to win! For, it is either that we elect to swim together or risk sinking together. The choice is ours.

Public health safety watchdogs ought to bite harder and longer

IT calls for no extra keenness or vigilance for anyone to appreciate the fact that our country continues to be hounded by the illegal flooding of counterfeit products by companies, institutions and even individuals both foreign and Tanzania out to mint money in complete disregard of public health and safety. The problem has assumed massive disconcerting proportions as most of the greedy elements involved in the dirty business focus more and more on fast-moving products, especially drugs and food.

The explanation is simple in that, in the long run, this adversely affects public health, in part leading to prolonged illnesses and - at the end of it all - needless misery and deaths.

Trade in counterfeits is also a drawback to the development of local industries that are manufacturing genuine products.

Some of our public watchdog agencies have been doing a good job by conducting rigorous inspections of the various products across our country and on many occasions impounding seizure and ban some of the counterfeit products.

Some years back, one of these agencies impounded thousands of containerfuls of various brands of counterfeit infant formula, all originating from South Africa while the genuine brand being marketed by a Tanzanian company originated from Europe.

Experts reported that the banned infant formula contained high levels

of free fatty acids capable of causing serious health problems.

Thus, unless more stringent measures were put in place to address children's health, we face the danger of creating a future nation of people afflicted by incurable diseases who would end up being a burden the nation cannot easily bear or shoulder.

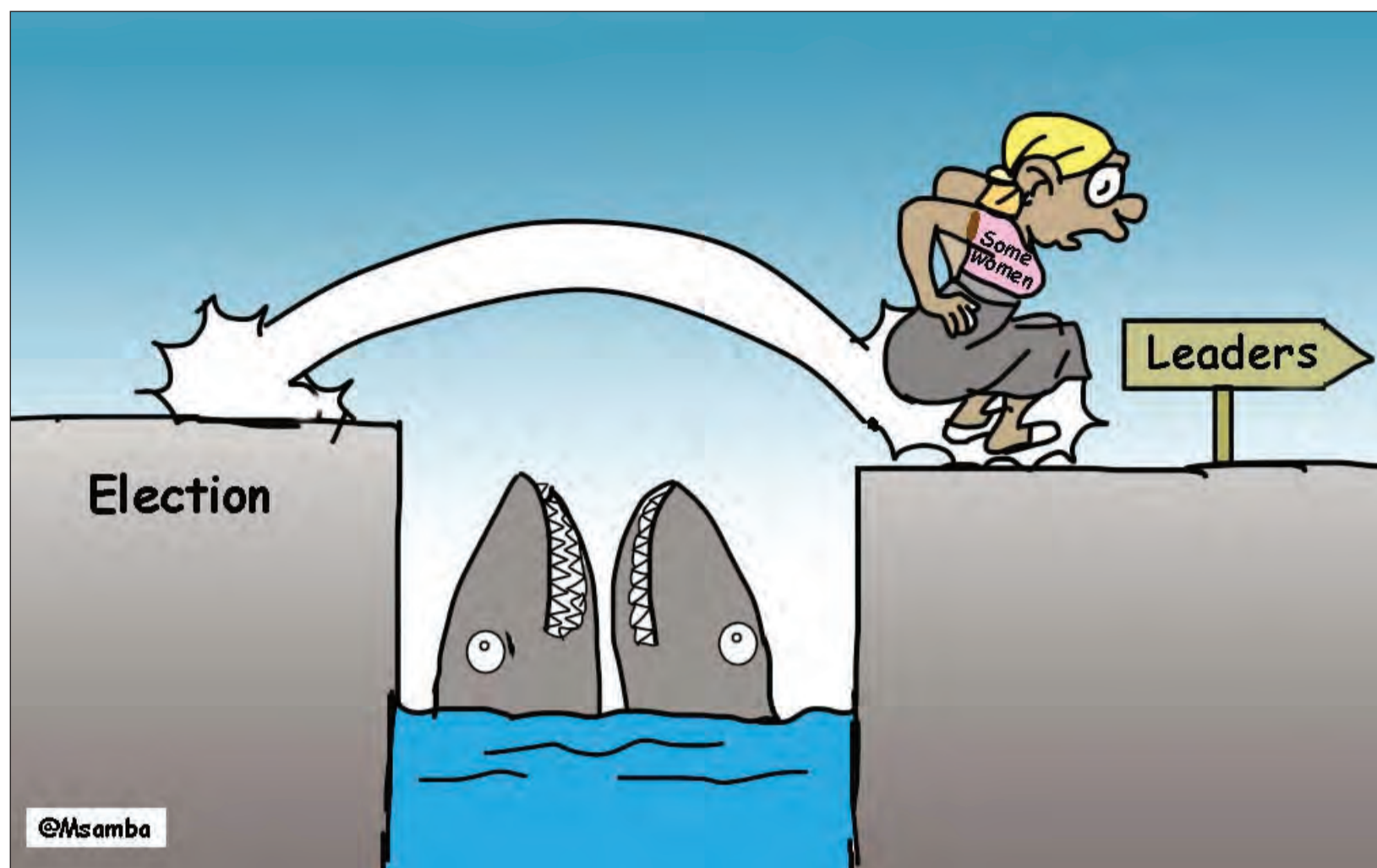
It is for this reason that, while commending all those public and other agencies fighting hard to safeguard people's health and safety, we feel compelled to urge the authorities concerned to ensure that we go far beyond merely seizing, banning or destroying.

We are of the view that the best way to sustainably tame the menace or stem the tide is to strengthen surveillance mechanisms at the many and scattered entry points in the country. These include airports, ports and border posts.

Even then, we stand convinced that conducting impromptu inspections as the goods enter the country would pay much greater dividends.

We are saying this because we know that if the counterfeit products filter into the market and are detected after they have been consumed, great harm would already have been done and banning the products would be serving little purpose.

In addition to rigorous surveillance, it is high time our official safety watchdogs were so legally "re-armed" as to have the capacity to actually bite all those involved in the illegal business. Surely, the law ought to allow for such capacity to be meaningful.



Sudanese women and human rights defenders call for solidarity to stop the ongoing bloodshed

By Madiha Abdalla

ON 15 April 2023, the outbreak of war between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) drastically altered the face of Sudanese society. The fighting left thousands of dead, wounded, displaced people and refugees.

People went hungry, civil rights were violated in the most horrible ways, and discrimination was practiced on the basis of gender, race and tribe. Across the country, infrastructure was destroyed in cities and villages - not even hospitals and schools were spared - and the capital Khartoum became a shattered city unfit for life.

According to UN estimates, some 10.9 million people are now internally displaced within Sudan. Another 2.2 million people have fled to other countries since the conflict began. Food insecurity is rife, and the warring parties regularly attack and kill civilians.

Despite this horrific panorama, international attention to the conflict has waned and humanitarian support has been stymied - earlier this month, Russia vetoed a UN Security Council resolution that called for a ceasefire and crucial humanitarian aid.

Few have suffered more during this war than women human rights defenders (WHRDs).

As a longstanding WHRD and journalist, since the outbreak of the war, I was exposed to the risks of losing the right to life, as bullets and shells continued to fall on my residential area in a suburb of Khartoum, located near a military area that witnessed violent confrontations between the parties to the war since its beginning.

Initially, my family and I were displaced to a relatively safe area in central Sudan and along with fellow human rights defenders, I worked as a volunteer in shelter centres, contributing to providing services to the displaced and raising awareness of civil rights.

After the RSF invaded the area, we were displaced again, and I traveled to Uganda after the security risks increased when the war expanded. Since February 2024, I continue my journalistic and civilian work with human rights groups and journalists to stop the war and protect civilians.

WHRDs in Sudan face numerous risks as a result of this ongoing and expanded conflict. They are targeted with armed threats, liquidation, and arrest; security agencies threaten to prosecute WHRDs who work in emergency rooms that provide services and support to the displaced. These threats sometimes extend to family members, too.

Security agencies stalk and pursue WHRDs, personally targeting them and



A mother carries her baby in Port Sudan, on the Sudanese coast. Escalating violence and new atrocities in Sudan have pushed the humanitarian crisis to unprecedented levels, with displacement now exceeding 11 million people amid reports of mass killings and systematic-sexual violence across multiple regions, UN officials said October 2024. Credit: WFP/Abubakar Garelnabei

their kin. This is especially true for those who work in the legal field and monitor violations; they are regularly forced to flee and seek refuge in other regions and countries, resulting in the closure of legal offices and the loss of the right to work.

Sudanese WHRDs risk being accused of spying for one side of the war against the other, leading to armed men confiscating their phones as well as increased insecurity in using social media and exposure to the risk of being hacked.

Many WHRDs are forced to leave their homes with sick family members in harsh conditions without money or means of protection, and even though they hate to leave their homeland, they are forced to seek refuge in other countries.

Many of those forced to flee their homes due to the fighting do so on foot, with no belongings; they become displaced to other areas or

live with relatives, always running the risk of violence and looting by armed men on their displacement routes.

Their freedom of movement is restricted, with threats of death and rape by armed men and the looting of phones, forcing them to remain silent and not reveal their violations out of fear. As a result, they often lose contact with relatives and other groups of WHRDs for long periods of time.

The ever-widening circle of fighting has led to many WHRDs being subjected to repeated displacement experiences, which leads to the evacuation of huge displacement complexes that include thousands of people, including these women defenders and their families.

On their way there, they are exposed to the dangers of bullets and shells and the injury of children and patients, bringing with it a constant

feeling of terror, often sparked by hearing ordinary sounds.

In addition to the risk of being looted and attacked, by being repeatedly forced to leave their homes and shelters behind, women human rights defenders ran the risk of being separated from their families and losing job opportunities.

These harsh conditions have negatively affected women human rights defenders economically, socially and psychologically, and have affected human rights work in monitoring violations and defending and protecting human rights in the midst of a deadly war.

The international community should show solidarity with the people of Sudan - in particular our women human rights defenders - and support our efforts to stop the war and build peace in Sudan.

By Telesphor Magobe

Tanzania can be emerging, not remain as fledgling democracy



World Bank headquarters in Washington DC

IN 2020 Tanzania became a lower-middle income economy after its gross national income (GNI) per capita increased from \$1,020 in 2018 to \$1,080 in 2019, thus exceeding the 2019 threshold of \$1,036 for the lower-middle income status, according to World Bank.

It was five years ahead of its National Development Vision 2025 with its five attributes, namely 1) high quality livelihood, 2) peace, stability and unity, 3) good governance, 4) a well-educated and learning society, and 5) a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits.

In March this year Tanzania was reviewed for the first time since 1971, alongside Rwanda and Uganda, for graduation from the least developed country (LDC) status.

In 1971, Tanzania was among the first 25 countries to be categorised as LDCs after which 28 other countries were added to the category to make the total number of LDCs 53.

The UN defines LDCs as 'countries with low income levels and face severe structural impediments to sustainable development'. Although the LDCs comprise 15 per cent of the world's population, they account only for 1.4 per cent of global GDP and for 1.1 per cent of global merchandise trade, according to UNCTADstat database.

A few years later seven countries graduated from the LDC status (and their year of graduation in brackets): 1) Botswana (December 1994), 2) Cabo Verde (December 2007), 3) Maldives (January 2011), 4) Samoa (January 2014), 5) Equatorial Guinea (June 2017), 6) Vanuatu (December 2020) and 7) Bhutan (December 2023). Sao Tome and Principe is scheduled for graduation this year, which will make the total number of LDCs, including Tanzania, 45, according to a UN report of 2024.

On the other hand, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal are scheduled for graduation in 2026 and Solomon Islands for 2027.

This year United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has also classified Tanzania as an emerging industrial economy (EIE) and now it belongs to the group of middle-income industrialising economies (MIEs).

According to UNIDO, MIEs are classified as middle-income, but still remain at comparatively low levels of industrialisation - that is - they are the economies that can benefit most from prioritising industrial development in their policy strategies.

Although Tanzania makes remarkable progress in economic and in industrial growth (and is one of the fastest growing economies in the world), it still lags behind in multiparty democracy and in

the rule of law. Multiparty democracy is typified by constraints on government powers, respect for the will of the people, open government, respect for fundamental rights, and effective electoral justice.

In the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024, Tanzania ranks 96th out of the 142 surveyed countries and jurisdictions.

It has climbed two places from last year's ranking in which it ranked 98th in rule of law out of the 140 surveyed countries and jurisdictions. In sub-Saharan Africa this year, Tanzania ranks 11th out of the 34 surveyed countries and among the lower-middle income economies, it ranks 15th

out of the 38 surveyed economies. Reflecting on the general performance of the 142 surveyed countries and jurisdictions, WJP Chief Research Officer, Dr Alejandro Ponce, says: "The rule of law is internationally recognised as a foundational element in guaranteeing peace, justice, human rights, effective democracy, and sustainable development."

He says the rule of law continues weakening across the world. "This 2024 edition of the WJP Rule of Law Index reveals that [many countries experience] backsliding, marked by executive overreach, diminished human rights, and justice systems that fail to meet people's needs."

Tanzania reintroduced multiparty democracy in 1992, thanks to the influence of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who although he preferred a one-party system, he was open to multiparty democracy which was evolving in various parts of the world at the time.

Yet, even after the reintroduction of multiparty democracy 32 years ago, Tanzania is still a fledgling democracy characterised by electoral process irregularities during periodic elections. Where there is no fair play or level ground free and fair elections are an illusion.

If Tanzania is one of the fastest growing economies and has quali-

fied for being an emerging industrial economy and a middle-income industrialising economy it can also be an emerging democracy or one of the fastest growing democracies.

In the past, Tanzania used to be a model of political governance and supported several South African countries in their struggle for independence. It was also a refuge for several leaders of liberation movements and freedom fighters from Southern African countries. But we seem to have missed out on political governance, and have remained at the level of a fledgling democracy.

Therefore, after being an emerging industrial economy and a middle-income industrialising economy, it is time for Tanzania to be an emerging democracy, and not remain as a fledgling democracy tainted with electoral irregularities which do not bode well for the will of the people.

English and Stapleton (1997) in their book titled "The Human Rights Handbook: A Practical Guide to Monitoring Human Rights" say: "Where a government ignores the will of the people and goes further and seeks to suppress the will of the people, it becomes a tyranny. As such, it loses the legitimacy by which it pretends to govern."

Electoral justice and indeed the practice of multiparty democracy depend very much on political will to implement and the rule of law to maintain.

Today's quote: "Civilised life depends upon the success of reason in social intercourse, the prevalence of logic over violence in interpersonal conflict."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com

Mwalimu Nyerere creative writing award advances Kiswahili literature worldwide

By Adonis Byemelwa

THE Mwalimu Nyerere National Award for Creative Writing is set to be presented once again, with its core mission of fostering the growth of Kiswahili literature not only in Tanzania but also across other African countries.

This prestigious award provides a unique platform for Kiswahili writers to showcase their creativity and contribute significantly to the advancement of Kiswahili literature, especially in this era of technological and social change.

The award's impact is not confined to Tanzania alone; it also plays a critical role in expanding the reach of Kiswahili beyond East Africa, especially in nations such as Cuba, where Kiswahili is gaining increasing recognition. As a result, the Mwalimu Nyerere Award is instrumental in boosting the international appeal of Kiswahili literature and facilitating the growth of Kiswahili book sales globally.

Recently, Minister of Education, Science, and Technology, Professor Adolf Mkenda, reiterated the central goal of the award, emphasizing its role in ensuring that Kiswahili writing continues to grow and reach broader audiences.

According to Prof. Mkenda, the government takes pride in witnessing the rise of Kiswahili books not only within Tanzania but also in other countries, particularly in Cuba, where the language is now more widely known than ever before.

In Cuba's capital, Havana, Kiswahili has evolved from a regional tongue into a recognized language of literature and education. This marks a significant milestone, demonstrating that Kiswahili is not just a means of communication but also a powerful tool for cultural expression and literary innovation.

The intersection of Kiswahili language and literature presents an exciting opportunity for Kiswahili writers to expand their book markets. Notable works that have won the Mwalimu Nyerere National Award, such as Zawadi, Gereza la Kifo, and Mtale wa Ngariba, exem-



The 2024 National Mwalimu Nyerere Award for Creative Writing winner in the categories of Novels, Poetry, and Children's Stories.

plify how Kiswahili writing can have a profound impact on society and spark interest in diverse markets. These books not only hold cultural value but also pave the way for greater international recognition of Kiswahili literature.

Currently, Kiswahili books, particularly those written by Tanzanian authors, are enjoying increasing recognition, not only in Africa but also in Latin American countries like Cuba, where Kiswahili is now regarded as a potent literary language. This demonstrates how Kiswahili literature can transcend its regional boundaries and establish itself on the global stage.

However, despite the opportunities provided by the Mwalimu Nyerere National Award, there are still significant challenges that Kiswahili writers face. One such challenge is the rigid submission requirements for the award.

Writers must often submit manuscripts of a specific length, typically 60,000 words or more, which can have a detrimental impact on the quality of the work. Writers find

themselves focusing more on meeting word-count criteria than on producing high-quality, innovative content.

This pressure to meet word count requirements can hinder the writers' creative expression, as they feel compelled to fill pages rather than focus on the originality and depth of their writing. While many writers excel in their craft, they may miss out on showcasing their true potential because they must adhere to these numerical constraints.

Prof. Mkenda acknowledged that, in today's world, reading habits are being affected by the popularity of short-form content on social media, which competes with traditional book reading. Despite this, the Minister emphasized the importance of writers creating novels, plays, and stories that captivate readers, thereby drawing them back into the world of long-form literature.

Books that are rooted in the cultures of Tanzania and Africa at large have a significant chance of succeeding in international markets. For instance, authors like Okot

P'Bitek from Uganda and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o from Kenya have achieved tremendous success in global markets due to their focus on their cultures and their ability to tell compelling stories about their people. These are prime examples of how Kiswahili literature can reach far beyond its native borders and achieve global success.

The process of awarding the Mwalimu Nyerere Prize plays a crucial role in enhancing the success of Kiswahili writers. This award not only provides recognition for the writers' creative efforts but also helps to stimulate the growth of the book market.

Through continued support from the government, particularly through the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), the Mwalimu Nyerere National Award is building momentum and enabling Kiswahili writers to showcase their talents more widely.

Prof. Mugyabuso Mulokozi, a renowned Kiswahili expert from the University of Dar es Salaam, has made invaluable contributions to

the advancement of Kiswahili literature. His work in translation, writing, and research serves as a beacon for Kiswahili authors striving to excel in their craft. Writers can look to Mulokozi's example of creativity and mastery in Kiswahili literature, both to inspire their work and to elevate the global standing of Kiswahili.

The success of the Mwalimu Nyerere National Award should be seen as part of a broader transformation in the book publishing sector and the Kiswahili literary world. The government must continue to provide incentives for Kiswahili writers, ensuring that they have the freedom to express their creativity without being constrained by rigid word counts or other limitations.

Moreover, Kiswahili writers must embrace the power of creative innovation, focusing on telling stories that resonate with both local and global audiences. This means delving deep into social and cultural issues and crafting narratives that speak to the human experience while maintaining the richness and vibrancy of Kiswahili as a language of literature.

Although challenges like stringent word count requirements persist, the continued development of the Kiswahili literary sector offers immense potential. The government's role is pivotal in creating an environment where Kiswahili writers can thrive. To help achieve this, there needs to be a collaborative effort between the government, universities, publishers, and media outlets. This cooperation is essential for ensuring that the Kiswahili literary market continues to grow and that Swahili books can reach broader audiences, especially in international markets.

By expanding the Kiswahili literary market, the government can help establish a sustainable and thriving book industry. As countries like South Africa are already seeing increased popularity for Kiswahili, there is no reason why other nations, such as the United States, cannot do the same. Kiswahili literature has the potential to compete with global literary giants like English, provided that writers continue to produce stories that are both creative and of the highest quality.

The Mwalimu Nyerere National Award plays a pivotal role in uplifting Kiswahili literature by recognizing the contributions of talented writers. It not only provides a platform for showcasing the creativity and quality of Kiswahili literary works but also contributes to the growth of the global Kiswahili book market. The recognition of books that embrace Tanzania's and Africa's cultural heritage positions Kiswahili as a competitive language in the world of literature.

For this success to continue, Kiswahili writers must prioritize creativity and offer stories that touch on significant social and cultural issues. The government must also ensure that writers have the freedom to produce quality work without being hindered by restrictive criteria such as word counts. With continued support and investment, Kiswahili literature has the power to change the literary landscape, creating both cultural and economic value for Tanzania and the African continent.

To make the Mwalimu Nyerere National Award sustainable and successful in the long term, the government must align it with a strategic vision. This vision should include fostering partnerships with international organizations, educational institutions, and the publishing sector to create a global network for Kiswahili books. By combining the efforts of the government, academia, translators, publishers, and media, the Kiswahili literary market can be nurtured, creating opportunities for writers and benefiting the nation's economy.

The Mwalimu Nyerere National Award represents more than just a literary recognition; it is a powerful tool for advancing Kiswahili and African literature on the global stage. By enhancing this award and ensuring its continuity, Tanzania and Africa can foster an environment where Kiswahili books thrive both domestically and internationally.

By Justin Rowlett

Can flights hit net zero by 2025 and at what cost to passengers?

IT is perfect start to a holiday: your plane ticket is cheap, your cabin baggage is safely stowed, the engines are roaring into life - and the pilot has announced that there's no need to worry about the environmental impact.

This is Jet Zero, a vision where air travel is entirely carbon neutral thanks to new technology and green ventures that offset the environmental impact. The plan was drafted in 2022 when Boris Johnson was prime minister, marking a step towards the government's legal obligation to reach net zero by 2050. The Labour government has since made a similar pledge, and in addition it wants all domestic flights and UK airport operations to reach zero emissions by 2040.

This is no easy feat when you consider the scale of the challenge: one passenger taking an economy-class flight from London to New York generates 309kg of carbon dioxide, which would take roughly a year to absorb via 10 mature trees.

Multiply this on the global scale and the aviation industry would need to plant roughly 100 billion mature trees each year to offset its emissions. For UK emissions alone you'd need a forest almost the size of Wales.

So, just how realistic is the plan to hit Jet Zero by 2050? And what is the knock-on cost for passengers?

Earlier this year, Anthony Browne, who was the aviation minister in the Conservative government at the time, said that he thought any increase in ticket prices would be "marginal".

"We don't think the difference will be noticeable to most consumers," he said.

But some experts claim that politicians are not being realistic. Sir Dieter Helm, professor of economic policy at the University of Oxford, argues that there "definitely would be higher cost".

"Governments desperately don't want to tell people they're going to have to pay for what they do."

But ultimately, the cost depends on which methods are employed to cut or reduce emissions.

From sharklets to UltraFans

The previous government said that it aimed reach Jet Zero by focusing on "the rapid development of technologies", as well as operational improvements and - among other things - more sustainable fuel types.

This is not an entirely new quest. Aircraft around the world have been steadily getting cleaner since 1969 when the first high-bypass turbofan engines were used on the new Boeing 747 aircraft. In the years since there have been other innovations including sharklets, or up-turned wing tips on modern planes that reduce drag and save, on average, 4% of fuel per trip.

More developments are in the pipeline, including a new type of jet engine, developed by Rolls Royce, called the "UltraFan", which will reduce average fuel consumption by 10%.

"Because it's a gearbox, the turbine can run very fast, much more efficiently, the fan can run slower and be much bigger," explains Simon Burr, a director at Rolls-Royce.

The problem is that, though it was first tested in 2023, it's unlikely to be available on commercial aircraft until the 2030s because of production lead times - and even then, a 10% improvement is impressive but not a game changer.

Aviation's CO2 emissions come primarily through jet engines using carbon-rich fossil fuels, which produce CO2 when burned, so there have been attempts to create an alternative type made from renewable biomass and waste resources, known as Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

The first SAF flight ran between London and Amsterdam in 2008 using fuel derived from a mixture of Brazilian babassu nuts and coconuts.

Now the British government says that 22% of all jet fuel from UK aviation has to come from sustainable sources by 2040. But this comes with further challenges.

In the UK, SAF is mainly made from cooking oil, some of which is shipped from Asia, and shipping is responsible for 2% of global CO2 emissions.

Alternative methods of creating SAF require large quantities of electricity as part of the manufacturing process. This would involve a vast amount of renewable energy to make it sustainable.

"It's very hard, to think there is such a thing as a sustainable aviation fuel," says Sir Dieter Helm. "There are aviation fuels that are less polluting than the ones being



used at the moment, and you can use elements of biofuel and chip fat and so on.

"Think about the scale that's required to do it."

Remapping the sky

There is another more unexpected way that airlines could reduce emissions. That is, making their flight paths more direct to reduce fuel consumption.

Currently most planes fly on routes determined by a network of beacons, many of which were put

in place decades ago. As a result they don't always fly by the shortest route, but "airspace modernisation", as it is known, will allow for straighter paths to destinations.

Satellite technology is required to do this: aircraft flying over the Atlantic used to have to fly at least 40 miles apart, but the satellite technology means that aircraft can in theory fly as close as 14 miles apart, allowing more aircraft to fly on the direct flight paths.

The Jet Zero Strategy estimates

that this, together with other fuel efficiency improvements, could cut emissions by as much as 15% by 2050.

But the National Air Traffic Services (NATS), which control most flights in and out of England and Wales, caution that these changes are neither easy nor quick. "It's a very, very complicated thing to do," warns Chris Norsworthy, director of future planning.

"The national infrastructure change of this type takes many

years. The deployments we've made already are years in the making."

The electric plane race

Hidden away in a mini aircraft hangar of sorts, just outside Bristol, inventor Stephen Fitzpatrick has spent seven years working on a pioneering aircraft that could be the basis of another solution. His carbon fibre creation, known as VX4, has eight propellers and looks like a giant drone, but what's crucial is that it doesn't use fuel. Instead it is powered by lithium-ion batteries similar to those in electric cars.

The batteries alone weigh 800kg, which brings the first challenge: the sheer weight limits how far it can fly.

Mr Fitzpatrick says the VX4 will have a range of around 100 miles to begin with. "Each year the batteries that we use will improve... Over time, we'll be able to develop a hybrid powertrain, probably using hydrogen fuel cells and batteries, and that will increase the range further."

The prospect of replacing jet engine-powered long-haul flights is, however, remote. "There is no battery chemistry in the world that will give us the energy we need to take hundreds of passengers over the Atlantic," he concedes.

Harnessing hydrogen in other ways may be a better bet.

The British-American aircraft company, ZeroAvia, says it expects to have an 80-seater powered entirely by hydrogen in the air within two to three years. Airbus is developing something similar.

Both are propeller planes, however, with limited speeds and ranges.

The pricetag for passengers

The reductions from SAF, fuel efficiency improvements and zero carbon aircraft will only cut aviation emissions by around a third, according to the previous government's estimates. So another part of the Jet Zero strategy involves a pricing scheme to charge airlines for CO2 emissions and carbon offsetting.

Airlines already pay a duty for each flight someone takes in the UK, a cost that is passed to passengers. In much of the UK (excluding Scotland) this adds £7 to each domestic flight, £14 to short-haul ones and £92 for long-haul. But carbon offsetting means paying another fee.

Some schemes have been highly controversial, with questions around how to prove how many trees have been prevented from being cut down.

Cait Hewitt, policy director at the Aviation Environment Federation, is concerned that the current informal offsetting projects may be counterproductive: "They could actually have made that problem a bit worse over time by giving consumers the false impression that the emissions from their flight [are] being cancelled out somehow by an offset."

Duncan McCourt, chief executive of Sustainable Aviation, an umbrella group for UK airlines, airports, manufacturers and others in the business, is optimistic that removing carbon from flying won't add much more than a few pounds to the cost of an airline ticket.

"We think we can do it while enabling people to continue to fly and continue to get that benefit of flying, such as connecting people, such as being able to go on holiday," he says.

But the Jet Zero plan says nothing directly about the knock-on cost to passengers. Instead, it refers to "demand management".

Sir Dieter Helm has his own take on what Jet Zero means for holidaymakers and fully believes that it will lead to higher costs. As for the likelihood of the government hitting its Jet Zero target on time, he is unconvinced of this too, but he also suggests that this may not be the point.

"It depends whether you think Jet Zero is... genuinely a target and they mean to achieve it. I'm really sceptical about the second."

And now, the number of flights taken annually by people in the UK is projected to rise even further, translating into an additional 150 million more flights a year. So the scale of the government's challenge, which was large even when it began, is only set to grow.



SAF blends fossil fuels with renewable materials such as used oils, fats and agricultural waste

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Maternity waiting homes: A critical component for maternal, child health

ASMARÁ

MATERNITY Waiting Homes (MWHs) are not a new concept in global or public health. They have a long and extensive history.

Also referred to as maternity waiting areas, mother's shelters, or antenatal villages, MWHs are standalone, safe residential facilities where pregnant women can stay for an extended period before the onset of labor or being transferred to other health facilities for delivery.

In Eritrea, MWHs were integrated into the national health system in 2007 to better serve women in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Over the years, their role has steadily expanded, becoming a vital link in the continuum of care for maternal and newborn health in the country.

Currently, there are around 50 MWHs across Eritrea. These facilities provide a safe and comfortable environment for women during pregnancy, offering timely, high-quality healthcare services. MWHs reduce the need for long and challenging travel, deliver critical education on healthy behaviors and baby care, and foster emotional, social, and cultural support through mutual support networks. Importantly, they promote births attended by skilled birth attendants.

In malaria-endemic areas, health personnel at MWHs provide pregnant women with medications and insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Additionally, MWHs offer new mothers a chance to rest, recover,

and receive follow-up care after delivery.

The impact of MWHs is evident in Eritrea's maternal and child health achievements. The maternal mortality ratio has dropped from 998 per 100,000 live births in 1990—one of the highest globally—to under 200 today, representing an 80 percent reduction. Similarly, the under-five mortality rate has decreased by about 75 percent since independence. Eritrea's annual reduction rate in under-five mortality, estimated at 4.5 percent, is among the fastest worldwide. These successes highlight the crucial role of MWHs in advancing the country's health outcomes and setting a solid foundation for further progress.

Eritrea's network of MWHs reflects its unwavering commitment to social justice and women's rights. By bridging the rural-urban divide in healthcare access, MWHs reduce the need for long, arduous journeys that could pose risks to both mothers and their babies.

Globally, maternal mortality and morbidity, which MWHs help to reduce, are increasingly seen as human rights and gender equality issues. For instance, Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obligates states to recognize the right to the highest attainable standard of health, including reducing stillbirths and infant mortality. Likewise, Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women requires states to ensure equal access to healthcare services, particularly those related



to pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal care.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, also emphasize the importance of sexual and reproductive health services, addressing barriers to access, and advancing human rights in health

care.

Although sometimes overlooked, MWHs are a cornerstone of Eritrea's health system. They have significantly contributed to maternal and child health improvements while emphasizing the country's dedication to

social justice and the protection of women and girls' rights to health.

Eritrea's achievements in this area stand as a testament to its sustained commitment to health equity, gender equality, and the well-being of its citizens.

EAC countries advance sustainable farming through AIRTEA project

By Special Correspondent

KENYA is among three East African countries engaged in strengthening agricultural knowledge and the innovation ecosystem for inclusive rural transformation and livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA) Project.

The AIRTEA project was conceived to contribute to the attainment of sustainable farming livelihoods and rural transformation by fostering an inclusive innovation environment in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda.

Speaking about the project during a digital agriculture platform awareness workshop for innovation platform members in Kenya, Programme Officer for Agricultural Technology and Innovation at the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), one of the implementing partners, Joshua Okonya, said they were working on different value chains that include avocado, dairy, maize, extension, and fish.

"We use the innovation platform model among the agriculture value chains by bringing different actors right from the producers, distributors, transporters, the processors, and consumers whose biggest problem has been market," he said.

Okonya said that they are linking the producers with markets using the digital models where one could just log in and find information one needs.

"There is power in the use of digital tools, and we want to talk about, leverage on, and enhance utilisation of the tools even in the agriculture sector," he said.

The Programme Officer noted that oftentimes, countries are struggling without enough extension service providers,

and therefore digital tools could help in training farmers, building their capacity, and not only linking them to the markets but also improving their knowledge in good agricultural practices, control of pests and diseases, and even access to financial institutions.

Within the project, Okonya said they have developed different digital apps, and the meeting was aimed at creating awareness among the different stakeholders so that players could start utilising them.

"We want to see the impact on the ground as we have the relevant research and innovation from the II projects that were under AIRTEA, and at the end of the project, we want to see increased income, household incomes, for the rural communities, and youth employment," said Okonya.

He explained that the projects were also working under consortium, and in each project, apart from government, they have ensured there is a private sector, a university, a research institution, an NGO, and a youth organisation, and all these actors work together to solve the problem at the grassroots. "We can transform the agriculture sector within Eastern and Central Africa by addressing the main challenge, such as the infrastructure in implementing and scaling digital agriculture platforms in the three countries," Okonya said.

He said governments should invest more into infrastructure by finding models that could subsidise the internet cost by using apps that have little or zero rated cost.

A Research officer at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, KALRO, and based at Dairy Research Institute Naivasha, David Mbugua, said that through partnerships under the AIRTEA project, they have been



using the digital diary application, which is so versatile that farmers could train themselves about how to keep the right livestock and in what environment using good agricultural practices that would see high productivity and a good quality product. "We have gotten good feedback from farmers that have interacted with this application, and they are telling us about areas that we can even improve on, as we have linked the applications with the KALRO call centres where they

can get technical information on what the mobile phone does not provide," he said. As a country, and with the realisation that the average age of a farmer is about 55 years, the project was looking at how to utilise the young people that are digitally savvy, have a mobile phone, and can be able to access the internet and get information in real time, and also utilise the information to train other farmers within their region.

"As KALRO, we are talking about 30 mobile-based appli-

cations that farmers can access based on their needs, so what they need to do is just interact with these applications, and they will find most of the questions being answered through these applications that KALRO has developed over time," he said.

Oscar Murimi Kavindi, a young farmer from Runyenjes and a beneficiary of the digital diary app that he has been using, said it has helped him keep records of the money he makes from his livestock farming.

"With the digital platform, I am able to log into the agricultural observatory platform (KAOP) and know when the rains are coming so that I know when to store my fodder. Also, when I produce and sell milk, I am now able, with just a click of the button, to input my records, and this helps me in monitoring money even at the farmers' cooperatives.

Murimi explained that one of the biggest achievements in the digital applications and platforms for him was learning that

you don't need to have a big space to be a livestock keeper, and it's just about knowing how to use the small spaces available for maximum profits.

The AIRTEA project, supported by the European Union to a tune of Euro 298,000 has been running since 2022 and will end in February 2025.

Other coordinating partners in the project apart from ASARECA are the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF).

Govt urges private sector to finance climate change sustainable nature-based projects

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has urged the private sector to play a significant role in financing climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation projects especially those targeting at attracting sustainable nature-based solutions.

Abdallah Lungo, Senior Environmental Officer in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) said last week in Dar es Salaam that the private sector is a key partner in financing sustainable nature-based solutions for climate change in Tanzania and the East African region at large.

According to him, climate change is real and investments are playing a critical role in accelerating positive impact for humans and nature.

"Sustainable nature-based solutions are a way of mitigating climate crises as far as every development partner is concerned. I am also challenging the private sector to sensitize communities, especially those living near rivers or watersheds, on applying nature-based solutions to address climate change threats," he said.

Lungo asserted that Section 75 of the Environment Management Act 2004 obligates the private sector to declare and execute commitments to the government with regard to taking part in financing sustainable climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation projects.

Shaban Yusuph, Environmental Management Officer, Dar es Salaam City Council who is responsible for overseeing the Msimbazi River Basin Development Project was of the view that climate financing is of great importance in realizing a shared world with friendly environment and biodiversity for humans to live happily and thrive.

"Along the Msimbazi basin there are two nature forests: Mangrove forests opening up into the Indian Ocean and the upstream nature forest reserve in the Kisarawe district of the Coast region. The two forests play a significant role to nature in addressing the threats of possible climate change crises," said Yusuph.

According to him, the Msimbazi river project is being carried out purposely targeting at protecting its banks from soil erosion caused by sand mining and storm waters by planting palm trees along it.

He asserted that community sensitization is critical in restoring and sustaining natural forests through various projects such as beekeeping.

Prof Wilbard Kombe, Senior Lecturer at the Ardhi University at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) said that the university is currently working on research to establish how nature-based solutions can be applied in addressing climate change crises.

He said the three-year project is to explore the socio-political factors that support the uptake, sustainability and institutionalization of initiatives that work with nature to advance climate resilience, especially concerning water-related hazards in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi-Kenya.



CLIMATE FINANCE



Company's Q3 profit surges by 105pc amidst rights issue

NAIROBI

HF Group Plc has reported its financial results for the third quarter of 2024, posting a 105 percent year-on-year growth in profit after tax to KES 483 million, up from KES 236 million in the previous period.

The profit surge comes as the Group embarks on a KES 6 billion rights issue aimed at fortifying its capital base and expanding its product portfolio.

Additionally, HF Group has intensified efforts to improve asset quality, achieving non-performing loan (NPL) collections of KES 600 million year-to-date, with a further KES 3 billion targeted by year-end.

The rights issue, which opened on 12th November 2024 and closes on 9th December 2024, seeks to raise KES 6 billion through the issuance of 1.5 billion new ordinary shares. Shareholders will have the opportunity to purchase two new shares for every one held, with a greenshoe option for additional shares.

Britam Group, HF Group's major shareholder, has confirmed full participation in the rights issue, alongside commitments from other principal shareholders, reflecting strong support for the initiative.

Listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange since 1992 under the ticker symbol HFCK, HF Group remains a leading financial services provider with a rich history in mortgage lending and banking.

HF Group has reported a significant recovery in earnings, with a net profit of KES 257 million for the year ended on December 31st, 2022, in contrast to a loss of KES 682.7 million recorded in 2021.

The net interest income experienced an increment of KES 347 million, resulting in a total of KES 2.16 billion. In contrast, the interest expenses only rose slightly by 1 percent, equivalent to KES 15 million.

Interest-earning assets also grew by

KES 3.6 billion, with the average yield on these assets improving to 10 percent from 9.6 percent in December 2021. Additionally, deposits experienced growth of KES 1.5 billion.

"Our performance reflects our relentless focus on our business transformation strategy. Our diversification to full-service banking has seen the Group maintain a flat interest expense line while growing customer deposits and significantly increasing our funded and non-funded income," said HF Group CEO Robert Kibaara.

The Group's cost optimization program has been successful as demonstrated by a 14 percent drop (KES 472 million) in total expenses despite a 13 percent increase in staff costs to support new business segments.

HF Group continues to invest in people and technology to enhance the customer experience, which has contributed to a 182 percent increase in foreign exchange income. This growth underscores the bank's focus on the SME market and the benefits of full-service banking.

The Group's subsidiaries also recorded a profit, with the property development subsidiary's revenue growing by KES 321 million supported by growth in project management fees and commissions.

The bancassurance subsidiary (HFB) saw a 12 percent growth in profit before tax to reach KES 47.5 million.

The Group CEO is confident in sustained profitability across all business units driven by revenue diversification and the deepening of its full-service banking.

"As we embark on 2023, we have an optimistic outlook on our performance. Revenue diversification is expected to accelerate as the Group continues to roll out SME and Personal Banking offerings and project management initiatives, and this is expected to continue facilitating access to cheaper funding for the franchise," he added.

Indian airlines hit by nearly 1,000 hoax bomb threats

MUMBAI

India's airlines and airports received 999 hoax bomb threats this year as of 14 November, the country's deputy civil aviation minister told its parliament.

This was nearly 10 times more than the threats received in 2023, Mr Murlidhar Mohol said.

More than 500 of the year's threats were received just in the last two weeks of October.

The dramatic surge in hoax threats had wreaked

havoc on flight schedules, causing widespread disruption in services.

The recent threats were all hoaxes, Mr Mohol said, with "no actual threat detected at any of the airports/aircraft in India".

Police have registered 256 complaints and 12 people have been arrested in connection with these threats, the minister said.

But the cases mark an unprecedented spike in such hoaxes.

Between 2014 and 2017, authorities had recorded



just 120 bomb hoax alerts at airports, with nearly half directed at Delhi and Mumbai, the country's

largest airports.

The flurry of hoax threats this October had delayed several affected

flights while others were diverted.

Hoax threats against flights heading for other

countries also lead to international agencies getting involved.

In October, Singapore's Air Force sent two fighter jets to escort an Air India Express plane following a bomb threat.

The same month, another Air India flight from New Delhi to Chicago was forced to land in a remote airport in Canada.

Passengers on the flight were later airlifted to Chicago on an Air Force plane deployed by Canadian officials.

India's civil aviation min-

istry had then said it was making "every possible effort" to safeguard flight operations.

India's airports have a Bomb Threat Assessment Committee which assesses the gravity of the threat and takes action accordingly. A threat can lead to the involvement of the bomb disposal squad, sniffer dogs, ambulances, police and doctors.

Passengers are off-loaded from the plane along with cabin baggage, checked-in baggage and cargo, and they are all screened again.

Engineering and security teams also search the plane before it is cleared for flying again.

The resultant delay can cost thousands of dollars in damages to airlines and security agencies.

More than 150 million passengers flew domestically in India last year, according to the civil aviation ministry.

More than 3,000 flights arrive and depart every day in the country from more than 150 operational airports, including 33 international airports.

Canada watchdog sues Google over alleged anti-competitive conduct

TORONTO

Canada's Competition Bureau is suing Google for alleged anti-competitive conduct in its online advertising.

In a statement, the country's antitrust watchdog alleged Google had illegally linked two advertising tools to maintain market supremacy and used this dominant position to distort ad auctions by preferring its own tools.

The agency said it had filed an application with the Competition Tribunal, a court-like independent body, that would require Google to sell two of its ad technology tools.

In a statement Google said the complaint out of Canada "ignores the intense competition where ad buyers and sellers have plenty of choice and we look forward to making our case in court".

"Our advertising technology tools help websites and apps fund their content, and enable businesses of

all sizes to effectively reach new customers," said Dan Taylor, vice-president of global advertising.

This case centres on online web advertisements - the ads shown to users while visiting other websites.

Digital ad inventory - the space website publishers make available for sale - is often bought and sold through automated auctions using digital platforms.

These platforms are known as ad tech tools, while the entire set of tools used through the purchasing process are known as the ad tech stack.

According to the Competition Bureau, an investigation found that Google had "abused its dominant position" as the biggest ad tech stack in Canada.

"Through a series of calculated decisions, taken over the course of multiple years, Google has excluded competitors and entrenched itself at the center of online advertising," the Competition Bureau said in its notice



announcing the suit of Thursday.

"Google's near-total control of the ad-tech [software] is a function of premeditated design and conduct, rather than superior competitive performance or happenstance."

The agency said it was asking the Competition Tribunal to force Google to sell two of its ad tech tools, and pay a fine of as much as 3% of

the company's global revenue "to promote compliance" with Canada's competition laws.

Google has 45 days to file its response with the tribunal.

The case comes a week after the US justice department and a group of states demanded Google sell Chrome, the world's most popular web browser - just one of a series of

remedies meant to stop the tech giant from maintaining its monopoly in online search.

The bias machine

"Google's whole mission is to give people the information that they want, but sometimes the information that people think they want isn't actually the most useful," says Sarah Presch, digital marketing director at Dragon Metrics, a platform that helps companies tune their websites for better recognition from Google using methods known as "search engine optimisation" or SEO.

It's a job that calls for meticulous combing through Google results, and a few years ago, Presch noticed a problem. "I started looking at how Google handles topics where there's heated debate," she says. "In a lot of cases, the results were shocking."

Some of the starkest examples looked at how Google treats certain health questions. Google often pulls information from the web and shows

it at the top of results to provide a quick answer, which it calls a Featured Snippet. Presch searched for "link between coffee and hypertension". The Featured Snippet quoted an article from the Mayo Clinic, highlighting the words "Caffeine may cause a short, but dramatic increase in your blood pressure." But when she looked up "no link between coffee and hypertension", the Featured Snippet cited a contradictory line from the very same Mayo Clinic article: "Caffeine doesn't have a long-term effect on blood pressure and is not linked with a higher risk of high blood pressure".

The same thing happened when Presch searched for "is ADHD caused by sugar" and "ADHD not caused by sugar". Google pulled up Featured Snippets that argue support both sides of the question, again taken from the same article. (In reality, there's little evidence that sugar affects ADHD symptoms, and it certainly doesn't cause the disorder.)



Australia approves social media ban on under-16s

SYDNEY

Australia will ban children under 16 from using social media, after its parliament approved the world's strictest laws.

The ban, which will not take effect for at least 12 months, could see tech companies fined up to A\$50m (\$32.5m; £25.7m) if they don't comply.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese says the legislation is needed to protect young people from the "harms" of social media, something many parent groups have echoed.

But critics say questions over how the ban will work - and its impact on privacy and social connection - have been left unanswered.

This is not the first attempt globally to restrict children's social media use, but the minimum age of 16 is the highest set by any country. Unlike other attempts, it also does not include exemptions for existing users or those with parental consent.

Having passed the Senate by 34 votes to 19 late on Thursday, the bill returned to the House of Representatives where it passed early on Friday.

"We want our kids to have a childhood and parents to know we have their backs," Albanese told reporters afterwards.

The legislation does not specify which platforms will be banned. Those decisions will be made later by Australia's communications minister, who will seek advice from the eSafety Commissioner - an internet regulator that will enforce the rules.

However the minister, Michelle Rowland, has said the ban will include Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and X. Gaming and messaging platforms are exempt, as are sites that can be accessed without an account, meaning YouTube, for

instance, is likely to be spared.

The government says will it rely on some form of age-verification technology to implement the restrictions, and options will be tested in the coming months. The onus will be on the social media platforms to add these processes themselves.

However digital researchers have warned there are no guarantees the unspecified technology - which could rely on biometrics or identity information - will work. Critics have also sought assurances that privacy will be protected.

They have also warned that restrictions could easily be circumvented through tools like a VPN - which can disguise a user's location and make them appear to be logging on from another country.

Children who find ways to flout the rules will not face penalties, however.

Polling on the reforms, though limited, suggests it is supported by a majority of Australian parents and caregivers.

"For too long parents have had this impossible choice between giving in and getting their child an addictive device or seeing their child isolated and feeling left out," Amy Friedlander, who was among those lobbying for the ban, recently told the BBC.

"We've been trapped in a norm that no one wants to be a part of."

But many experts say the ban is "too blunt an instrument" to effectively address the risks associated with social media use, and have warned it could end up pushing children into less regulated corners of the internet.

During a short consultation period before the bill passed, Google and Snap criticised the legislation for not providing more detail, and Meta said the bill would be "ineffective" and not meet its stated aim of making kids safer.

In its submission, TikTok said the government's definition of a social media platform was so "broad and unclear" that "almost every online service could fall within [it]".

X questioned the "lawfulness" of the bill - saying it may not be compatible with international regulations and human rights treaties which Australia has signed.

Some youth advocates also accused the government of not fully understanding the role social media plays in their lives, and locking them out of the debate.

"We understand we are vulnerable to the risks and negative impacts of social media... but we need to be involved in developing solutions," wrote the eSafety Youth Council, which advises the regulator.

Albanese has acknowledged the debate is complex but steadfastly defended the bill.

"We don't argue that its implementation will be perfect, just like the alcohol ban for [children] under 18 doesn't mean that someone under 18 never has access - but we know that it's the right thing to do," he said on Friday.

Last year, France introduced legislation to block social media access for children under 15 without parental consent, though research indicates almost half of users were able to avoid the ban using a VPN.

A law in the US state of Utah - which was similar to Australia's - was overturned by a federal judge who found it unconstitutional.

Australia's laws are being watched with great interest by global leaders.

Norway has recently pledged to follow in the country's footsteps, and last week the UK's technology secretary said a similar ban was "on the table" - though he later added "not... at the moment".

Canada's oil patch rattled by Trump's tariff threat

NEW YORK

In Canada's oil-rich province of Alberta, there is a deep sense of unease over President-elect Donald Trump's threat to impose a 25 percent tariff on Canadian goods.

Canadian politicians and energy experts are warning the hefty tariff would have dire consequences for the economy of America's northern neighbour - and hike prices on US consumers.

"Canada has no choice in this," Dennis McConaghy, an Alberta-based former energy executive, told the BBC.

"It has to find an accommodation with Trump."

Trump announced on Monday that, upon taking office in January, he would slap an across-the-board tariff on Mexico and Canada - with no suggestion that would exclude oil and gas.

Lisa Baiton, president and CEO of the Calgary-based Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, said the levy would likely mean Canada producing less oil.

Mr McConaghy said that would lead to job losses in Alberta, with potential repercussions for Canada as a whole, as poorer provinces rely on cash transfers from revenues generated by wealthier provinces - like Alberta - to help offset costs and provide social services.

It could also lead to a devaluation of the Canadian dollar at a time when the currency is already struggling due to domestic economic factors, he said.

"Keep in mind, roughly 80 percent of Canada's trade is with the United

States, and a majority of that trade is in hydrocarbons. Canadians can't escape how integrated they are with the US."

US fuel makers have also urged Trump to rule out oil and gas from any proposed levies given that Americans rely heavily on imported Canadian crude.

"Crude oil is to refineries what flour is to bakeries," said the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM) industry group in a statement this week.

"It's our number one feedstock and input cost. If those feedstocks were to become significantly more expensive, so too would the overall cost of making fuel here in the United States."

The US is the world's largest producer of crude oil and natural gas, but some regions - California, the northeast and parts of the Midwest - do not have the infrastructure or pipeline capacity to rely solely on US oil and need imports to supply fuel to consumers.

Around 40 percent of the crude that runs through US oil refineries is imported, and the vast majority of it comes from Canada.

Canadian oil is especially relied on in the landlocked Midwest, where refineries have been outfitted to process the heavier Canadian blends.

The AFPM said there is no easy replacement for that crude without relying on overseas sources that could erode US energy security.

The industry group warned that a tariff on Canadian oil would drive up operating costs in the Midwest - costs some experts say will be download-

ed onto consumers.

Patrick De Haan, a Chicago-based gas prices analyst, estimated that states like Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan could see gas prices rising by up to 75 cents a gallon.

Mr De Haan noted in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that these higher prices would not only be felt at the pump, but could potentially increase costs for airlines and freight haulers as well.

An increase in oil prices for US consumers would run counter to Trump's promise to slash energy costs.

On the campaign trail, Trump frequently said he planned to cut the price of gasoline to under \$2 (£1.57) a gallon. As of late November, the price of regular gasoline in the US sat around \$3 a gallon.

But Trump has also vowed to increase American energy independence by boosting domestic drilling and being less reliant on foreign oil and gas, particularly from countries not allied with the US.

It remains unclear whether the tariffs will ultimately materialise, analysts have noted, as Trump has been known to use such threats in the past as a negotiation tactic to achieve certain goals.

In this case, Trump could be using the tariffs to get Canada and Mexico to cooperate on border security.

Trump has signalled that the levies would remain in place until both Canada and Mexico work on securing their shared borders with the US, limiting the number of unlawful migrants and drugs flowing into the country.



Bank gifts seven outstanding innovators N145m

LAGOS
It was rain of cash for outstanding innovators who shone brightest at the just concluded Hackaholics 5.0 grand finale organised by Wema Bank.

The participants who successfully concluded the 5th edition of the bank's Hackaholics initiative, a premier ideathon designed to empower and support the nation's brightest tech innovators, smiled home with cash prizes.

The grand finale, which took place in Lagos, witnessed a remarkable showcase of ingenuity and problem-solving prowess, culminating in seven startups sharing an impressive N145 million in prize money—nearly double the initial prize fund of N75 million.

This year's Hackaholics stood out with a record-breaking 3,500 applications from across Nigeria.

From this pool, 10 finalists showcased innovative solutions addressing real-world challenges, ranging from education accessibility to sustainable agriculture, healthcare, and more.

Feegor, the overall winner, was awarded the top prize of N50 million for its innovative B2B wholesale marketplace and SaaS platform.

Feegor empowers SMEs to



WEMA BANK

discover, negotiate, and source goods from verified suppliers while accessing credit through a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) model. This groundbreaking approach is set to drive growth and create significant economic impact.

The first runner-up, Empayment AI, received N35 million for its AI-powered invoice disbursement platform, revolutionising how businesses manage payments.

Bloom Beauty, the second runner-up, was awarded N20 million for its personalised, AI-curated solutions that are transforming the beauty industry.

In the women-led category, MyTherapist secured the posi-

tion of first runner-up, earning N12 million. MyTherapist connects users with mental health professionals, providing accessible and affordable therapy solutions for emotional well-being.

Mytura, an innovator delivering remote healthcare services, clinched the position of second runner-up in the women-led category, receiving N8 million.

Both Northino and University X earned honorable mentions at the grand finale, each receiving N10 million. Northino was recognised for bridging traditional knowledge and modern technology through digital skills training for African native speakers, while

University X impressed with its transparent, all-encompassing platform for tertiary education management.

Wema Bank's CEO, Moruf Oseni, said: "We are delighted to celebrate the brilliance of our youth through the Hackaholics initiative. At Wema Bank, we are more than a bank; we are enablers of dreams and drivers of transformation. When I stood here earlier, the total prize money was N75 million. But, inspired by the potential we saw, we decided to increase the total prize pool to N145 million. Wema Bank's legacy of 79 years remains rooted in innovation, and with initiatives like Hackaholics, we continue to empower lives and shape the

future."

Ugonna Ginigeme, CEO of Feegor and the overall winner, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition and support.

"I feel very grateful to God, my team, and everyone who has been part of this journey. Winning among so many great startups and entrepreneurs is humbling. I sincerely thank the MD, Wema Bank, and its management for this incredible opportunity. These are still early days, but we are determined to keep working, building, and creating a positive impact for SMEs and the Nigerian economy while building an all-around successful company," Ginigeme said.

Solar Radiation Modification: Ghana begins stakeholder engagements

ACCRA
The Science and Technology Policy Research Institute of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-STE-PR) has initiated local stakeholder engagement as part of Ghana's preparations for a future global Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) initiative.

The Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) initiative is a global proposal aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and global warming by injecting substances into the atmosphere that create reflective aerosols, which reflect sunlight back into space.

The stakeholders, drawn from various sectors, including government, academia, research institutions, civil society, and the private sector, discussed the potential benefits and risks Ghana may face if SRM was implemented globally.

They also explored the development of a framework to govern SRM in Ghana, focusing on informed ethical, policy, and social practices.

The discussion took place during the launch of the project titled "Assessment of

Knowledge and Governance towards SRM in Ghana: Implications for more efficient Ethical, Policy, and Social Practices."

It was organized by CSIR-STEPRI in collaboration with the University of Cape Coast and the University of Health and Allied Sciences and funded by the DEGREES Initiative.

Dr. Portia Adade Williams, a Research Scientist with CSIR-STEPRI, explained that the goal of the project was to enhance stakeholders' understanding of the science behind Solar Radiation Modification (SRM) as well as its ethical, social, and political implications.

She added that the initiative would focus on exploring opportunities to integrate perspectives from diverse stakeholders to develop a comprehensive socio-political strategy for SRM in Ghana.

"This is a very important project that is timelier because looking at the impacts of climate change now, we are talking a lot about how we can reduce greenhouse gases and in effect global warming," she added.

Road map to bring down logistics costs

SHANGHAI
China has charted a clear road map to drive down logistics costs, a move that officials and analysts said is not just about enhancing the competitiveness of industries, but also about strengthening the foundation of the real economy as a whole.

The initiative will help foster a truly unified national market and bolster economic operations, and China will be better positioned to play a key role in global supply chains, they added.

According to the plan, which was issued on Wednesday by the general offices of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, the world's second-largest economy is scheduled to bring down the logistics cost-to-GDP ratio to around 13.5 percent by 2027.

According to the plan, China will scale up railway logistics, promote scalable road freight, optimize urban freight networks and advance the sharing of logistics information, to foster an integrated national logistics ecosystem.

The plan also highlights the need to clear bottlenecks that are hindering logistics efficiency and reducing cost competitiveness. These include incomplete infrastructure networks, disconnected multimodal transportation interfaces, and the lack of a well-developed modern supply chain system.

Logistics across the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors serves as the "veins" of China's real economy, connecting the manufacturing base to the consumer market, and it facilitates China's participation in global trade, said He Dengcai, vice-president of the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

Despite efforts in recent years to slash logistics costs, China's logistics expenditure as a percentage of GDP remains relatively higher than that of developed economies, said He.

Last year, China's total logistics costs accounted for 14.4 percent of its GDP, while the ratio in developed countries such as the United States and Japan stayed at around 7 to 8 percent, according to He, who emphasized the gap that China faces in its push to build an integrated and cost-effective logistics network.

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said that efficient logistics can act as a force multiplier, boosting the competitiveness of China's real economy and sharpening its ability to adapt to downward pressures and external uncertainties. This, in turn, would strengthen the foundations for sustained economic growth, Wen added.

Zhang Shixin, deputy secretary-general of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a news conference on Thursday that the manufacturing industry is poised to enhance its edge through the optimization of logistics systems, as the industry's logistics volume accounts for some 90 percent of China's total.

In particular, to further enhance the competitiveness of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products, specific measures to improve logistics efficiency and convenience for these green high-tech products have been fleshed out in the plan.

In the face of tariff hikes expected to be imposed on these products by some countries, lowering logistics costs will provide a boost to the export prowess of these industries and help preserve the stability of global industrial and supply chains, said Wen, from China Minsheng Bank.



SATURDAY 23 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
SUNDAY 24 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
MONDAY 25 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
TUESDAY 26 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
WEDNESDAY 27 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 28 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
FRIDAY 29 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera
SATURDAY 30 Nov			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	10:05	Shika Bamba 5
20:00	Habari	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:20	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
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18:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Shamsah za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:10	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:00	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari
20:00	Habari	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu
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21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma	22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi
22:15	Mjuzi Zaidi	22:50	Supa Min Jackpot
22:50	Supa Min Jackpot	23:00	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30	Al Jazeera

WORLD

Excitement, relief in Paris as Notre-Dame Cathedral prepares to reopen

PARIS

PARIS' Notre-Dame Cathedral will reopen its doors next week to tourists and the Catholic faithful, five-and-a-half years after fire gutted the Gothic masterpiece, one of the French capital's most beloved and visited monuments.

President Emmanuel Macron was one of the first to catch a glimpse of the newly renovated cathedral on Friday morning. He appeared impressed by the spectacular light pouring into the nave after the cathedral's windows were renewed and its white stones cleaned.

"This is overwhelming", the president said as he took an extensive tour along with his wife Brigitte and some officials, shaking hands with many of the master craftsmen who had taken part in the renovation.

Major reconstruction works have restored the 12th-century cathedral, its spire, rib vaulting, flying buttresses, stained-glass windows and carved stone gargoyles to their past glory, with the white stone and gold decorations shining brighter than ever.

It is a far cry from the evening of April 15, 2019, when TV viewers in France and worldwide watched with horror as the cathedral's roof and spire burst into flames and collapsed in a raging fire that also threatened the main bell towers, which narrowly avoided destruction.

Firefighters worked through the night to save the cathedral, and for more than five years, thousands of expert craftspeople used age-old methods to restore, repair or replace everything that was destroyed or damaged.

"It was an exceptional renovation project," stone-carver Samir Abbas, 38, said, relieved at having finished on schedule, while waiting along with some 1,300 other workers in front of the cathedral for Macron's arrival.

An opening ceremony - to which celebrities and heads of state have been invited - is planned for the evening of Dec 7, followed by days of special Masses to celebrate the reopening and to thank those who helped save and rebuild the cathedral.

So much money poured in for the



French President Emmanuel Macron (second left) visit the restored Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, Nov 29, 2024. (PHOTO / AP)

renovation from all over the world - more than 840 million euros (\$882 million), according to Macron's office - that there are still funds left over for further investment in the building.

The Catholic Church now expects the cathedral to welcome some 15 million visitors annually.

"We are very eager to welcome the whole world under the roof of our cathedral," Paris' Archbishop Laurent Ulrich said in a message on the cathedral website, expressing the Church's gratitude to all those who helped save it.

"On the night of April 15, hundreds of thousands of people committed themselves to what then seemed an impossible bet: to restore the cathedral and give it back its splendor within the unprecedented deadline of five years."

'It's a relief'

The guest-list for the reopening ceremony has not yet been published,

but one source said US President-elect Donald Trump was among those invited, along with other heads of state, royalty and celebrities.

US President Joe Biden's wife Jill will attend the ceremony while Trump has not yet responded, a source familiar with the planning said.

Parisians expressed excitement and relief on Friday at the prospect of the cathedral reopening.

"I'm so happy," said 50-year-old architect Sebastien Truchot, who lives nearby. "Whether you believe in God or not, Notre-Dame is a universal symbol, and it's amazing to have it back and to rediscover it."

Albert Abid, a bookseller whose stall stands on the quay, was shocked to see it burn five years ago. "It's a relief. Finally, Notre Dame is restored," he said.

Global partners attend China's CISCE to highlight supply chain cooperation

BERLIN/BEIJING

STEFAN Hartung recently inaugurated the third-phase facility of Bosch's joint venture, United Automotive Electronic Systems Co Ltd, in Taicang, Jiangsu province.

The new plant will begin mass production of second-generation electric bridges next year. These critical components for electric drive systems will be supplied to vehicle manufacturers located just a few kilometers away. This close-knit collaboration reflects the advantages of China's integrated industrial ecosystem.

For Hartung, chairman of the board of management of Bosch Group, China offers an ideal solution to supply chain challenges, and Bosch Group is now participating in the second China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) that is underway in Beijing from Tuesday to Saturday.

"Win-win chains"

The second CISCE has attracted more than 600 exhibitors from nearly 70 countries, including some Fortune Global 500 companies. International participants account for 32 percent of the total, up from 26 percent at the first event, with European and American firms comprising half of the international presence.

The event emphasizes the concept of "chain," not only showcasing new technologies, products, and services but also highlighting the close collaboration and deep integration of key upstream and downstream elements across various industries.

This year's event underlines long-term partnerships along supply chains. Joint exhibition booths showing up-



This photo shows a silicon carbide bridge module at the Bosch pavilion at the 2nd China International Supply Chain Expo in Beijing on Thursday. (Photo/Xinhua)

stream and downstream collaboration are a standout feature of the expo, said Zhang Shaogang, vice-chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

By fostering global connections, the CISCE provides a stage for international cooperation, enabling enterprises worldwide to co-create value and transform supply chains into genuine "win-win chains."

Under the theme of "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," the CISCE highlights supply chains as a bridge for global cooperation and integration.

In China, for China and world

"In the past, parts were often imported from Europe. Now, numerous European companies are moving their supply chains to China, creating models

of 'in China, for China' and 'in China, for the world,'" Schumann said.

Michael Schumann, chairman of the Board of the German Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade, noted that many European companies are localizing their production in China to enhance efficiency.

Bosch's Taicang facility is located along Nanjing Road, home to a robust automotive supply chain. About 70 percent of automotive components can be sourced locally in Taicang due to its well-developed ecosystem, according to Yin Wei, deputy director of Taicang's Bureau of Industry and Information Technology.

Yin said Taicang's strategic location and comprehensive infrastructure have attracted over 700 automotive-related

enterprises, including more than 200 foreign-funded firms. These factors have fostered a cohesive industrial cluster that supports local and multinational businesses alike.

Tesla has also benefited from China's efficient supply chain. Gang Song, Tesla's vice-president of manufacturing, noted that Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory produces a vehicle every 40 seconds, a feat made possible by close collaboration with Chinese suppliers.

For many multinational corporations, this efficient supply chain is at the heart of the "Made in China" competitive edge and remains a key factor driving their continued investment and expansion in the Chinese market.

Platform for sustainability

Modern industrial products often rely on complex supply chains involving multiple upstream and downstream enterprises. The stability and efficiency of these chains are critical for success in today's industries.

As a leading manufacturing powerhouse, China is one of the world's most critical markets, boasting a robust and comprehensive supply chain system. Nearly all products can be sourced with high efficiency and low costs through China's extensive supplier network.

The robust ecosystem boosts foreign companies' confidence to deepen their presence in China, said Andreas Schmitz, president of the Dusseldorf Chamber of Industry and Commerce, who praised China's supply chain system for its flexibility and resilience.

This globally integrated, end-to-end supply chain advantage has been a key factor in elevating China's new energy vehicle industry to a leading position in the global market.

Barrick welcomes Ontario superior court's dismissal of litigation concerning North Mara Gold Mine

TORONTO

BARRICK Gold Corporation has welcomed the Ontario Superior Court's dismissal of claims brought by Tanzanian residents alleging human rights abuses by members of the Tanzanian Police Force in the vicinity of the company's North Mara gold mine.

The Court ruled that Ontario was not the appropriate forum to consider the claims.

Barrick president and chief executive Mark Bristow said the company has repeatedly refuted what it regards as baseless claims by a small number of activist NGOs alleging historical human rights abuses around its North Mara mine.

"We are proud of what we have achieved in Tanzania through our Twiga partnership with the country's government. Our mines' revenue contribution is having a transformative effect on the country's economy while our investment in the socio-economic development of our host communities, coupled with our holistic sustainability strategy, has improved the quality of their lives materially," he said. **Agencies**

Xi stresses high-quality development of supply and marketing cooperatives

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has urged supply and marketing cooperatives to act as bridges for the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government to maintain close ties with farmers, and strive to write a new chapter in the high-quality development of the supply and marketing cooperative cause.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.

The federation, founded in 1954, is a national economic organization responsible for organizing, coordinating and managing the operation of important agricultural means of production, as well as agricultural and sideline products.

Over the past seven decades, the country's supply and marketing cooperatives have played a positive role in serving rural and urban residents, boosting rural economy, helping eradicate absolute poverty, raising farmers' incomes and promoting rural revitalization, Xi said.

He asked Party committees and governments at all levels to further strengthen their leadership over and support for the work of supply and marketing cooperatives.

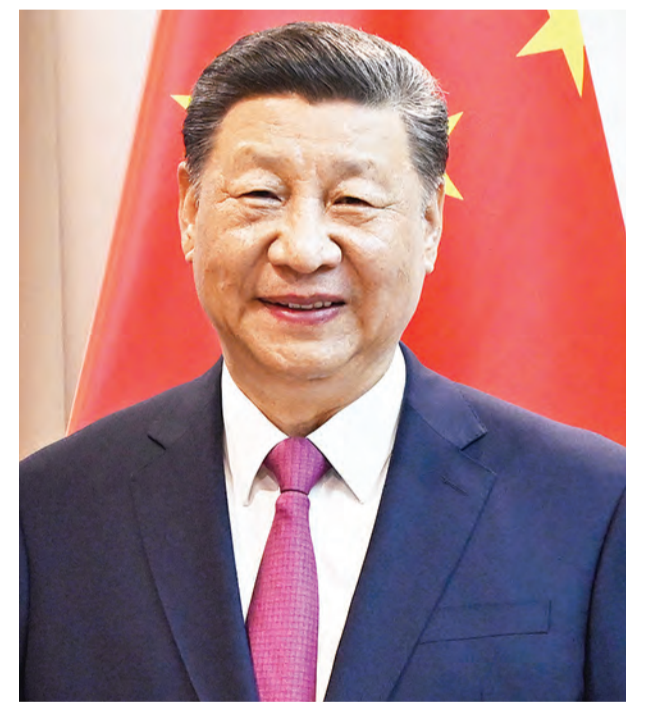
Xi urged the cooperatives to build integrated platforms that serve the production and lives of farmers and help promote the development of modern agriculture.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, gave an instruction regarding supply and marketing cooperatives.

Li urged the cooperatives to further promote the high-quality development of agricultural supplies, distribution of agricultural products, as well as recycling and utilization of renewable resources.

A meeting was held in Beijing on Thursday to mark the federation's 70th founding anniversary.

At the meeting, Vice Premier Liu Guozhong, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, called on supply and marketing cooperatives to help promote the integrated development of urban and rural areas and advance all-around rural revitalization. **Xinhua**



Africa urged to close infrastructure financing gap to boost connectivity, development

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS and policymakers attending a high-level infrastructure development-themed event have called for concerted efforts in mobilizing resources to bridge the financing gap in this regard to spur Africa's connectivity and economic growth.

This came during the eighth Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week (PIDA Week 2024), held on Nov. 25-29 under the theme "Fostering Resilient and Inclusive Infrastructure for Africa's Sustainable Growth: Leveraging

Transformative Financing and Regional Integration" at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Addressing the closing session Thursday, Kamugisha Kazaura, director for Infrastructure and Energy at the AU Commission, underscored the urgent need to address financing and capacity development gaps as a crucial enabler for the realization of major infrastructure development projects in Africa.

Noting the critical gap in financing infrastructure projects in Africa, he stressed

the need to strengthen public-private partnerships to bridge the gap. "We need to mobilize domestic as well as international financing.

This is very crucial to be able to bridge the financing gap. In order to be able to implement complex development projects, we need the right requisite technical and capacity building," Kazaura said.

According to the AU, as a continental initiative spanning until 2040, the PIDA aims to address infrastructure deficits across the continent.

The PIDA is a continental

initiative adopted by all African countries to mobilize resources to transform Africa with modern infrastructure.

Data from the AU show that through PIDA projects, nearly 30 million people in Africa have gained access to electricity, bringing the continent's overall electricity access rate to approximately 44 percent.

Since the start of PIDA, more than 16,000 km of roads and 4,000 km of railway lines have been developed across the continent.

While addressing the opening session Monday, Moussa Faki Mahamat, chair-

person of the AU Commission, underscored that the African continent is at a critical juncture in its development.

He said the structural transformation of African economies, as envisioned in Agenda 2063, the AU's 50-year continental development blueprint, requires modern, resilient, and inclusive infrastructure.

Faki underscored that the theme of PIDA Week 2024 reflects Africa's common commitment to building a prosperous and integrated future for all. He said the PIDA remains Africa's flag-

ship program for developing cross-border infrastructure that promotes integration and sustainability.

Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Logistics Alimu Sime noted that a significant amount of investment is needed to meet core infrastructure development in developing countries.

"Half of Africa's population still lacks access to electricity, and millions of people have no access to clean drinking water. On top of that, a few people in the continent have access to all weather road and railway networks, and Africa is be-

low the global average in almost all aspects," Sime said.

He said poor physical and digital infrastructure remains the most formidable challenge to boost intra-Africa trade and spur development. Inadequate financial resources and high investment costs are key impediments to Africa's infrastructure development.

"We cannot rely solely on traditional financing mechanisms. We must leverage innovative funding sources especially public-private partnerships and international financing options to turn our visions into reality,"

Sheinbaum urges Trump to rethink Cuba embargo, Venezuela sanctions

MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum on Thursday urged US President-elect Donald Trump to rethink his country's trade embargo against Cuba and sanctions policy against Venezuela, arguing that the punitive measures have a direct impact on citizens and fuel mass migration.

At her regular press conference, Sheinbaum said she made the request when she spoke with Trump on the phone on Wednesday, with immigration being a main topic.

The Mexican president made several proposals, including "ending the blockades against Cuba and Venezuela" because they cause the people to suffer and cause phenomena like migration.

She recommended the strategy Mexico's government used to tackle mass migration, saying it has led to a decline in migrants heading north.

The comprehensive strategy aims to address the root causes



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives a media briefing from the National Palace in Mexico City, Oct 2, 2024, the morning after her inauguration. AP

of migration, such as a lack of jobs and opportunities at home, by investing in development programs in countries such as El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, said Sheinbaum.

The phone call came a day after Sheinbaum sent a letter to Trump, responding to his threats to impose a 25-percent tariff on Mexican imports and carry out mass deportations of undocu-

mented migrants once he takes office in January 2025.

US President Joe Biden on Thursday said he hoped President-elect Donald Trump would rethink his plan to impose tariffs on Mexico and Canada, saying it could "screw up" relationships with close allies.

"I hope he rethinks it. I think it's a counterproductive thing to do," Biden told reporters in Nan-

tucket, Massachusetts, where he is spending the Thanksgiving Day holiday with his family.

"We have an unusual situation in America - we're surrounded by the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and two allies: Mexico and Canada. And the last thing we need to do is begin to screw up those relationships."

Trump on Monday said he would impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico until they clamped down on drugs and migrants crossing the border, in a move that would appear to violate the US-Mexico-Canada free-trade deal.

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Thursday she did not specifically discuss tariffs in a call she held with Trump on Wednesday, adding the two had agreed there would be good relations between the two nations.

Following the call, Trump said Sheinbaum had "agreed to stop migration through Mexico, and into the United States, effectively closing our Southern Border."

Sheinbaum, however, said she had laid out a strategy that "attended to" migrants before they reached the US border.

Biden, who met with Trump at the White House earlier this month, reiterated that he wanted the transition between his outgoing administration and the president-elect's incoming one to go smoothly.

"And all the talk about what he's going to do or not do, I think there may be a little bit of internal reckoning on his ... part," Biden said.

Biden spoke to reporters while visiting a fire station in Nantucket and delivering pumpkin pies with his wife, first lady Jill Biden.

Asked what he was thankful for on the holiday, Biden said he was thankful that his administration, with some good luck, would make more progress in the Middle East, noting the recent ceasefire agreement between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

UK transport minister quits in new blow to PM Starmer

LONDON

BRITAIN'S transport minister Louise Haigh has resigned after pleading guilty years ago to an offense in connection with misleading police over a work mobile phone, in another blow to Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Her resignation, the first from Starmer's top team of ministers since winning a landslide election victory in July, came after media reports that she had been convicted and given a conditional discharge in 2014 for what she described as a "mistake".

Haigh said in a letter to Starmer dated Thursday, Nov 28, that she had told police she had lost

a mobile phone during a "terrifying" mugging on a night out in 2013, only to discover later that the phone was still at her home.

In her resignation letter shared by Starmer's office early on Friday, Haigh said she was standing down as the issue "will inevitably be a distraction from delivering on the work of this government and the policies to which we are committed".

"I remain totally committed to our political project, but I now believe it will be best served by my supporting you from outside government," she said.

Starmer thanked Haigh for her work and for all she had done "to deliver this govern-



ment's ambitious transport agenda".

The opposition Conservative Party said Haigh had "done the right thing" but asked why Starmer had appointed her when he was apparently aware of her fraud conviction.

"The onus is now on Keir Starmer to explain this obvious failure of judgment to the British public," a spokesperson for the Conservative Party said in a statement.

Haigh's resignation is yet another blow to the Labour leader, who has seen his party's approval ratings plunge since July.

Almost immediately after winning power, the Labour gov-

ernment came under fire for limiting fuel payments to the elderly and for taking donations for clothing and hospitality.

Since then, his government has angered farmers over changes to inheritance tax rules, and many businesses have cried foul over Labour's first budget in which the finance minister raised taxes mainly on firms and the wealthy.

Haigh, who was first elected in 2015 and has held senior posts under both Starmer and left-wing former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, said the incident with the phone was a "genuine mistake" from which she "did not make any gain".

Senegalese president calls on France to shut down military bases

DAKAR

SENEGALESE President Bassirou Diomaye Faye said on Thursday that the presence of French military bases on Senegalese territory is "not compatible" with the sovereignty his administration upholds.

"Senegal is an independent country, it is a sovereign country, and sovereignty is not compatible with the presence of military bases in a sovereign country," he said in an interview with the AFP news agency, addressing relations between Senegal and France, particularly regarding the French military presence and bases in the West African country.



"The updating of our military doctrine is not only about military presence, it goes beyond that. It obviously requires that there be no more military bases of any kind in Senegal," he said.

"Sixty-five years after our independence, the French authorities must also

consider a partnership free of military presence, one that is instead rich, fruitful, privileged, and comprehensive, similar to the relationships we have with many other countries," Faye (pictured) added.

He said it is a "major step" that French President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged, in a letter, the "massacre" committed by French colonial forces in the village of Thiaroye, near the capital Dakar, on Dec 1, 1944, when they opened fire on Senegalese tirailleurs returning from France.

Faye noted that the letter, confirmed by the Elysee Palace, was sent three days before commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of the massacre, an event the

new Senegalese administration intends to highlight.

"A renewed partnership ... can only be renewed in the truth and in the completeness of the truth," Faye said, adding that "France remains an important partner for Senegal in terms of the level of investment, the presence of French companies and French citizens residing in Senegal."

Senegal gained independence from France in 1960. While France has maintained several military bases in Dakar, it began reducing its presence in 2023 and is expected to retain only about 100 military personnel in Senegal, down from the current 350.

Xinhua

Displaced Lebanese rush home after ceasefire, facing joy, loss, and uncertainty

BEIRUT

AS the ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel took effect at dawn on Wednesday, Jihad Nasrallah, along with thousands of displaced Lebanese, wasted no time. Before sunrise, they gathered their belongings and set out on the long-awaited journey back to their homes in southern Lebanon.

The roads were crowded with returnees, their faces a mixture of joy and lingering sorrow. Many had endured over a year of displacement, their return marked by happiness at reclaiming their homes but also the grief of lost harvests, destroyed properties, and loved ones who perished during the conflict.

"The displaced could hardly sleep, eagerly waiting for dawn," said Jihad to Xinhua. "There were tears of joy as people bid farewell to each other, and car horns echoed in celebration. " In the southeast village of Kfarhamam, most returnees lost their homes due to Israeli bombings.

Still, the villagers were unfazed, as their priority, according to the young Hassan Abdul Karim, was to move past their displacement and return to their hometown. "Displacement is unjust, humiliating, and deeply disturbing," Abdul Karim told Xinhua.

"We'd rather live in tents on the ruins of our homes than remain in school halls, crammed alongside five to eight other families. So we returned, carrying mattresses and blankets on the roofs of our cars."

The Lebanese army mobilized at first light, deploying bulldozers and trucks to repair roads damaged by airstrikes in the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, members of the Internal Security Forces managed traffic at key intersections, while medical teams from the Lebanese Red Cross and the Islamic Health Authority stationed themselves at city entrances to handle emergencies.

In the eastern city of Baalbek and the villages of western Bekaa, including Machghara, Sohmor, and Yohmor, returnees faced the devastation of homes and infrastructure caused by relentless airstrikes.

Yet, not everyone could go back. Those from villages along the Israeli-Lebanese border were forced to wait, as Israel warned against their return until its forces completed their withdrawal.

Fatima al-Ahmad, displaced from the border village of Wazzani, remains in the Khan market with her livestock, awaiting clearance from the Lebanese army.

"We are happy about the ceasefire, but we cannot return until the Israeli forces leave our village," she told Xinhua. "We will remain with our livestock, estimated at 3,000 heads of sheep, in the Khan market, waiting for the instructions of the Lebanese army, which will inform us about our return date," she told Xinhua.

For those who have made it back, the challenges are far from over. In the southern village of Habbaryeh, returnee Riad Issa described the uphill battle ahead. "Rebuilding homes, replanting lands, and restoring life to our villages are monumental tasks, especially with scarce resources and an ongoing economic crisis," he said.

The most daunting challenge, however, is emotional recovery. "We can rebuild what was destroyed, but the loss of loved ones and the memories of war and displacement will remain etched in our minds forever," Issa reflected.



We will remain with our livestock, estimated at 3,000 heads of sheep, in the Khan market, waiting for the instructions of the Lebanese army, which will inform us about our return date

Ningxia-grown vegetables find big market in Greater Bay Area

IN a vegetable planting base in Xianjin village, Ligang township, Helan county, Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region, which mainly supplies its produce to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), Chinese flowering cabbages were just harvested, and they would soon be shipped to Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province around 2,300 kilometers away.

"It takes only 36 hours for our Chinese flowering cabbages to reach the markets in the GBA from our fields. The demand is so high that we can hardly satisfy it," said Chen Dingyou, head of the planting base. Chen works for an agricultural technology company in Ningxia that owns vegetable distribution centers in three cities in the GBA.

Chinese flowering cabbage is a vegetable commonly used in Cantonese cuisine. In Helan county alone, there are 15 planting bases that grow it, covering a total area of 24,500 mu, or about 1,633 hectares.

The Chinese flowering cabbages harvested in Ningxia are shipped to the GBA through cold-chain logistics, and they enjoy high reputation in the region.

The unique climate is what makes Ningxia a perfect place for growing Chinese flowering cabbages. Take Helan county as an example. The county, with an average altitude of over 1,000 meters, has dry summers and enjoys rich sunshine. Besides, with the Yellow River as the source of irrigation, nutrient accumulation becomes easy for the vegetable.

Though Ningxia boasts sound natural conditions, science-based planting is still necessary. Standard planting techniques of GBA enterprises are now adopted in Ningxia.

Chen picked up his phone and showed how the vegetable is planted. In the vegetable field, neatly arranged ridges spaced 20 centimeters apart stretched across the land. The Chinese flowering cabbages glistened with water droplets as workers skillfully and swiftly cut the tender



A worker harvests Chinese flowering cabbages in a vegetable planting base in Helan county, Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region, which mainly supplies its produce to Hong Kong. (Photo by Qin Ruijie / People's Daily)

greens with precision.

Today, the vegetable base of Chen's company utilizes automated irrigation systems and drone-based crop protection operations, which have significantly reduced labor management costs.

With a simple tap on a mobile app, the 2,000-mu planting base was divided into doz-

ens of plots, where details like seeding and weeding progress were displayed.

"We've developed a digital field management and monitoring platform that allows us to manage the entire planting process - seeding, fertilizing, and watering - all from a smartphone," said Wu Xiaoning, the materials scheduling

manager of the company.

"Currently, processes like rotary tilling, seeding, and film mulching are all mechanized. The base can cultivate five full crop cycles each year, with each cycle yielding 400 to 600 kilograms. The average output value per mu for the entire planting cycle reaches 10,000 yuan (\$1,379)." Wu

added.

"The Chinese flowering cabbage grown using modern farming techniques has a crisp and tender texture," said Chen. "As soon as the product hits the market, it becomes a hot seller in the GBA."

Delivering delicious Chinese flowering cabbages to the GBA, more than 2,000 kilometers away from Ningxia, wouldn't be possible without a modern logistics system.

"The cold storage is maintained at 1.5 degrees Celsius. Once the freshly harvested Chinese flowering cabbage is brought in, it is rapidly cooled down," said Li Houxue, head of Xianfeng agriculture development company based in Ningxia, referring to a cold storage facility of the company.

After being pre-cooled for six hours, the Chinese flowering cabbage harvested is packed and sorted by 2 a.m. the next day. By 8 a.m., refrigerated trucks set off directly for Guangzhou, where the produce is distributed to secondary centers in cities like Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Dongguan. Some batches, after passing quality checks, are loaded onto trucks bound for Hong Kong, ready to hit the local market.

"With professional cold chain logistics, the transportation cost for a 15-kilogram box of Chinese flowering cabbage has been reduced to just 15 yuan," Li said.

Today, nearly 80 refrigerated trucks depart from Ningxia every day, delivering Chinese flowering cabbages to regions like the Yangtze River Delta and the GBA. To address storage challenges at the source, Helan county has ramped up cold chain infrastructure development. Currently, 56 enterprises have established cold storage facilities with a combined capacity of approximately 89,900 tons and a net volume of 449,500 cubic meters. These advancements have greatly improved the storage, preservation, and processing capabilities for agricultural products at their origin.

To meet market demand, many vegetable bases in Ningxia that supply products to Hong Kong have established strict cultivation and quality control standards. They have developed a comprehensive industrial chain from planting, management, and harvesting to packaging, cold chain transportation, and sales.

"In 2023, Helan county's vegetable planting area reached 243,800 mu, with an annual output of 474,600 tons and a production value of 1.4 billion yuan. This has effectively boosted employment and income for local farmers," said Chen Ying, director of the bureau of agriculture and rural affairs in Helan county.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT

Magese named Chief Judge for Samia Fashion Festival 2024

By Guardian Correspondent

SUPERMODEL Happiness Magese has been announced as the Chief Judge for the prestigious Samia Fashion Festival 2024, set to take place today in Zanzibar.

Speaking at a press briefing following the announcement, Magese expressed her gratitude and pride in being chosen for such a significant event, which she described as a celebration of creativity, dignity, and the legacy of Tanzania's President, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"It is a great honour and joy for me to serve as the Chief Judge for the Samia Fashion Festival 2024," said Magese. "This is a historic moment that recognizes not only the power of fashion but also the unique legacy of President Samia. I am proud to witness this celebration of artistry and national pride."

Magese, who has spent over 20 years in the global fashion and beauty industry, working with renowned brands across the world, emphasized the importance of the festival. She noted that fashion serves as an art form and a reflection of cultural identity, heritage, and pride.

"When I heard about this extraordinary project, I didn't hesitate. I immediately took a flight home to be part of this historic journey. This festival is not just about clothes; it's about our respect and pride as Tanzanians," she said.

Magese highlighted the significance of the Samia dress, describing it as a symbol of dignity, leadership, and respect. She called it a masterpiece that deserves to be preserved in museums as a tribute to the legacy of President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan.

"It has been my dream to see the Samia dress become both a national and international symbol. It represents the beauty, strength, and unity of Tanzania. Let's do something extraordinary that will take us global and leave a lasting legacy," Magese urged.

Joining Magese on the judging panel



It has been my dream to see the Samia dress become both a national and international symbol. It represents the beauty, strength, and unity of Tanzania. Let's do something extraordinary that will take us global and leave a lasting legacy

are some of Tanzania's most prominent figures from the arts, fashion, and entertainment industries:

Idris Sultan: Celebrated actor and comedian; Khadija Mwanamboka: Renowned designer and arts advocate, as well as the founder of the festival; Jokate Mwegelo: Acclaimed leader and former beauty queen, Martin Kadinda: Esteemed fashion designer; Faraja Nyalandu: Community leader and former beauty queen and Nancy Sumari: Accomplished entrepreneur and former Miss World Africa.

According to festival founder Khadija Mwanamboka, the event is not only a celebration of fashion but also a platform for social impact. Proceeds from the festival will go toward supporting children living with HIV/AIDS and cancer.

Mwanamboka expressed her gratitude for the involvement of talented models, designers, and artists, stating that their participation highlights the importance of using art and fashion to create meaningful change in society.

Yanga's stumbling start: Lessons from the 2-0 defeat to Al Hilal

By Correspondent Seth Mappili

THE resounding 2-0 defeat by Sudanese giants Al Hilal at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday has left fans of Young Africans SC (Yanga) grappling with numerous questions.

The result in this opening Group A fixture of the CAF Champions League raised doubts about the team's readiness and ability to compete at the highest level of African football this season.

The reigning Premier League champions were far from their dominant best, falling victim to a clinical and organized Al Hilal side.

The loss not only dented Young Africans' campaign but also highlighted areas of concern that demand immediate attention if they are to progress beyond the group stages.

However, all hope is not lost. This setback, painful as it is, can serve as a valuable lesson for Young Africans to regroup and reignite their ambitions.

Young Africans' defensive frailties were laid bare during the encounter. The center-back pairing of Ibrahim Hamad "Bacca" and Dickson Job struggled to maintain cohesion, leaving gaps that Al Hilal ruthlessly exploited.

The Sudanese side capitalized on defensive lapses, particularly through high balls and swift counter-attacks. The two goals Young Africans conceded were emblematic of poor communication and positioning among the defenders.

For head coach Sead Ramovic, addressing these defensive issues is



Al Hilal winger Yassir Mozamil scores his side's second goal against Young Africans during the CAF Champions League Group A match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Courtesy of Al Hilal.

a priority. Improved coordination between the center-backs, coupled with targeted drills to handle aerial threats, could mitigate the vulnerabilities that Al Hilal exposed.

Additionally, goalkeeper Djigui Diarra needs to enhance his communication with the backline. On several occasions, Diarra hesitated to come off his line decisively, giving Al Hilal's attackers the upper hand.

With better proactive goalkeeping, Young Africans can strengthen their defensive discipline in future matches. The absence of Khalid Aucho due to injury left a noticeable void in Young Africans' midfield. Aucho's ability to disrupt opposition play and initiate attacks was sorely missed.

In his absence, Mudathir Yahya and Duke Abuja worked hard but lacked the dynamism to dominate the midfield battle. Their inability to transition quickly from defense to attack left Young Africans' forwards starved of quality service.

Stephano Aziz Ki, one of Young Africans' most creative midfielders, found himself isolated and unable to influence the game effectively. For

Young Africans to succeed in their upcoming fixtures, they must find ways to provide better support to Ki. Allowing him more freedom to deliver decisive passes to the forwards could unlock opposition defenses.

Additionally, the midfield unit needs to tighten its defensive responsibilities to prevent opponents from over-running them.

Young Africans' inability to convert chances into goals was another glaring issue against Al Hilal. Prince Dube, leading the line, squandered several clear-cut opportunities that could have altered the course of the game. The lack of clinical finishing has been a recurring concern, and it reared its head at a critical juncture in this match.

Coach Ramovic must prioritize finishing drills in training sessions to sharpen his attackers' instincts. Dube, in particular, needs to regain his confidence in front of goal.

Meanwhile, the technical bench could consider handing an opportunity to Clement Mzize in the central striker role, as he may bring a different dynamic to Young Africans' attack.

Tactically, Young Africans must approach their remaining group-stage matches with meticulous planning and discipline. Players need to execute the coach's instructions with precision and maintain their focus throughout the game.

Ramovic's ability to devise specific strategies tailored to each opponent will be crucial in turning Young Africans' fortunes around.

Beyond the technical and tactical aspects, the team must address the psychological impact of this loss. A home defeat in a major tournament opener can dent the morale of both players and fans.

The technical bench bears the responsibility of lifting the players' spirits and instilling a belief that they can still achieve their goals.

Motivational talks, coupled with a renewed sense of unity, can go a long way in restoring confidence.

Young Africans' campaign is far from over. While the defeat to Al Hilal is a setback, it is not insurmountable. With five group-stage matches remaining, there is ample time for the team to rectify their shortcomings and

mount a strong challenge for a place in the knockout stages.

The road ahead begins with introspection. Identifying and addressing the weaknesses that led to the defeat is critical. Young Africans' coaching staff must implement solutions that bolster the team's defense, enhance midfield creativity, and improve attacking efficiency.

Moreover, a collective commitment to improvement from the players will be essential in executing these plans.

For Young Africans' passionate fans, the result was a bitter pill to swallow, but it also serves as a rallying point. Their unwavering support will be pivotal in motivating the players and creating an intimidating atmosphere for visiting teams in future home games.

Football is a game of highs and lows, and Young Africans' journey in this year's CAF Champions League is no exception. The defeat to Al Hilal underscores the challenges that come with competing at the continental level, but it also presents an opportunity for growth.

With determination, strategic adjustments, and the support of their fans, Young Africans can transform this early stumble into a stepping stone for success.

As the dust settles on their opening match, all eyes now turn to Young Africans' response. Their next fixture will not only test their resilience but also serve as a statement of their intentions in this prestigious competition.

For Young Africans, the journey continues, and the belief remains that brighter days lie ahead.

Pak Stars A stun Caravans in 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

PAK Stars A cricketers have showcased their title contenders' calibre in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League, having secured a six-wicket defeat of Caravans Cricket Club on Wednesday.

The bowling unit, led by the experienced Nisar Ahmed, exhibited a spirited showing as Pak Stars A tamed the well-drilled Caravans Cricket Club when the squads met at the Annadil Burhani Oval in Dar es Salaam.

The Jitin Singh-led Caravans Cricket Club started to bat in the encounter -notching 115/9 in the scheduled 20 overs.

Much as Caravans Cricket Club is one of the squads boasting depth in batting in local cricket, it found it difficult to deal with a resolute approach deployed by the opponents when the latter fielded.

Openers Praveen Puthanpurayil (11 runs) and Hamisi (15 runs), early on, battled to offer the batting squad a good start and pushed their outfit's total to 31-2 when Hamisi faced dismissal.

Efforts by Pak Stars A to foil Caravans Cricket Club's pursuit of a better total were in view from the third over after Ivan Ismail had gone for a catch to get Puthanpurayil out from a Hassan Raza ball.

The Caravans Cricket Club's opener was followed by his fellow

opener Hamisi in the fifth over, as Pak Stars A's Mohammad Ali performed a catch to get Hamisi out from Raza's delivery.

Amal Rajeevan turned out to be the batsman with the most runs during Caravans Cricket Club's turn with the bat, having notched 22 runs.

Rajeevan had Caravans Cricket Club reaching 93-7 when the cricketer returned in the 15th over.

All-rounder Kassim Nassoro's 17 runs and Justin Thomas's 15 runs were the other notable contributions when Caravans Cricket Club batted.

An early dismissal of skipper Singh was one of the major setbacks for the batting team, as the cricketer made his way back with a mere two runs from five knocks.

Singh has, in recent years, become a cricketer with consistent showing in various tournaments, helping Caravans Cricket Club enjoy enormous achievements.

Eight extras, consisting of one leg bye, six wides and one no-ball given away by Pak Stars A's bowling unit, somehow bolstered Caravans Cricket Club's total.

Pak Stars A's Ahmed concluded with 2-22, and fellow bowlers Raza (2-23) and Younas Afridi (2-36) had a good outing too.

The trio's efforts saw to it their club thwarted an attempt by Caravans Cricket Club to end the innings with an imposing total.

Needing 116 runs to emerge victorious, Pak Stars A cricketers



Pak Stars A cricketers.

played their hearts out, notching 117/4 with 18 balls remaining to secure the win.

Opening batsman Ismail had the club confidently embarking on the successful chase, thanks to his solid batting display.

Ismail garnered 56 runs not out in what turned out to be the best batting showing on the day, whilst grabbing six boundaries and two sixes.

The fellow opening batsman Mohamed Omary ended with 11 runs, with the cricketer's efforts to make his presence count being brought to an end by Caravans Cricket Club's Thomas in the third over.

Team captain Kashif Adnan had the batting squad's successful chase in sight thanks to his 24 runs.

Ali (eight runs) and Raza's eight

runs not out were equally useful for the batting side as it catered to the victory.

Ismail's scintillating batting showing eventually earned the cricketer the Player of the Match honour.

Caravans Cricket Club, before the November 24 fixtures, enjoyed the driver's seat, boasting an impressive 1.7368 Net Run Rate (NRR) having won four ties and

conceded a loss in one.

Second-placed Aces A had taken pride in having the same number of matches won and lost but the squad has posted a 0.6980 NRR.

Lions A was sitting third with a victory in three ties and a loss in two, which have had the side settling for a -0.2463 NRR.

Pak Stars A was positioned fourth with a 0.5336 NRR from a victory in two games and a loss in as many ties.

Although fifth-placed Strikers tied Pak Stars A on the number of wins and losses, they had an inferior -0.9211 NRR.

Delaware Upanga SC A was placed sixth with a -0.6925 NRR following a victory in one clash and a loss in three matches.

Bottom-placed Aga Khan SC had yet to emerge victorious in the five matches it has taken part in, settling for an inferior -1.5357 NRR.

Aga Khan SC, which is seemingly going through a rough patch, had garnered 675 runs and leaked 754 runs in the ties it has honoured.

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 teams battling for the silverware in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

Konate injury clouds Liverpool's horizon ahead of Man City clash

LONDON

LIVERPOOL are sweating on the fitness of central defender Ibrahima Konate for Sunday's home Premier League clash with champions Manchester City but Trent Alexander-Arnold is ready to return.

The one sizeable cloud on Liverpool's horizon after an impressive 2-0 victory over Real Madrid on Wednesday in the Champions League was the sight of Konate and right back Conor Bradley hobbling off the field.

France international Konate is a particular worry for manager Arne Slot as he has been superb at the heart of a Liverpool defence that has conceded only eight Premier League goals in 12 games.

Former RB Leipzig player Konate appeared to have hurt his knee while Bradley, who was outstanding up against Real's Kylian Mbappe, looked to be struggling with a hamstring.

"Conor, I had to take him off and Ibou didn't walk off the pitch as he should have after such a fantastic game that he played," Slot told reporters on Thursday.

"He should have made a round of the pitch and clapped the fans but unfortunately he couldn't so that's not a good sign.

"They are still being assessed and it is so close after the game yesterday night, and I just came off the training pitch. So, I can't tell you exactly where they are, so we have to wait and see where they are this weekend and after that."

Liverpool's record of 15 wins from 17 games in all competitions under Slot is all the more impressive as they have suffered injuries to the likes of first-choice keeper Alisson, Diogo Jota, Konstantinos Tsimikas and Alexander-Arnold.

"In general, people only talk about injuries if results aren't there, so it is good people don't talk about them," Slot said. "But the moment you start to lose it is about kickoff times or injuries but nine out of 10 times it is quality of game plan or quality of other team."

REUTERS

Tottenham manager Postecoglou frustrated by Roma draw

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou admitted his frustration after his side were held to a 2-2 home draw by AS Roma in the Europa League on Thursday, after a late goal from Mats Hummels snatched victory from the Premier League side.

Spurs were coming off the back of an impressive 4-0 win at Manchester City in the English top flight and twice led the Italian side.

"It's obviously frustrating, especially when they score so late," Postecoglou told TNT Sports.

"It was a good game, we probably should have wrapped it up a lot earlier. We missed some great chances and at 2-1 you're always going to keep them in the game. So it's disappointing not to see it out."

Spurs took an early lead when Son Heung-min converted a fifth-minute penalty, Roma levelled through Evan N'Dicka and Brennan Johnson put the home side back in front before halftime.

Hummels' 91st-minute strike, however, sent Spurs down to ninth in the standings on 10 points.

"We're still in a good position (in the Europa League table). From a depth perspective, we're still pretty thin and we had some youngsters on the bench," Postecoglou said.

"Nevertheless, I think we had enough of the game and enough clear chances to win."

Roma coach Claudio Ranieri, at the start of his third spell as manager of the capital club, praised his side for grabbing a deserved point.

"The boys played a great game. I didn't expect such a reaction," he said.

"Today I was clear. We can't sit back, we can't be afraid. If Spurs attack, we have to counter. That's what the fans like. The boys understood that and I'm happy with that. I told them the result was secondary."

REUTERS

Man United's Hojlund hoping to thrive in Amorim's system

LONDON

RASMUS Hojlund said Manchester United's style of play under newly-appointed manager Ruben Amorim suited him well after the Danish striker scored twice to secure a 3-2 comeback victory over Bodo/Glimt in the Europa League on Thursday.

"I think the new system ... is suiting my style," the 21-year-old told reporters following their first win since Amorim's arrival.

"I think the process is very different. I have to focus a little bit more on what's in front of me instead of behind me.

"I've played this sort of football - I don't say it's the same - but the 3-4-3 I used to play in Atalanta, little bit the same."

REUTERS

Manchester United win, Spurs draw with Roma, Lazio held

ROME

MANCHESTER United came from behind to beat Bodo/Glimt 3-2 in the Europa League on Thursday, Spurs conceded late to draw 2-2 with AS Roma and leaders Lazio were held to a scoreless draw by Ludogorets.

Athletic Bilbao enjoyed an easy win over Elfsborg and Eintracht Frankfurt beat Midtjylland to draw level on 13 points with Lazio as Galatasaray and Anderlecht were held to draws.

United, in manager Ruben Amorim's first game at Old Trafford, had the perfect start thanks to a howler from the Bodo goalkeeper in the first minute which allowed Alejandro Garnacho in for an easy goal.

The Norwegian side went ahead through Hakon Evjen's superb strike in the 19th minute and a goal from Philip Zinckernagel four minutes later, but United levelled just before the break through Rasmus Hojlund.

The Danish striker scored again five minutes after the break and United's second successive win moved them up to 12th in the standings on nine points.



AS Roma's Mats Hummels scores their second goal against Tottenham Hotspur during their Europa League match at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, in London, Britain on November 28, 2024. REUTERS

Spurs also took an early lead at home, with Son Heung-min converting a penalty in the fifth minute but Roma drew level through Evan N'Dicka before Brennan Johnson put the home side back in front before halftime.

A dominant Spurs failed to put Roma away, however, and Mats Hummels' added-time goal

meant the English side slipped to ninth on 10 points, with Roma 21st on six.

Lazio, who had won all four previous games, were held to a frustrating scoreless draw by a Bulgarian side who came to defend.

BILBAO CRUISE

Bilbao eased to a 3-0

win over Swedish side Elfsborg thanks to goals from Adama Boiro, Benat Prados Diaz and Gorka Guruzeta while Frankfurt beat Midtjylland 2-1, with Hugo Larsson putting them ahead early on and Omar Marmoush's penalty sealing the win.

Anderlecht were denied the chance to move

level with Lazio by a 2-2 home draw with Porto, the Belgians twice coming from behind and Francis Amuzu netting four minutes from time to salvage a draw.

Galatasaray are also on 11 points after they were held to a 1-1 home draw by AZ Alkmaar. The Turkish side went ahead after two minutes

through Sven Mijns but a Peer Koopmeiners own goal denied them the win.

Ajax Amsterdam remained on 10 points and are sixth in the standings after a 2-0 defeat at Real Sociedad, moving the Spanish side up to 16th on seven points.

Rangers moved into the top eight on 10 points with a 4-1 victory in France over Nice, with Hamza Igamane netting twice after Vaclav Cerny and Mohammed Diomande put the Scottish side two goals up. Nice are second from bottom on two points.

Lyon ran out 4-1 winners in Azerbaijan against Qarabag, Georges Mikautdze opening and closing the scoring and they are also on 10 points in seventh place.

Maccabi Tel Aviv earned their first victory of the competition with a 3-1 win at Turkish side Besiktas, in a game played in Debrecen, Hungary for security reasons.

At 2-1 down Besiktas had a chance to level but Ciro Immobile's penalty was saved and Wesley Patati put the Israeli side out of sight 10 minutes from time.

REUTERS

Is Liverpool match win or bust for Man City?

LONDON

IT has been 34 days since Manchester City last tasted victory in any competition.

Since that 1-0 win over Southampton in the Premier League, Pep Guardiola's side have gone out of the EFL Cup, lost three Premier League games on the spin and dropped five points out of six in the Champions League.

Now, eight points adrift of top spot, they face the prospect of potentially falling out of the Premier League title race with the toughest of challenges at league leaders Liverpool on Sunday.

If City lose to Arne Slot's in-form Reds, they will be 11 points behind their title rivals.

Defensive frailties, a fragile mentality, significant injuries and a lack of confidence are just some of the things pundits, Guardiola and his players have cited for this uncharacteristic downturn.

Midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, who captained City to a Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League Treble in 2022-23, said his side's current situation was "inexplicable".

He said 11 points would be a "huge gap", while Guardiola also agreed "it's true" such a deficit could be too significant to overhaul.

Are they right? Would that tally prove too much for a side renowned for fighting until the end of the season?

"Would defeat end Man City's title hopes? - what the stats say

• Only on three occasions has a team



come from 11+ points behind in a Premier League season to win the title.

• Manchester City have never managed to win the title after being behind by more than 10 points

• To offer some hope, though, they have clawed back deficits of between 8-10 points to win the title on six occasions - and all at a later stage of the campaign than now

• No team, having won the title, has ever lost four in a row in a Premier League campaign

• Only once has a team had an 11-point lead after 13 games and that was Manchester United in the 1993-94 season. They went on to win the title.

• Never before has a team lost five matches in a row - City's run before Tuesday's draw - and become champions.

• Guardiola had never previously lost five successive games in his entire managerial career.

• Squandering a three-

goal lead against Feyenoord in the Champions League to eventually draw 3-3 meant City have conceded two or more goals in six successive matches in all competitions for the first time since May 1963.

"There is no way back" - what the pundits think

As shown above, Manchester City are no strangers in turning around a sticky patch of form to go on to win the league.

In fact, in four of

Guardiola's six Premier League title-winning seasons, they have overturned gaps of eight points or more.

An ability to recover from a string of poor results and embark on a relentless winning streak, particularly entering the latter stages, means no one dares to write them off in a title race.

But, for once, history is not on their side. Going by the statistics, an eight-point gap feels doable, but to come from 11 behind is something they have never done

before - and not many others have either.

Based on their current form, serious doubts are being aired.

Former Everton midfielder Leon Osman said on BBC Radio 5 Live: "You know now that if you can get a bit of momentum in a game you can actually blow Manchester City away at the moment. They concede one, they look like their doors are opening.

"It seems to be a mental thing. The game management does not seem to be there. They keep making mistakes or leaving an opportunity for the opposition."

Former Blackburn striker Chris Sutton said City look "fragile" and clearly "lack belief".

"Can they recover overall?" he added. "Maybe we're at the stage where we're looking at Manchester City and wondering can they recover that confidence?"

It is impossible to ignore the significance of injuries to Rodri, Ruben Dias, John Stones, Kevin de Bruyne, Jack Grealish and even Oscar Bobb.

"Historically, you know City can do it but they look so depleted at the moment," said former Brighton striker Glenn Murray.

"The result [against Liverpool] will have a huge swing on the title race."

Former Liverpool and Scotland midfielder Don Hutchison said "there is no way back" for Guardiola's side if they lose at Anfield, but a victory would change the conversation.

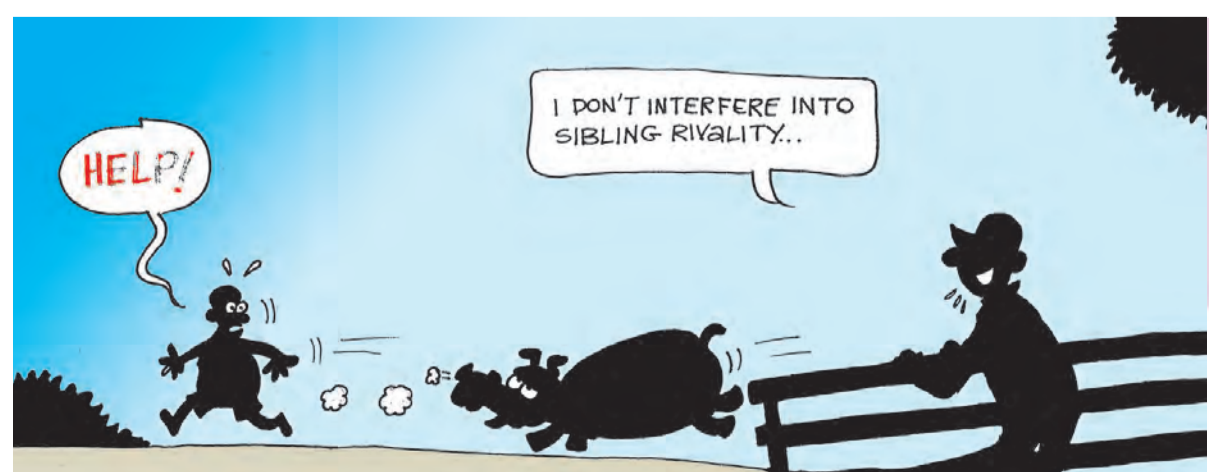
"They are capable of putting a stretch of wins together," he added.

"If they can get their season back on track with a result at Anfield then we will all change our tune and say they are back. It is a game that has enormous pressure for City."

Guardiola has committed himself to the club for the next two years but will have to pull off one of his greatest feats if City are to have a chance of lifting an unprecedented fifth consecutive trophy come May.

BBC

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Manchester United win, Spurs draw with Roma, Lazio held

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Yanga out to stop the rot against Namungo FC

While Young Africans remain title contenders, the form of leaders Simba and second placed Azam means there's no room for further missteps.

Despite their recent struggles, Young Africans' pedigree and record against Namungo make them strong favourites to bounce back.

They have enjoyed plenty of success against Namungo, winning all their most recent five Premier League encounters.

On the other side, hosts Namungo are also bidding to return to winning ways after suffering defeat in their last two games against Mashujaa and KMC.

The root cause of problems is their struggle to score goals. They have scored just five goals in 11 games, making them the most-blunt attacking side in the league. Meanwhile, they allowed 13 goals to their opponents.

They have only managed to keep one clean sheet in

four home games, so they will be eager to tighten things up at the back if they are to stop Young Africans.

To make matters worse Namungo haven't been on their best run at home. With two wins and three losses in five home games, they are the second-worst home team, with just six points.



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SEEKING to avoid losing four games in a row for the first time, Young Africans travel to the Majaliwa Stadium to face Namungo in the Premier League this evening.

Young Africans' side, synonymous with dominance, are in an uncharted territory in what has been a very tough month of November.

Following defeats to Azam and Tabora United in the Premier League, Young Africans were hammered 2-0 by Sudan's Al Hilal in the CAF Champions League on Tuesday, marking a third consecutive defeat in all competitions.

Injuries and suspensions have limited the effectiveness of the usually relentless Young Africans winning machine, with Khalid Aucho the most notable absentee at the base of midfield against Al Hilal.

Even those available have underdelivered, however, with Prince Dube's profligacy and defensive errors having proven costly in recent matches.

Still, the reigning champions remain third in the Premier League table - three points behind Azam - thanks to a record of eight wins, two draws and two losses. They also have two games in hand over Azam.



Simba prioritize results over style in CAF Confederation Cup campaign, says Ally

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Media and Information Manager, Ahmed Ally, has called on fans to focus on the importance of winning matches in the CAF Confederation Cup, even if it means sacrificing an attractive style of play.

His remarks follow Simba's hard-fought 1-0 victory over Angola's Bravos do Maquis on Wednesday.

The match, part of the opening round of Group A fixtures, saw Simba secure three valuable points thanks to a penalty goal.

The tightly contested encounter featured missed opportunities for both sides, with Bravos do Maquis notably failing to convert a second-half penalty that could have levelled the match.

While some fans expressed dissatisfaction with the team's performance, Ally (pictured) emphasized that the ultimate goal is to progress in the tournament. He noted that Simba face tough opposition in what has been labelled the "Group of Death" and that securing results is paramount.

"Fans need to understand that winning is the primary goal in CAF interclub competitions, especially in the group stage," Ally stated. "We prioritize victories over aesthetics. Our focus is on securing points and advancing to the next round."

He also highlighted the challenges of facing an unfamiliar opponent in Bravos do Maquis, which made it difficult to fully analyze their strengths and weaknesses before the match.

Ally explained that the team adopted a more defensive approach in the second half to protect their narrow lead, particularly after Bravos do Maquis increased their attacking intensity following their missed penalty.

"In the second half, Bravos do Maquis pushed forward aggressively. We had to be cautious and defend deep to maintain our lead. Our main objective was to win the match, and we achieved that," he said.

Simba now shift their focus to their next group-stage match against Algeria's CS Constantine. The Algerian side also started their campaign with a victory, defeating Tunisia's CS Sfaxien 1-0 in the other Group A fixture.

Both teams are tied at the top of the group with three points each while Bravos do Maquis and CS Sfaxien are tied at the bottom.

"We're now preparing for the next match against CS Constantine," Ally stated. "Our goal is to continue our winning momentum and secure a place in the quarter-finals of the CAF Confederation Cup. If possible, we aim to go all the way to the final."

Ally concluded by thanking Simba's supporters for their unwavering dedication and urged them to remain patient and supportive as the team navigates the challenges of continental football.

"We are happy to have collected maximum points in this tough opening match. I want to thank the fans for their incredible support. We encourage them to stand by us as we continue our journey in this competition," he said.

Ramovic targets Premier League turnaround in Yanga debut

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) will lock horns with Namungo FC today in a pivotal Premier League clash at Majaliwa Stadium, Ruangwa, Lindi. The highly anticipated match is set to kick off at 6:30 PM, with both teams seeking to end their recent winless runs.

The defending champions, Young Africans, are eager to regain form following consecutive league defeats. Their campaign hit a rough patch with a 1-0 loss to Azam FC on November 2 and a surprising 3-1 defeat to Tabora United on November 7 at the Azam Complex in Chamazi.

Meanwhile, Namungo have endured a difficult season, managing just nine points from 11 matches and losing eight of those games.

Young Africans enter the fixture in third place on the league table with 24 points

from 10 matches, trailing leaders Simba SC by four points. A win today would help narrow that gap and keep their title defense on track. Namungo FC, sitting in 13th place, will be fighting to climb out of the relegation zone and secure a morale-boosting result at home.

This match carries extra significance as it marks the Premier League debut of Young Africans' new head coach, Sead Ramovic (pictured). The coach's tenure began with a setback - Tuesday's 2-0 home loss to Al Hilal in the CAF Champions League - but he remains optimistic about the team's potential.

"We have a very difficult and important game today. In our preparations so far, everything is fine. We know Namungo has experienced players, but we are here for nothing less than three

points," said Ramovic

He also thanked Young Africans' fans for their unwavering support, expressing his determination to repay their loyalty with a positive result.

Namungo, on the other hand, are now led by coach Juma Mgunda, who replaced Mwynyi Zahera.

Zahera has since taken on a new role as the club's technical bench advisor. Today's game will be Mgunda's second in charge, as he seeks to steer Namungo to safety and turn around their dismal run of form.

History favours Young Africans in this matchup, as Namungo have never defeated the defending champions in their 10 previous Premier League meetings.

Young Africans have won five times and drawn five, including two away victories at Majaliwa Stadium. Across these encounters, Young Af-

ricans have scored 15 goals compared to Namungo's seven, further underlining their dominance in the rivalry.

For Young Africans, this game is not just about three points - it's an opportunity to bounce back, rebuild confidence, and reassert their dominance in the league. With tough competition from Simba SC and Azam FC, every point matters as Young Africans defend their Premier League title.

For Namungo, the stakes are equally high. A positive result against one of the league's top sides could provide the momentum needed to climb out of the relegation zone and revitalize their campaign.

Young Africans will rely on their experienced players to lead the charge, aiming to capitalize on Namungo's vulnerabilities. Coach Ramovic is expected to field his

strongest lineup, focusing on solidifying the team's attacking and defensive strategies.

Namungo's hopes rest on their seasoned players and the energy of the home crowd. Coach Mgunda will likely prioritize a disciplined approach, seeking to frustrate Young Africans and exploit counterattacking opportunities.

As both teams prepare to battle at Majaliwa Stadium, fans can expect a fiercely contested match. Young Africans are desperate to recover from recent setbacks, while Namungo sees this as a golden opportunity to make a statement.

Will Young Africans rise to the occasion under their new coach, or will Namungo defy the odds and secure a crucial victory? All eyes will be on Ruangwa tonight for this high-stakes Premier League showdown.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

