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Family Vibes roots for mental health in school curriculums

By Getrude Mbago

INCORPORATING mental health issues into education curriculums would enable children to grow while having a wider understanding of challenges they face during development to adulthood, an expert has declared.

Dr Mayrose Majinge, the Family Vibes Foundation executive director, said this in an interview at the weekend in Dar es Salaam, in view of the forthcoming national forum on mental health, scheduled for next Tuesday in the city.

She said teaching children about good mental health and how they can live to avoid poor mental health "will greatly help the country to have a healthy, strong generation and workforce."

The forum slated for Uhuru Stadium will include free medical screening and counseling from the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Muhimbili National Hospital, Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital and Temeke District Hospital specialists, the organiser noted.

Many people suffer from challenges arising from poor mental health, affecting their daily social and economic activities, she said, underlining that it is high time for the country to prioritize supporting people with poor mental health.



It will also focus on gender-based violence as well as educating the public on the importance of forgiving

The government should also put in place robust strategies and policies for mental health improvement in the population, she stated, pointing out that poor mental health brings a lot of challenges at family level and the nation at large.

Anger and long-term hatred, isolation and low-level depression are among the symptoms of a person with poor mental health which can be cured by education and correct counseling, she affirmed.

Poverty, violence and hunger count among major causes of poor mental health among children and adults, she stated, urging robust efforts to help people facing such challenges.

The forum will convene mental health experts from various institutions to raise public awareness on what to do to avoid poor mental health, she said, elaborating that during the forum, participants will have an opportunity to share views on resources for programmes promoting the mental health of staff and volunteers.

It will also focus on gender-based violence (GBV) as well as educating the public on the importance of forgiving, the director underlined.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) executive director, is expected to officiate at this event, targeting the building of national understanding and the power to overcome poor mental health challenges, she stated.

The government and stakeholders need to work collaboratively to strengthen psycho-social support for patients or victims in schools, health centres and at

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson shortly after arriving in Arusha city yesterday to grace the seven-day 53rd Plenary Assembly Session of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum yesterday. Photo: State House

ATCL to add two MAX-9 planes, one Dreamliner

By Guardian Reporter

THE national flag carrier—Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is set to procure three new passenger flights to further improve air transport services and boost the country's tourism industry.

Ladislau Matindi, the managing director, said at a press conference yesterday that the three proposed new planes are Boeing 737 MAX 9 with fuel-efficient engines, allowing the airline to fly further and quieter, reducing carbon emissions.

The 737-9 MAX series is Boeing's newest family of single-aisle airplanes, where a single aisle aircraft can carry any number of passengers ranging from as low as four to as high as three hundred, characterized by its narrow body.

ATCL is planning to add another Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner for intercontinental routes," he said at the company's pavilion for the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) along Kilwa Road.

ATCL's situation continues to improve, increasing the number of aircraft to 12

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'SADC has to create 11m new jobs yearly'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) needs to create an average of 11m new jobs each year if the region is to keep up with the increasing number of young people needing employment slots, a parliamentary gathering has been told.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan made this observation here yesterday when opening the 53rd plenary assembly of the SADC parliamentary forum, noting that the SADC zone has the youngest population in the world.

Over 60 percent of its 380m inhabitants are youths aged 18 to 35 years, she said, citing current demographic data available with United Nations agencies.



We selected 812 for pioneering projects and they are being trained at 13 special incubation centers

"The only area which can guarantee reliable and sustainable employment for the youth in the SADC region is agriculture," she stated at the forum running under the theme 'the role of parliaments in modernizing agriculture to address food insecurity and youth unemployment.'

"It is rather sad to learn that more than 50m people in the SADC region are food insecure, despite the fact that we have nearly 9.9m square kilometers of arable land capable of producing bumper harvests," she told the gathering.

The solution to both problems, that is food insecurity and youth unemployment, is for countries to invest heavily in agriculture, she further noted, pointing out that Tanzania is increasing its annual

Students stranded: Buses parked over excess bajajs

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA city residents yesterday found themselves in an appalling situation with transport disruption as commuter bus drivers left buses on parking lots.

A casual survey in various parts of the city saw groups of school children failing to attend classes as they stayed at bus stations for hours to no avail, while bus drivers and touts complained to the regulatory authorities that tricycles (bajaj) were



harming their ability to operate.

The drivers suspended services to put pressure on the government to remove bajaj services on city roads and bar them from carrying passengers as commuters.

Interviewed residents said the strike wrought havoc on daily activities, with Fetty Michael, a resident, urging that the government take urgent measures to address the problem as heavy impact is felt. Mariam Hamisi, a Usa River resident,

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'SADC has to create 11m new jobs yearly'

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agricultural budgets.

As of the current fiscal year, the country has allocated over 1trn/- for the sector, she said, highlighting the emphasis as in irrigation and farm technology.

She implored SADC member states to channel more funds into food production and ensure that the sector involves the youth, similarly remarking that

Tanzania is setting an example by incubating young people in the sector through the recently launched 'Building a Better Tomorrow,' programme.

Most Tanzanian youth are eager to get involved in agricultural activities, she said, specifying that upon announcing the programme, thousands of young people turned up to be enrolled.

"We selected 812 for pioneering

projects and they are being trained at 13 special incubation centers," she said, affirming that through the 'Building a Better Tomorrow,' programme, the youth will be provided with pieces of land for farming, financial support through loaning schemes and be assured of market outlets.

Delegates from the 15 SADC member states attending the parliamentary forum will be visiting some youth agricultural incubation centers in Arusha, officials said.

At a preceding symposium, Zimbabwe Speaker Jacob Mudenda said his country has managed to transform the agricultural sector against all odds despite suffering more than a decade of international sanctions.

"At the moment Zimbabwe is self-sufficient in grain. We no longer need to import wheat," he declared.

ATCL to add two MAX-9 planes, one Dreamliner

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at present, before the scheduled procurement, he said.

"We had challenges with our Airbus planes, but we are sure that by the end of this month two planes will be back after undergoing maintenance," he said. This will raise the number of operating Airbus planes to three, with the fourth expected to be ready by the end of August, he elaborated.

The situation arose from the makers of engines having a problem that is now successfully solved, he said, noting that the demand for air transport services in Mwanza had risen, thus ATCL was increasing scheduled flights.

Efforts are on-going to increase the number of flights at the Dodoma airport so that planes can land at night, with airport improvement expected to be completed by

November, he said.

Yet another cargo plane is expected, with all procedures for ordering having been completed, he said, elaborating that the company is now focused on pilot training and registering the new plane.

"ATCL is a solution for businessmen as we will now be going to more local and international destinations like Mumbai, Lubumbashi, Lusaka, Harare, Entebbe and Kinshasa," he said, underlining that carrying passengers was now shouldered by but transfer cargo business.

ATCL was finalising registration processes to introduce flights to China and Europe, he said

Last month, President Samia Suluhu Hassan officiated at the arrival of a new cargo aircraft—Boeing 767-300F, which she said will enable ATCL to compete globally.

Family Vibes roots for mental health in school curriculums

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the community level. This is vital to so as to protect children and youth, she emphasised.

"We need to train, hire more social workers for stationing at designated grassroots level centres, to ensure that the public is educated and children are assisted when they face challenges, she said.

A World Health Organisation (WHO) World Mental Health Report launched in June 2022 showed that in 2019, one in eight people globally showed symptoms of mental disorder, adding to upwards of 970m individuals, he said.

In addition, one in 100 instances of death globally resulted from suicides, with more than 50 percent of those cases occurring before the age of 50, being the fourth most frequent cause of mortality among those aged 15 to 29, the director noted.

Childhood sexual abuse and bullying contributed considerably to the loss of active life due to

mental health, he said, highlighting that people with mental illness are susceptible to widespread stigma and misinformation, losing their lives 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population.

The report sets out three interconnected paths to transform mental health services in African countries, including the need to value and enhance commitment for mental health patients, he said.

Reshaping environments that diminish mental health ability across the course of life in ways that reduce risks and strengthen protective factors is vital "so that everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive and reach the highest attainable level of mental health and well-being from youthful to older ages, he said.

Another aspect is to strengthen mental health care for the full spectrum of mental health needs to be met via a community-based network of accessible, affordable and quality services and support, he added.

Vision Care conducts local training of experts at MNH

By Henry Mwangonde

AN international relief organisation, Vision Care, is training local experts at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) on phacoemulsification—a modern-day cataract surgery that employs ultrasound energy to emulsify the nucleus in the eye.

The experts are also being trained on surgical ophthalmic a surgical subspecialty within medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of eye disorders.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, president of Vision Care USA—Prof Lisa Park who is an Ophthalmologist and associate Professor at Columbia University in the United States said the training is

aimed at promoting development of sustainable eye care in Tanzania.

"The training will equip Tanzania medical professionals with knowledge on how to carry this kind of surgery which is now operational globally," she said.

She said the aim of the training is to empower healthcare professionals with advanced surgical skills as well as encourage and develop infrastructure for the delivery of eye care as well as increase the sustainability of the activity of preventing blindness. "More Also, we expect this procedure will improve visual rehabilitation to patients," said prof Park.

Vision care is currently implementing its long-term project on Prevention of Blindness through



It's a risky and tricky but practically unavoidable three-wheeler taxi ride for these residents of Kwa Morombo suburb in Arusha yesterday following a strike by operators of commuter bus claiming that they were paying higher levies than their Bajaj and bodaboda counterparts with whom they were competing for passengers. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Students stranded: Buses parked over excess bajajs

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she had to ask for help from upcountry buses to reach near her work station as there was no other way.

"The situation affects us a lot, students, traders and public servants are the ones feeling the impact of the transport challenge," she said.

Hamisa Juma, a student at Kaloleni secondary school in Murieti ward, said that she stayed at the bus station for five hours and no transport was available.

"I don't understand why the drivers are striking and preventing us to reach school, because we

cannot even afford taking bajaj. The only transport we depend on is daladala," she said.

Alfred Kisela, a commuter bus driver, said they protested to push for immediate measures to rescue their business which has greatly been disoriented by bajaj intrusion.

"Bajaj drivers are now taking control of commuter transport," he said, underlining that this situation is irregular as commuter buses are legally recognized to provide public transport services.

"So with the situation, our business has become hard and we see that things are not going well," he affirmed, asserting that it is now

habitual for daladala drivers to compete for passengers with bajaj drivers on the road and bus stands.

Selemani Salim, also a driver, said that bajaj are making things difficult as they operate illegally, taking any route they choose.

"The tricycles have a lot of advantages as they do not pay levy for carrying passengers. We are the ones feeling the pinch of this challenge in the business as we have multiple levies and taxes to pay, while the business environment is unpleasant," he stated.

Amani Mwakalebela, the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) regional officer, admitted

that the city has been overwhelmed by a big number of tricycles. LATRA was working on the challenge, he stated.

LATRA issued licences to 350 bajaj to operate in the city but there are over 3000 bajaj lying the roads, which the regulator has taken time to take notice, he said.

"We know this challenge and we are making efforts to come up with a solution to address the matter," he said.

Felician Mtahengerwa, the district commissioner, said they had already issued a directive for the police to nab all bajaj operating illegally.



Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (L) presents a registration number plate for a new tractor worth 111.7m/- to farmer Masoud Kiliyamba of Sikonge in Tabora Region who got it as a loan from Azania Bank Limited. It was at the climax of International Cooperative Day (July 1) celebrations held in Tabora municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

strengthening comprehensive eye care system in Tanzania by 2025 under Korea international Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The trainers Ophthalmologists and ophthalmic nurses are from USA, South Korea and Ethiopia.

Vision Care has been cooperating with Muhimbili National hospital from December 2020 in support on Consumables and medicine, medical equipment's and Capacity building. There is a donation of A Scan machine which costs over 23m/-.

The Director of Vision Care Tanzania, Jieun Park said the training which will last for one week will make Tanzanian experts to train others in the region.

Dr Joackim Kilemile an Ophthalmologist from MNH said through the new surgery helps patients to recover within a short period of time but also the time to take drugs.

Mhagama: Dodoma's Heroes Ground to be unique in Africa

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the PM Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination) has said when completed, the Heroes Ground at Mtumba town here in the national capital will be of high standard to be emulated in Africa.

Mhagama made the remarks here yesterday when she presented part of the stadium's construction area to SUMA JKT following the completion of the first part of the Heroes Ground, the Parade Ground that is expected to be used on Heroes Day on July 25, this year.

"This area is the first part of the Heroes Ground that will have a Heroes Monument of the highest

standard," she said.

She explained that the second phase will incorporate a big garden that will be of a special attraction and already, she added, various public institutions have shown their intention to invest and collaborate in making sure the garden will have restaurants, sports and recreation grounds.

According to the minister, the third part will involve the construction of a tall, 110-metre monument that will be the first of its kind in Africa and will also act as a tourist attraction.

She stressed that in addition to the government's shifting to Dodoma, infrastructures of the highest standard are being built therein and the community is witnessing work on huge

government buildings and other infrastructures going on.

For his part, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Jim Yonazi said when completed, the ground will enhance the beauty of Dodoma City and that the government will make sure the monument and its ground will have a special attraction.

Earlier, speaking at the event, the secretary of the national task force that coordinates the government's shifting to Dodoma, Meshack Banadwe said the construction of the ground has adhered to Dodoma government city grand plan and work on the original innovation was conducted by the Ardhi Institute, TPA, NHC and SUMA JKT.

Representative from SUMA JKT, central zone, Maj. Samuel Jambo said construction work has followed all survey and standards procedures.

LATRA suspends all timetables for 30-odd New Force passenger buses

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has suspended the timetables for 38 passenger buses owned by News Force company that depart at 3:00 and 5:00 AM.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LATRA director general, Habibu Suluo said the reason behind the timetable suspension of the buses is deliberate violation of passenger transport regulations including speeding, tampering with the I-Button system, and accidents.

"New Force is among passenger transport providers that were accorded with the 3:00 and 5:00 AM timetable with a condition to make sure drivers for the buses are those who had been licensed by LATRA," said Suluo.

He added: "Our investigations on the buses that were involved in accidents revealed deliberate violations of passenger transport regulations, especially regarding those at the 3:00 and 5:00 AM timetable and without the drivers having been certified by LATRA.

"And even if he's so certified, the driver disregards the use of I-Button system, despite the regulations requiring him to do so."

He said out of the firm's 38 buses licensed to provide services per the early morning schedule, 10 were given the 3:00 AM schedule and 28 5:00 AM schedule, but some of them also violated these schedules.

The LATRA boss said the Authority plans to investigate the firm's management to know the system they use to hire drivers and how they are supervised, and also instructed the firm to submit a list of all its drivers and the numbers of their drivers licences.

"In the past, LATRA suspended licences for six of the firm's buses owing to their drivers' rampant violations of road safety regulations and directed all its drivers to go back to class, which they did, but we want the firm to again submit a list of its drivers and the numbers of their drivers' licences for more investigations," he said.



Macon Dunnagan (C), Goodwill Ambassador of Tanzania's Tourism in the US, poses for a photo at the weekend with his mountain guides from ZARA Tours at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro - Uhuru Peak (at 5,895 meters above sea level). He was on his 50th climb of Africa's highest mountain and the world's highest single free-standing mountain, chiefly to promote Tanzania's tourism destinations across the globe. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Conference enlightens students on opportunities in the energy sector

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Association of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOGS) has conducted a conference dubbed "The Role of Youth in Energy Sector", the focus being on enlightening university students on diverse career opportunities available in energy sector.

The conference, which was held at the University of Dar es Salaam at the weekend, attracted students pursuing a wide range of programmes and courses at the university's main and other campuses.

Event organisers said the conference was primarily meant to arm students with a wide knowledge on opportunities available in new and prospective energy undertakings such as the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

Michael Mjinja, Commissioner of Petroleum and Gas in the Energy ministry, represented Energy minister January Makamba as chief guest at the event.

The commissioner said he was motivated and inspired seeing the efforts being made in the country "to enlighten our youths about the new and planned projects and all available opportunities in the oil and gas sector".

"We are seeing more and more foreign financiers seeking and exploring investment opportunities in our country, and we want to have enough of our own youths who are sharp and quick in capitalising on the opportunities opening up," he noted.

The commissioner added that the government was throwing its full weight behind those projects "to support and enhance the national economy, and thus creating employment opportunities for our young generation".

He underlined the need for Tanzanian university students and other youths to "be forever ready to compete with their counterparts from other universities and other settings in the employment sector within the East African Community bloc and beyond".

ATOGS founder Abdulsamad Abdulrahim, who doubles as chairman of the association's board of directors, meanwhile remarked: "We are hugely encouraged by the way Tanzanian students and other youths have shown profound interest in gaining knowledge on the new projects. We are here, ready and willing to help them reap the benefits of such knowledge in the energy sector."

For his part, EACOP managing director Martin Tiffen said: "The youth are the future of any country and we are very happy to be a part of this great initiative of supporting them. EACOP is highly likely to benefit all manner of future engineers and most likely students from across colleges and universities in Tanzania and beyond."

Also at the conference were various energy sector stakeholders, including Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco), and TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania.

Tanzania asks for a helping hand from China for technical support

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has asked for a helping hand from China for technical support in the envisaged review of the education policy.

Director of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Dr Keneth Hosea made the call over the weekend during an event to mark 10 years of the Confucius Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

Dr Hosea said the government was going to carry out a comprehensive review of the education policy to make Tanzanian education vocational oriented.

"China is a leading country in skills

nurturing; therefore it is important for them to help us train our people on how best to change our education and make it skill based," he said.

He said it is the time for the relationship between Tanzania and China to focus on a new direction including training on competitive sports.

On this he said China was doing well in Olympics, saying Tanzania was lagging behind, he said it is the right time for China to support in the sector.

UDSM acting Vice Chancellor Prof Benadeta Killian said the presence of the Confucius Institute has been beneficial to the university.

She said through the institute, the university has the biggest library in East Africa, saying the kind of training by Chinese lecturers had transformed teaching.

She said the event will increase the number of students who will join the University for Chinese studies.

Chinese ambassador Chen Mingjian said through the institute 244 students have gone to China to participate in summer camps.

She said currently Chinese is taught in a number of universities across Tanzania so that primary and Middle school students can learn Chinese.

She said so far 50,000 people have been trained in Chinese language since the Confucius institute started some 10 years ago.

She said the learning of Chinese language has increased chances of employability among Tanzanians.

Samia reshuffles DCs

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has made reshuffle of District Commissioners, revoking the appointment of Temeke District Commissioner Mwanahamisi Munkunda.

In a statement signed by the Director of Presidential Communications, Zuhura Yunus, President Samia has appointed Mobhare Matinyi the new Temeke District Commissioner.

The Head of State also revoked the appointment of Kilindi District Commissioner, Abel Busalama, and the post will now be filled by Hashim Mgandilwa who was Tanga Urban District Commissioner.

President Samia has appointed James Wilbert Kaji as the new Tanga District Commissioner, said the State House statement.

Munkunda was appointed the Temeke District Commissioner in January, this

year taking over from Jokate Mwegelo who was re-allocated to Korogwe District in Tanga Region in January, 2023.

On January 31st 2023, Munkunda reported in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region from Bahi District in the country's capital-Dodoma where she was serving at the same capacity.

On January 25th this year, President Samia made major changes of District Commissioners, appointing 37 new faces, transferring 48 and retaining 55 others.

Since she took over the office in March, 2021 following the death in office of her predecessor John Magufuli, President Samia has been treading carefully as she builds her own team, consisting of people she believes can head ministries, departments, agencies, regions and districts as per her expectations.

The president has also been trying to bring on board more women in higher positions.



Members of the business community representing 50 Chinese companies go through security and other checks at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday ready to take part in the ongoing 47th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Use 2022 census results in planning for development projects, urges Nchemba

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has called on government officials to abide by appropriate use of last year's National Population and Housing Census results when planning for development projects.

Dr Nchemba made the remarks here at the weekend when closing the training for the distribution and application of the 2022 Census

results to officials in Singida Region.

He said many development plans fail to provide services to the people due to not using census results when making plans. He added that from now on government officials should make sure they use census results in their development plans to avoid challenges that arise when correct statistics are not used.

For his part, Singida Regional Commissioner, Peter Serukamba said development plans for Singida

Region will adhere to the application of the 2022 census results.

He said in order to enable Singida Region's residents get better social services, the government will abide by the use of census results.

Senior statistician from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Mdoka Omary said the aim of the training for Singida government officials is to empower them to the use statistics when making development plans in their areas.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ILALA
AT KINYEZI
CIVIL CASE NO. 2/2023
HAMZA SAID MOHAMED.....PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MICRO ENSURE TANZANIA LTD.....DEFENDANT
TO MICRO ENSURE TANZANIA LTD
P.O. BOX 38605
DAR ES SALAAM

TAKE NOTICE that the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you with particulars of claim set out in a plaint filed in this court.
Service of this publication on you has been ordered by means of this publication. You are directed to collect copies of the summons and plaint from the court's Registry.
You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by an advocate or an agent duly authorized on 13th day of July 2023 at 8:30 a.m. when this suit will be mentioned.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that should you default to enter appearance in court on the day time mentioned above, the suit will proceed and judgement may be given in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this 3rd day of July 2023

THE COMPANIES ACT, CAP 212 (R.E 2002)
CHINA CONSTRUCTION FRONT GROUP (TANZANIA)
COMPANY LIMITED
P.O. BOX 101961 DAR ES SALAAM
INCORPORATION No: 139183002

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO WIND UP VOLUNTARY
(Section 334 (1) of the Companies Act. Cap 12)

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that by special resolution dated 1st February 2023, **CHINA CONSTRUCTION FRONT GROUP (TANZANIA) COMPANY LIMITED** resolved to wind up the company voluntarily.

FURTHER NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT I, BENO AUSEBIO KINYAMAGOHA was appointed Liquidator for the purpose of winding up the company.

TAKE NOTICE that all the creditors are hereby requested to furnish the liquidator with full details of their claims against the company at the address below within fourteen days (14 days) from the date of this notice

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 9th June, 2023.

BENO AUSEBIO KINYAMAGOHA, (LIQUIDATOR)
S.L.P. 34359 - DAR ES SALAAM
Bagamoyo road, Victoria, Noble Center 5th Floor
SIMU: +255753614256
EMAIL: bennoausebio@gmail.com

50 Chinese firms to participate in Dar International Trade Fair

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE delegation of business persons from more than 50 Chinese companies have arrived in the country to participate at the International Trade Fair that is ongoing in Dar es Salaam.

The business people have also come to look for investment opportunities in the country where they will meet and negotiate with their Tanzanian counterparts.

A total of 14 countries have confirmed to participate in the exhibition which is started from June 28 to July 14 this year, where 112 companies from abroad and 1,188 local companies will participate.

The Chinese delegation arrived yesterday morning at the Julius Nyerere International Airport while promising to display various products at the exhibition including electronic devices.

These devices include projects, computers, mobile phones and various new technologies that have been developed and are now in use.

Speaking immediately after the reception of the delegation, the acting director of Trade Investments from the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Fortunatus Mhambe said the arrival of the delegation is the result of cooperation between Tanzania and China.

He said despite participating in this year's exhibition, the Chinese businessmen will also meet their Tanzanian counterparts and look at various investment opportunities.

He said that the companies will show their products and various services that they have come up with, so it is an opportunity for Tanzanians to look on how to cooperate with these investors.

"We remember how the world got the challenge of COVID 19 in 2020, so the trade fair in Dar es Salaam lacked enough participants from various countries, especially China due to the travel ban at that time, but now things have become clear," he said

"The situation at the moment is very good because this year we have participants from more than 16 countries and our colleagues from China have taken over the entire pavilion where there are more than 100 participants from their country," he said.

The Manager of East Africa Commercial & Logistics Centre (EACLC), Cathy Wang, said that through the exhibition, Tanzanians will have various opportunities, so it is important to visit the Chinese pavilion.

"Today we have come with companies from China to participate in the Sabasaba exhibition, which is famous in China, so if you want to know the new technologies of mobile phones, computers and many other devices visit us at Sabasaba," said Wang.

A total of 16 countries have confirmed to participate in this exhibition that started from June 28 to July 14 this year, where 112 companies from abroad and 1188 local companies will participate.

Cathy Wang who is (EACLC), Manager told this paper recently that it is expected that the face-to-face communication between the Chinese delegation, the Tanzanian government and enterprises can establish sincere friendship, spark cooperation and business opportunities.

She added that face to face communication among those business community among the two countries will build an effective channel for the win-win cooperation between China and Tanzania.

"In order to promote the economic and trade cooperation between Chinese enterprises and Tanzania and practice the "Belt and Road" Initiative, EACLC Limited and our holding companies," she said

She said Shanghai Linghang Group and Weihai Huatan supply chain management Co. Ltd have been in Tanzania for over ten years and actively build a bridge for China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.



Dr Jim Yonazi (3rd-R), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), briefs Minister of State Jenista Mhagama (to his right) in Dodoma yesterday on the completion of the first sub-section of the construction of the parade area at the national capital's Mashujaa Stadium. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

REGROW to facilitate construction of hanging bridge in Mt Udzungwa Park

THE implementation of the Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project will help the construction of the hanging bridge in Mt Udzungwa National Park that will be the longest in the East and Central Africa region.

The observation was made by Mariam Michael, acting head of the Department of Tourism at Udzungwa Forest Reserve as she addressed workers of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism who visited the Mt Udzungwa National Park at the weekend.

Mariam said the implementation of the first phase of the REGROW project involves the construction of the one kilometre hanging bridge.

She said the bridge will be built at Njokamoni area on which visiting tourists will be able to view various

tourist attractions including the water falls, and rare wildlife only found in Mt Udzungwa National Park. She said the project will also involve the construction of five workers' quarters, visitors' entrance, guest rooms and students' hostel.

She added that the project will also involve the construction of road infrastructures in the park area to facilitate unhindered movement of tourists.

Earlier, the project's representative, Joel Mremi said 13 villages in Morogoro and Iringa regions also expect to benefit from REGROW projects.

He said the villages are located within the border areas between the

two regions.

He named the villages that will benefit from the project's first phase as including Mang'ula B and Msufini, both in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region and Msosa village in Kilolo District, Iringa Region.

He named opportunities available to the villagers as including night patrols in the park area, and sponsorship to selected students to universities and technical colleges.

He mentioned others as including provision of capital to production groups in the area.

He said the aim to educate students from the villages is to gain the knowledge as tourists guides as well as employment opportunities

in other areas of the country.

For his part, the leader of the delegation of workers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Adrianet Kibabage said the visit is part of the effort to mobilise for domestic tourism and for them to learn and see for themselves tourist activities in Mikumi and Mt Udzungwa National Parks.

REGROW project was established in 2017 with the aim of widening the scope regarding tourism products geographically by developing the tourism sector in the southern regions of the country.

The project is implemented through USD 150 million from World Bank (WB) soft loan.

Customer tariffs

Kiwango (TSH) Range (TSH)		Tuma HaloPesa Send to HaloPesa	Tuma Kwenda Mitandao Mingine Send to HaloPesa	Tuma Kwenda Namba Isiyosajiliwa Send to Unregistered Number	Kutoa Pesa Withdraw		
Kutoka From	Mpaka To	Makato ya HaloPesa HaloPesa Fee	Makato ya HaloPesa HaloPesa Fee	Makato ya HaloPesa HaloPesa Fee	Makato ya HaloPesa HaloPesa Fee	Tozo ya Serikali Govn Levy	Jumla ya Makato Total Fee
100	999	10	10	-	-	10	10
1,000	1,999	25	40	350	300	10	310
2,000	2,999	25	40	380	330	10	340
3,000	3,999	50	80	475	440	14	454
4,000	4,999	60	85	530	600	27	627
5,000	6,999	130	178	710	845	54	899
7,000	9,999	140	180	790	900	56	956
10,000	14,999	230	480	1,250	1,300	102	1,402
15,000	19,999	240	490	1,250	1,400	195	1,595
20,000	29,999	260	520	1,550	1,650	306	1,956
30,000	39,999	270	600	1,620	1,800	351	2,151
40,000	49,999	280	648	1,800	2,100	419	2,519
50,000	99,999	580	900	2,350	2,500	573	3,073
100,000	199,999	700	1,350	2,750	3,300	707	4,007
200,000	299,999	750	1,620	4,200	4,500	821	5,321
300,000	399,999	950	1,800	5,600	5,500	838	6,338
400,000	499,999	1,200	1,980	6,600	6,000	982	6,932
500,000	599,999	1,300	2,520	7,500	6,400	1,245	7,645
600,000	699,999	1,400	2,880	7,600	7,000	1,532	8,532
700,000	799,999	1,400	2,880	7,650	7,000	1,700	8,700
800,000	899,999	1,750	3,150	8,100	7,500	1,750	9,250
900,000	1,000,000	1,750	3,150	8,300	7,500	1,776	9,276
1,000,001	3,000,000	3,000	3,600	8,300	7,500	1,875	9,375
Zaidi ya 3,000,000		3,000	4,500	8,300	7,500	2,000	9,500



Maryciana Ayubu, a student of suburban Dar es Salaam's Mabwe Secondary School, contributes to debate during a session of the "Citizens Parliament" organised yesterday by local CSO Mabwepande Community Voice Centre in coordination with the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme. Deliberations focused on the gender aspects of the estimates of the Government Budget for financial year 2023/2024 as recently endorsed by the National Assembly in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DC urges university graduates to engage in self-employment

By Guardian Correspondent

UBUNGO District Commissioner, Hashim Komba has urged young people graduating from various colleges and universities to use their knowledge and skills they acquired to initiate economic projects of their own.

According to him, as the days go by, employment opportunities in the formal market are becoming limited, so youth need to be more innovative to overcome challenges of the crisis.

Komba said this in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the special event to handover seed capital awards to young entrepreneurs who passed the business monitoring training run by the non-governmental Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED Foundation).

He said that the number of young people who graduate every year and need employment is large, so instead of sitting idly waiting for employment, it is better that they organize themselves in other jobs including entrepreneurial projects to help them earn a living.

"With this environment, sitting down and waiting for the government's employment will not help anything, so what is needed is for the graduates to apply the acquired knowledge and initiate both small and big economic projects," he said.

He asked stakeholders from the private sector to cooperate with the government in producing more employment opportunities.

IMED Foundation director general, Khalid Swabiri also underscored the need for stakeholders to strengthen collaboration with the government to train young Tanzanians how to take advantage of economic opportunities as well as provide them with techniques to initiate commercial projects.

He said that since 2014 the foundation has been helping young people in the area of developing small renewable energy businesses including the use of natural gas, charcoal and solar energy.

"What we found out is that many young people who start business projects face a lot of challenges, including lack of capital due to limited knowledge and lack of experience with networks. Therefore, we have been supporting them with capital by providing solar energy equipment for those who show willingness to engage in innovative businesses," Swabiri explained.



...so what is needed is for the graduates to apply the acquired knowledge and initiate both small and big economic projects

Appeal to supervisors, owners of orphanages: Address all challenges

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

OWNERS and supervisors of orphanages centres and vulnerable children's homes have been urged to address challenges facing them and conduct diligent screening before registering children into their facilities so as to shun accommodating those lacking criteria and qualifications.

Burchard Rwamtoga chairman of Yohana wa Mungu Yombo-Vituka Parish, Diocese Dar es Salaam diocese made the call over the weekend when he joined the Catholic Women's organisations (WAWATA) and the church's Men's Union (UWAKA) to visit the orphans and the vulnerable centre owned by the Passionist Sisters in Bagamoyo.

"The providers of shelters and care are required to do a high-quality screening to identify children in need before extending their support as there are some who are benefiting while they are well off," level, and other services while at the centers," Rwamtoga said.

He encouraged parents to fulfill their duty of upbringing their children despite various challenges they face in life.

"It is pity that there are many who abandon their children and make them look like orphans so that they can be taken and brought up by sisters or in various centers of upbringing," he said.

During handing over the support to the centre which included cash, food and other equipment, Rwamtoga urged children to always remain thankful to the caretakers and God for taking them to a safe place as there are many who still live in vulnerable environments without any help.

According to him, visiting the children was part of their pilgrimage made at the Parish of the Moyo Safi wa Bikira Maria Bagamoyo in Diocese of Morogoro which took place on the same day.

"We know that at the moment centers like this have no long-term donors, which is not easy, so it is everyone's responsibility to assist the OVC homes," added Rwamtoga.

Sister Aschariah Severine, who is supervisor of the children's centre, said that they have been serving 204 children with various challenges, especially orphans and those from vulnerable environments since 2006 when the center was established in Bagamoyo.

Sr Aschariah added: "Our goal is to raise a child at least until he/she reaches the age of being able to defend himself then quit the center, but we are forced to stay with them from youngest stage, primary school children up to university due to the challenge of not having a satisfactory place for taking them to live."

She also thanked the people from Yombo-Vituka Parish for the donations, saying that they rely on divining providence in raising 32 children who study from Primary to Secondary school, one in university and another one university graduate.

"The wellbeing of the children in the centre depends more on the donations from different people who are obliged to help by paying for some children's Health Insurance and volunteering to pay for the education costs to some children," Sr Aschariah said.

Joseph Rose, one of the children who graduated from the university last year, thanked for the support received and asked other people in the community to help those in need as the scriptures instruct.

"I was brought here since I was four years old, now I am a graduate from St. Augustine University holding a degree in Public relations and marketing. I am well, and I will start experiencing new life with different people out of the centre," Joseph said who nick-named as 'first born' at the centre.

"We know that at the moment centers like this have no long-term donors, which is not easy, so it is everyone's responsibility to assist the OVC homes"

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Over 500 people benefit from free eye screening at Mkuranga District hospital

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 500 people have benefited from free eye screening at Mkuranga District Hospital, Coast Region in a special camp organised by Vision Care Tanzania.

The medical screening aimed to identify eye diseases including people with visual impairment and cataracts where 400 people were detected with various eye diseases.

Vision Care Tanzania country director, Jieun Park said yesterday that the event was conducted for three days from June 22 to 24, this year where a total of 502 turned up for the medical screening.

She said, among those, 34 patients found with cataract, conjunctival mass and pterygium cases, she said noting that during the eye camp, the Vision Care team and other specialists provide diagnosis, and operate upon those who need surgery.

She also said 29 patients underwent free cataract surgery, one underwent conjunctival mass surgery and the remaining four underwent pterygium surgery.

"As Vision Care Tanzania we aim to let the world know that although vision problems can be recovered by proper prevention and timely treatment, there are many people losing vision daily due to poor living conditions. We help patients get regular treatment at short-term eye camps and long-term base clinics by having doctors, missionaries, volunteers, and sponsors work together," she said

The eye screening camp was conducted by Vision Care Tanzania staff in collaboration with virtual acute specialist from Msoga District Hospital- Chalinze, Optometrists from Muhimbili National Hospital - Mloganzila, Tumbi regional referral hospital, nurse assistant and Ophthalmologists from Mkuranga District council and Muhimbili National Hospital.

This has been possible through a long term project dubbed: 'Prevention of Blindness through

Strengthening the Comprehensive Eye Health System in Tanzania by 2022 with funding from International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Vision Care works for the benefit of all people throughout the country who are suffering from vision problems, regardless of their race, color, creed, national origin or religion.

Twahili Said, a father of nine and resident of Mbagala Sabasaba thanked Vision Care Tanzania for organising the medical screening camp for low-income families that has helped him to receive medicine for his eye treatment.

During the eye examination, Twahili was found with eye pressure, he said.

He called on youth and other people to stop drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes because it causes cataracts and other eye diseases.

He also urged Vision Care Tanzania to visit other areas in the Coast Region to educate people about eye diseases, causes and how to prevent them because the majority of people were not aware of the challenges.



...among those, 34 patients found with cataract, conjunctival mass and pterygium cases, she said noting that during the eye camp, the Vision Care team and other specialists provide diagnosis, and operate upon those who need surgery



Special Seats legislator Dr Pauline Nahato (R) and Mbozi district commissioner Esta Mahawe exchange greetings in style upon meeting at a fundraiser for the construction of the Tanzania Rift Valley field office of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Babati, Manyara Region, on Sunday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Z'bar Health ministry commits to reducing maternal deaths

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said that it was mobilising the 2024/23 FY Health budget to make sure maternal deaths drop by strengthening health provision systems to the rural areas as well.

The remarks were given by the Zanzibar Minister for Health, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui when receiving a vehicle for maternal services from UNFPA.

Mazrui said strategies to reduce maternal deaths are among priorities of the ministry in order to attain world sustainable

development goals.

He named other strategies as including the construction of health centres in rural areas that will have all the necessary credentials to serve mothers and their children.

Mazrui also used the occasion to commend UNFPA for its assistance to Zanzibar in various essential sectors.

He said the UN organisation concentrates in empowering workers in the Health ministry in implementing health and family planning programmes.

He said UNFPA also provides

assistance in the fight against gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse as well as providing education on issues of child abuse and rape.

"One of the challenges facing women and children are gender based violence and child abuse and we thank UNFPA for its assistance in this area," said minister Mazrui.

UNFPA country representative Mark Bryan Schreiner commended Zanzibar Ministry of Health for its deliberate efforts to see maternal deaths significantly drop and no longer a threat.

He said there have been great

achievements in that area, adding that maternal deaths have been reduced from 70 per cent to 53 per cent in 2022 in Zanzibar.

He said the time has arrived for the community to adopt family planning that help in maintaining the health of mothers and children, and added that education to the community regarding the issue stands at 14 per cent only.

The vehicle provided by UNFPA to the Health ministry costs 85m/- and will be used for following up various reports regarding challenges facing mothers and children.

NGO promotes inclusive education for Iringa' children with disabilities

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

Iringa Sunset Hall revelers witnessed the closing event of the project dubbed: 'No one left behind', implemented in Iringa Region by IBO Italia International and financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

In her opening remarks, Paola Ghezzi, project manager for IBO Italia, said that IBO Italia since 2018 is focusing its action on inclusive education activities promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities according to a right-based approach.

She said that the above-mentioned project 'No one left behind' was implemented by IBO Italia in the timeframe 2019-2023, and that it aimed to engage the relevant educational stakeholders through a participatory approach to improve the inclusion of children disabilities (CWDs) by strengthening basic services in Iringa District, Iringa region. Ghezzi explained that the overall objective of the project was to contribute to the social inclusion of CWDs in Iringa District, with the specific objective to increase the percentage and the wellbeing of children with disabilities in the primary education sector.

The full social, scholastic and economic empowerment of people with disabilities (PWDs) can only be achieved with the involvement and participation of all stakeholders: the government, members of the community, international partners and PWDs themselves.

According to the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), donors of the project team leader Paolo Razzini, empowering PWDs is a moral duty for human beings and also it is a crucial strategy for social-economic development. During his statement on Thursday, Razzini testified that he was born

with clubfoot, condition that was making him unable to walk and run properly; through rehabilitation though, and surgery, he can now move without issues. Razzini explained that PWDs can provide a real support towards economic development and credible assets to the community and confirms the willingness to continue the collaboration with the Tanzanian government on such important issues

During the event, a part from the staff from IBO Italia and AICS, different stakeholders, public and private, intervened to talk about the activities and the impact of the project.

The Iringa regional social welfare officer (RSWO), Martin Chuwa, said that the project helped to promote the issues of inclusive education in the education sector by including children with disabilities. "The biggest challenge in our region of Iringa is the issue of identifying children with disabilities, with some parents and guardians being ashamed to send children with disabilities to health services..." said Chuwa.

Acting Education Officer of Iringa District Council John Genda thanked IBO Italia for implementing inclusive education strategy in his District, properly following the government inclusive education policy to guarantee a better access to education for all.

Lastly, a similar acknowledgment was reported to IBO Italia and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation by John Chekwaze, Education Officer from TAMISEMI, who attended the closing ceremony as the guest of honor. His biggest thanks to the project for these two aspects: to be totally in line with government priorities and for the important infrastructure and accessibility works completed within the framework of the project.



Presumably satisfied that they had seen, heard and done enough at the ongoing 47th edition of Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday, these residents of Tanzania's commercial city decide that it is high time they headed back home. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Dar trade fair impresses CFGT Tanzania CEO

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM International Trade Fair (DITF) has been described as an important platform where Tanzanians conveniently meet manufacturers, sellers and buyers to promote investment opportunities

Speaking at the sideline of the 47th ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), the chairman and chief executive officer of CFGT Tanzania Limited, Christome Tembo commended the trade fair, saying it has a

multiplier effect for the country's economic development.

"Our participation at this exhibition is not only meant to promote our services and products, but also to join hands in support of the sixth phase government of President Samia Suluhu Hassan for transforming Tanzania's economy and eagerness to private sector," Tembo said.

He said CFGT Tanzania has been very much impressed the way the entire organisation of the event is being run from the first day and

called for Tanzanians to exploit the on-going annual international trade fair.

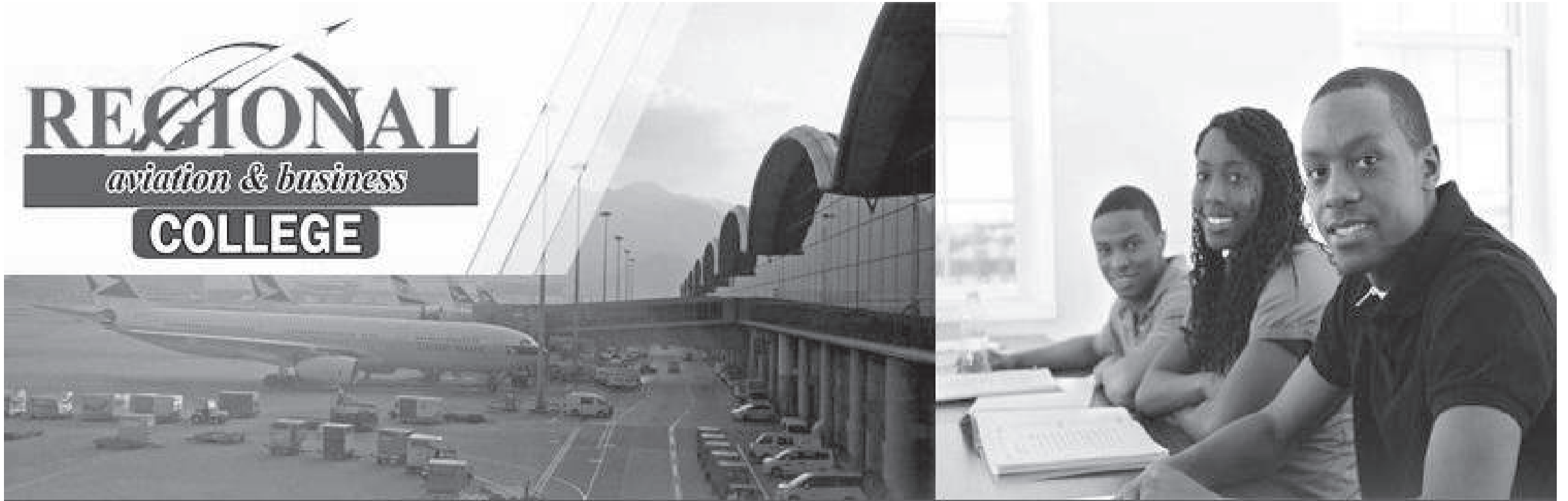
"My firm has competent experts providing consultancy services in many areas apart from being the whole sale and retail distributors of lubricant oils of Puma and Lake oil companies," Tembo said.

Earlier, Firm's pavilion Manager who doubles as the sales regional head for Ilala, Christina Yotham commended the event organisers, saying CFGT Tanzania uses the platform to register business and establish new local and foreign

business contacts.

"This year's response of visitors to the exhibition is very big and number of youths coming every day impresses a lot. We see visitors are very curious to know what exactly our company is doing," she said.

CFGT provides a wide range of services including business consultancy, business process outsourcing, employment outsourcing, work permit and residence permit processing, investment guide, reference check and police clearance check.



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Innovations in agriculture can drive climate-change mitigation

THE agricultural sector is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, responsible for an estimated 19-29 per cent, according to the World Bank. This figure climbs to 40 per cent emissions produced throughout the entire agricultural value chain - encompassing transportation, storage, and processing are considered.

With the global population expected to double by 2050 - and the resulting increased demand for food - emissions from agriculture are expected to increase. To counter that trend, what action can be taken to stem the harm to the environment?

The solution lies in embracing agricultural technology - known as Agtech - to revolutionise agricultural practices, boost yields, increase farmer incomes, and promote sustainability. Technologies such as climate-smart agriculture, precision farming and digital tools for value chain optimisation, as well as carbon sequestration - which are methods of capturing and storing carbon in soil - all aim at raising the production per square inch of agricultural land, while recovering more from loss and damage.

Approximately 80 per cent of agricultural land in sub-Saharan Africa is owned by farmers who cultivate small-based plots of land on which they grow subsistence crops or two cash crops, directly employing 175 million people.

Despite its advantageous agricultural landscape, Africa struggles to translate these advantages into economic transformation. The problem is multifaceted. For one, arable land for large scale farming is difficult to acquire, and even when available, has insufficient legal rights of ownership. Poor infrastructure, especially in roads and electricity, renders agribusinesses unprofitable, and thus uncompetitive. Additionally, the youth appear disinterested in agriculture; while 60 per cent of Africa's population is under the age

of 24, the average age of farmers in the continent remains 60.

Agriculture is the heartbeat of Africa. The continent's major agricultural advantages include an abundance of natural resources, a young and growing labour force, and a rising middle class, in addition to a surge in urbanisation. Africa also boasts large regional markets, even if the markets lack major industry players.

Rethinking is needed to change the agricultural landscape in Africa.

At the forefront of the efforts to transform Africa's agriculture is modernisation of the sector to help lift farmers' incomes, make farming attractive to the youth, and increase employment. The myth that a modern agriculture sector will mean that the consumption of manufactured goods and services outpaces the consumption of food, leading to a reduction in agriculture-related employment, must be dispelled. Modernisation will actually lead to an increase in agriculture-related jobs. Modernizing agriculture will allow for the full development of agricultural value chains in Africa, in turn producing more agriculture-related jobs; thus, there are likely to be employment gains from modernisation.

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) defines agricultural transformation as a process that leads to higher productivity on farms, commercially orients farming, and strengthens the link between farming and other sectors of the economy.

Africa is now home to over 256 million people who are in dire food insecurity, of which over 132 million are in eastern Africa.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) stressed that Africa must transform or modernise its agriculture, primarily to feed itself and reduce dependency on imports for agricultural and food items, while fostering the sector to drive the industrialisation process.

Nutrition: Strategic designs vital even as UN interest remains high

WITH Africa in the thick of pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals set for 2030, plenty of effort is being directed at evaluating how far this or that country is moving in that direction, not just by looking at annual figures but taking a seat on the spot. This is what a high level mission of the United States, the United Nations and corporate charities was doing in the country of late, sitting in at a village nutrition event. Their impressions will colour their view of what we are doing, and add substantial insight into what the data flow contains.

A high-level delegation from the House of Representatives, the lower legislative chamber in the United States, the UN Foundation and the Eleanor Crook Foundation late last week concluded a four-day mission in the country. Coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office, their interest was focused on UN work in the country as it relates to biodiversity and nutrition. It is another high level within the past two months.

It is a bit difficult to identify the motor of these visits, as at some point there was an issue of de-registration of four thousand so-called briefcase non-governmental organisations, as the more familiar NGOs were not involved in the searchlight. That means the issue is by now closed, as none of NGOs with major donor engagements is facing difficulties, or at least to the extent of leading to a sort of public outcry. That means there are other reasons for repeated high level visits, for which a sort of

guess can be of some use here.

Outside other possible guesses, one reason is that humanitarian aid has of late become increasingly difficult to conduct, as the scale of paring down aid and facilities is beginning to strike at the heart of the mission of UN agencies.

The most affected is the UNHCR which is no longer capable of coping with the flow of refugees in Tanzania and in nearby countries. The flow of refugees in Sudan upsets the balance even as the grain debacle of the Ukraine war is still biting.

That is why we need to pose questions as to what options are really open on the donor community in the situation, and thus what we can make of the UNDP country office when it talks of the delegation's interest in Tanzania's development efforts, appreciating the interest of the US legislative chamber in choosing the work of the UN in Tanzania as a key aspect of their learning mission. What is the learning, if the UN must do more or it can do with less?

If African countries were capable of organising economies that are on a clear upward curve these issues would be of much less interest as the problem areas needing UN attention would be decidedly fewer.

That is what the UN is expecting with the SDGs objective but forecaster already paint a dire picture. One UN datum said by 2030 half of the world's population of abject poverty will not just be in Africa but mainly composed of African children. Was the mission inspecting to see the ground picture for evidence of this, and how? Each country needs to design a path of sustainable growth as donors are tiring out.



With right interventions we can help many more men start and stay on HIV treatment

By Shawn Malone

June was men's health month and while the focus was mostly on men's attitudes about their health, it was also worth reflecting on the health sector's attitudes toward men.

We hear many stereotypes about men and health, but how many of those are actually true?

A few years ago representatives of the Mpilo Project spoke to more than 2 000 men in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga to understand why many find it hard to engage with HIV testing and treatment. We uncovered several myths and misperceptions in the process.

One common myth is that men are stubborn and apathetic about HIV - that they aren't listening and don't care. While many men may indeed wear a mask of indifference, HIV leaves many of them feeling paralysed by fear and anxiety. This is why we need a health service delivery approach rooted in encouragement and reassurance, not scolding and pressure.

Another common misconception is that men are mainly just workers who need practical solutions like convenient clinic hours and quick service. The reality is that men are complex human beings who face social and emotional barriers as well as practical ones. We need solutions that address both practical and psychosocial barriers.

There is also a view that sources of support are available and that men just fail to access them, perhaps because "they don't really want support". In fact, many men are hungry for support but see no sources that feel safe or relatable. They experience counselling as scripted, one-directional, overly technical, and often judgmental. The key is to give men the right sources of support and to speak empathetically to their individual issues and concerns.

The reality is that men are complex human beings who face social and emotional barriers as well as practical ones.

Finally, there is a view that healthcare providers are helping men by taking proactive approaches like provider-initiated testing and tracking-tracing. But these often leave men feeling hunted and ambushed by the health system. We need proactive approaches that leave men feeling like they still have control over their own lives and



decisions and help them develop their own internal motivation to start and stay on treatment.

These and other misconceptions can lead healthcare providers to conclude that men are simply difficult if not impossible to reach. But once we understand their barriers, that picture changes dramatically.

The 11th SA AIDS Conference concluded last week and in one of the plenary sessions we had the opportunity to respond to the question: "Strategies for reaching men - are we seeing a return on investment?"

The short answer is yes!

Since 2017, the percentage of men with HIV in South Africa who know their status has increased from 78% to 94%, nearly on par with women. We can attribute that in part to approaches like HIV self-testing that have made it quick, easy, and private for men to learn their status. We've also seen good progress on viral suppression, which has increased from 82% to 93%, again comparable to the rate among women - proof that men on treatment are fully capable of being adherent.

Yet only 70% of men who know they have HIV are currently on treatment - hardly any increase at all from 68% in 2017.

Given the progress we've seen in

men testing for HIV and achieving viral suppression, the persistent gap in men on treatment suggests that something is wrong - not with men but with the HIV treatment services and support we are offering them.

The good news is that we know much more than we did a few years ago about what works. Here are three examples.

The MINA campaign aims to reach men with "the new HIV story" by featuring stories from real men living a healthy, happy life with HIV on social media, television, radio, billboards, etc. The campaign also helps men feel more welcome in the clinic, using signage and materials to send the signal to men that "this is your space too". MINA-supported districts and facilities have seen strong growth in testing and linkage, as well as modest improvement in retention in care.

The Coach Mpilo model employs men who are thriving with HIV as coaches of men at risk of non-initiation or disengagement. Coaches provide a safe, relatable source of support and serve as living proof that HIV is not the end of the road. Piloted in 2020 and currently implemented in 18 districts, the model is achieving 97% linkage to care and 94% retention.

The B-OK bead bottles are a simple visual tool for helping people to understand the benefits of HIV

treatment and viral suppression and, more importantly, to build the motivation to start and stay on treatment. Red beads are HIV; black beads are healthy cells. A mixed bottle represents most people upon diagnosis. A red bottle represents the virus multiplying uncontrolled in the absence of treatment. A black bottle with one red bead represents viral suppression achieved through treatment adherence. In an evaluation of the tool, understanding of how HIV treatment works increased from 12.5% to 92.5%.

Men are not indifferent about their health and they are not inherently poor health-seekers. If many of them are avoiding healthcare services, let's consider that it may be because they are not getting what they need from these services.

We have seen that men do engage when we in the public health sector meet them where they are rather than where we want them to be; when we speak to their needs and priorities rather than ours; when we give them the right sources of support rather than one-size-fits-all, and when we help them build understanding and motivation rather than simply instructing.

When we invest, we see returns. Let's keep investing in scaling what works.

The Nigerian ministers Tinubu does not need

By Chidi Amuta

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has displayed a commendable preparedness to be president. He has, in just one month, shown a keen familiarity with the current state of the nation. In line, he has made bold policy pronouncements indicating an unmistakable eagerness to be different from his tepid and clueless predecessor. Whether it is in the devaluation of the Naira or the dramatic removal of the troublesome oil subsidy, Mr. Tinubu has shown the courage to take charge and an awareness of the burden of power. He has in the process displayed two essential qualities of executive presidency: a sense of direction and decisiveness. He has coupled these with the requisite willingness to engage, negotiate and hear voices from important contending quarters in the nation.

However, the time is still short. Nothing has so far been achieved in concrete terms. The policy directions that have been indicated can in the short term only lead to more hardship and suffering. Both the fuel subsidy removal and the Naira devaluation have already ushered in considerable inflation and cost of living spikes. But Mr. Tinubu is lucky.

Eight years of Buhari's rudderless incompetence prepared our citizens for the very worst. Even the indication that here comes something positively different is enough to inspire patience and endurance. The hope is that with time and popular forbearance, the policies should lead to the desirable direction of a better life for the majority.

No one can as yet swear by the blank cheques that the Nigerian populace has issued to the Tinubu administration at this onset of its honeymoon days. While Mr. Tinubu has shown that he understands what our desperate situation requires, the current public mood indicates a society that is willing to give the new president a chance.

But so far, the president has acted and spoken largely through a personal ambit of presidential authority. Soon after inauguration, he spoke alone at Eagle Square when he casually shut off the fuel subsidy.

That is a classic demonstration of the loneliness of ultimate power. Since then, he has acted and indicated directions only in the company of a slim collection of advisers and personal aides. But the time aloof for brash displays of sovereign swagger are running out.

There is a limit to how effective presidential authority can be when the machinery of state is run only by a well intentioned president surrounded by a handful of boisterous advisers and enthusiastic foot soldiers.

He now needs to fully constitute a government. Only then can his good intentions and actions reflect the collective wisdom of the nation he is elected to govern. In other words, Tinubu now needs a cabinet to begin translating his statements of good intentions and nice wishes into the tangible actions of a government. It is precisely in the choice of ministers that the prospects of Tinubu's legacy may lie.

In a representative political setting, erecting a cabinet requires a deft combination of politics and clear executive discerning. The president needs to play the politics of managing our diversity in the choice of those he appoints as ministers.

He also needs to navigate the interests of his party and the pressure of other contending parties and interests in the National Assembly. Above all else, he has to inspire the confidence of the local populace in and the international community in the caliber and capacity of those he chooses to run the affairs of the Nigerian state as ministers.

Perhaps inadvertently, Mr. Tinubu has defined the caliber of ministers he needs to activate the promise of his opening policy shots. He wants boldness in policy measures. He wants speed in initiating policies and implementing programmes. He probably wants a reasonable level of credibility and transparency in those who will wear the toga of key state officials.

Above all else, his policy indicators imply that his ministers must have the knowledge base, proven capacity, competence and experience to understand the complexity of the issues that urgently confront today's Nigeria. Without saying so in many words, there is every indication that Mr. Tinubu is in a hurry to catch up on grounds lost by his embarrassing predecessor.

His options are clear and well defined. He either hires a cabinet of politicians, seasoned technocrats or a combination of the two. In a UK-type parliamentary system, his choice would be simple. He would just need to select from among the leading MPs in his party to constitute a cabinet in a relatively short time. But the presidential system and the imperatives of republican democracy offer a different template.

It is made even more complex by the sheer expanse and diversity of the Nigerian landscape as well as the rich bank of manpower available in Nigeria at home and abroad.

The simple formula under the presidential system ought to be that once a president is elected, the assumption is that the entire nation becomes his constituency. It is from that wide expanse that he is challenged to choose the best hands and heads to run the affairs of state. He may in theory not be limited by considerations of partisanship.

But in reality, the president needs to reward his political party associates and key supporters whose support earned him victory. He also needs to reflect the interests of vital constituencies and special interests. An ally may be a great political mover but a totally useless administrator and hopeless manager of resources and manpower.

In the context of what is emerging as the Tinubu imperative, therefore, the job description and scale of competence of the ministers he needs have been self-defined. It does seem as though he has implicated himself into hiring a cabinet dominated by technocrats, knowledgeable and experienced hands and not nec-



President Bola Tinubu

essarily politicians. His record as governor of Lagos State suggests that he is at his best when he goes out to head-hunt knowledgeable experts and competent hands from across board to run the affairs of state. Will he follow that pattern which has worked for him previously?

All things considered, Tinubu's options are somewhat narrow. He cannot follow the pure technocrat/intellectual dominant cabinet that we see in a place like Singapore where the cabinet reads like an Ivy League university faculty list of who graduated from which top Western university.

The Singaporean model is historical and specific. They are coming from a history of Spartan meritocracy in a foundation laid by their late founder, the great Lee Kuan Yew. They do not have our history of nasty politics and silly compromises and compulsive glorification of mediocrity.

On the contrary, Tinubu's options are defined by the scope and nature of what he has defined as his priorities. It is also defined by the immediate backdrop of his predecessor for whom a cabinet literally meant no more than a room full of human political furniture. Buhari and his cabinet ruined the nation and brought us to this sordid pass.

They did this by just sitting there and doing practically nothing except in a few cases of commendable performance. Minimally, then, Tinubu has to have a better and different cabinet from Buhari. In this sense, the nature of the Tinubu cabinet has been defined by the minuses of the Buhari catastrophe as well as his own early definition of his policy pathway.

In this regard, the president has an immediate model and precedent in the current US cabinet. President Joe Biden literally had his cabinet options defined by the minuses of Donald Trump's excesses.

He won the election on a platform of diversity, competence and character against the backdrop of Donald Trump's record of bigotry, nastiness, division, incompetence and amorality.

So, Biden went for a diverse and very 'American' cabinet. From his choice of the first African American and female vice president, he appointed a Latino secretary of Homeland security, an openly gay Secretary, a number of women, blacks and youth secretaries. He even has a black Defense Secretary in the illustrious General Lloyd Austin.

Deeper down, there is a mixture of a few Democrat political figures as well as very outstanding technocrats and intellectuals

from his NSA and Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken.

The immediate Nigerian backdrop in terms of Buhari's ministers is a disgraceful throwback. It was mostly a parade of anonymity and rank incompetence. Of the few that were recognizable, half were noteworthy for reasons of their public nuisance and notoriety in matters of either crass incompetence or questionable credibility.

For some, visibility was more the public consequence of their portfolio rather than whatever content and value they brought to the job that gave them visibility. Admittedly, there were a few good men in the pack.

The majority were a vast uninspiring army of office occupants and seat warmers. There is a slew of viral anecdotes on aspects of the conduct of the Buhari ministerial class.

It is said that the former president only saw most of the vast majority of his ministers at the weekly Federal Executive Council meetings where he often has to be reminded of the names of most ministers. Otherwise, most were never summoned to brief the president on their portfolios since there was no brief or marching orders from the onset.

They were not required to submit monthly, quarterly or annual briefings or reports on their stewardship. Reportedly, there were no performance targets, no time lines, and no scoring formula to assess which ministers were doing what or who was succeeding or failing in what.

In Buhari's cabinet, 99 percent of the ministers stayed in office for the entire eight years until some had to opt out either from boredom or under the guise of going to contest the 2023 presidential election.

The result was an embarrassing lack of co-ordination in the activities of the ministers. In times of national crises, government acquired many voices. A cacophony of clashing and distressed choristers at the altar of an absentee deity. While trying to defend the same administration, different key officials and ministers presented a chaotic chorus of dissembling voices and competing narratives held together by nothing in particular.

Yet, Nigerians assumed there was a government in Abuja entrusted to cater for their interests and welfare. But to what end? The concept of ultimate responsibility resting with the President was in doubt as the presidential seal of finality was permanently missing. The president was either mostly absent or in detached aloofness. The nation doubted whether in fact anyone was in charge. That

is how the theory that Nigeria was a packed flight on a tragic auto-pilot was born.

The handful of ministers who burst into limelight did so by taking advantage of the missing central commanding voice. They seized advantage of the strategic importance of their portfolios to present themselves to the public as isolated islands of activity and performance. The rest, lost in the comfort of their own anonymity, were content with occupying cozy seats, enjoying copious perks and helping themselves to the honey pot of state power and unmerited privilege.

Going forward and given his projected policy trajectory, there is a distinct category of ministers that Mr. Tinubu needs to avoid. This is the category of nakedly ambitious political rabble rousers and noise makers.

The imperative of the hour is work and national recovery from eight years of abysmal leadership and atrocious governance. Tinubu does not need political trouble and noise makers. Nor does he need ministers who will compete for headlines with the president. Under the presidential system, the top political spot belongs to the president. Those who want to clamber onto the president's mandate to chisel out their own political ambition should have no place in the imminent cabinet. As public parlance puts it, Tinubu only needs men and women who know "the road" of how to manage resources and people in the service of a nation in trouble.

But from the chatter around him, there is a powerful lobby of ambitious politicians lining up in desperate hustle for ministerial jobs. Some of them have even pre-selected their portfolios.

The most conspicuous embodiment of this category is Mr. Nyesom Wike, immediate past governor of Rivers State. This prime advocate of disruptive politics and bill board governance is said to be hell bent on making Tinubu's cabinet list at all costs. After overturning the boat of his party, the PDP, Wike gatecrashed into reckoning in the winning APC through an electoral abracadabra that is still unfolding.

The rumours say he wants to be minister of works, Niger Delta, police affairs or even defense! Mr. Wike is a Nigerian citizen and a politician at that. He is entitled to change his party affiliation or aspire to any position as a matter of right. But he comes with a baggage full of a wild pedigree of serial betrayals, disruptive behavior, uncouth manners, ostentation, exhibitionism and alleged serial abuse of sundry substances.



All things considered, Tinubu's options are somewhat narrow. He cannot follow the pure technocrat/intellectual dominant cabinet that we see in a place like Singapore where the cabinet reads like an Ivy League university faculty list of who graduated from which top Western university

Emerging headwind and resetting governance in states

By Special Correspondent

WITH the exception of Lagos State, none of the states can sustain itself without funds from the monthly sharing of revenue by the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC).

States in the country appear to be in a race against time as they confront the economic realities of the recent removal of petrol subsidy and other cascading policies initiated so far by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in the governance of their states. Yet, it is a crisis foretold. With the exception of Lagos State, none of the states can sustain itself without funds from the monthly sharing of revenue by the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC). Their internally generated revenues are simply too hollow to sustain any proper fiscal activity. Misappropriation of funds, lack of vision, misplacement of priorities, award of dubious contracts and padding of payrolls by the bureaucracy, have conflated with the shortage of creativity in governance to deepen the mess.

For the states to bail themselves out of their quagmire will require governors to reset governance templates. The new direction should be anchored on prudence, revenue base expansion, lean cabinets and bureaucracies primed for service delivery, accountability and fighting corruption in all its nuances. Any state that ignores these imperatives is on a course to perpetual chaos.

Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State was farsighted in his Workers Day address when he warned that no level of governance in the country, including the federal government, will be able to pay salaries beyond June without resorting to the Ways and Means advances of the Central Bank, or funds freed up by the removal of petrol subsidy. To achieve this, the parliament enacted a law that increased the threshold of these advances from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the revenue of the government in the previous year, which could be given as a loan.

Obaseki was brutally frank in his summation: "Either of these decisions will bring more hardship and pain to Nigerians, particularly the workers." Citizens are at a lachrymal juncture now. Edo and Kwara states have reduced their work week to three days, to enable workers adjust to the hikes in transport fares, which have risen to as high as 300 per cent in some places. Edo State has added N10,000 to the minimum wage, an increase which is disproportionate to the inflationary spiral.

The naira has been floated as the Federal Government forges a convergence of the exchange rate of the dollar in the official and parallel markets. This equilibrium was achieved last Wednesday with the N753 to \$1 recorded in both markets. This has further devalued the naira, thus worsening inflation. Labour has tabled a N200,000 minimum wage demand to the government, which will be looked into by a tripartite committee comprising representatives of the Federal Government, labour and the private sector. But it is a no-brainer to imagine the eventual outcome. The truth is that national revenue cannot match labour's expectations. This scenario is likely to promote industrial disharmony.

As of July 2022, three years after the N30,000 minimum wage came into effect, 15 states were yet to implement it, citing fiscal distress. How those states will overcome the present reality beggars belief. Besides, other states are wallowing in questionable debts, non-payment of salaries and pensions. Governor Alex Otti of Abia State, in fulfilment of his election promises, says he will start to clear a backlog of 30 months from June end. He said recently that the total indebtedness inherited from the previous administration "at the last count was over N200 billion."

Central to the states' rescue plans is a reduction in the cost of governance. The era of having 1,000 aides, as former governor Isa Yuguda had in Bauchi State, is gone. The reckless lifestyles of governors having state-procured jets for gallivanting all over the place must stop. There is no reason, for example, why a governor should have more than five vehicles in his convoy, as against their accustomed and obnoxious practice of deploying about 22 vehicles in a trip. It will cost a fortune



to continue with this extravagance, with petrol now selling for between N488 and N700 per litre, depending on location.

The phenomenon of ghost workers and pensioners has created a deep hole in the treasury of many states, such that 13 states had 15,397 ghosts on their payrolls in 2021. The number is still growing! Some states have been dealing with it tepidly, whereas it is an incubus that demands a decisive and fatal blow. This criminal behaviour recommends itself to penal clampdowns. Permanent Secretaries, directors and payroll officers should be held to account for such fraud in their various agencies or departments.

In July 2022, Ondo State discovered that it lost N500 million to ghost workers in a pension and salary racketeering scheme. A report submitted by the Victor Olajorin-headed panel, uncovered double salary earnings by some workers, while there were instances of retirees collecting both their pensions and in-service salaries. Governor Rotimi Akeredolu was right to be livid as he received the report. He said, "We have a bloated workforce and undoubtedly I am sure there are

many (more) ghost workers." Commendably, he directed the Head of Service to dismiss such dubious workers. Since the governor was aware that more of such felons are still in the system, his best response would have been to make the suspects face the law and go to jail. The Teaching Service Commission alone incurred N497.7 million of this fraud. There are states with worse records.

In January, 199 out of 280 medical doctors on Zamfara State's payroll were ghost workers. The aggressive approach of former Governor Serikake Dickson in Bayelsa State, when he faced a more difficult situation, recommends itself to others. The N6 billion monthly wage bill he inherited was reduced to about N3.5 billion after great scrutiny and he introduced a legislative response to this financial crime. With the Bayelsa State Fraud and Related Offences Act 2012, culprits faced serious punitive sanctions when caught, and payroll scam retreated.

Since 2019, over N40 billion has been paid to 47 former governors in 21 states, in obscene retirement financial packages. The madness started in Lagos State in 2007. It then spread like a hurricane across

the country. State houses of assembly had to pass laws to give these packages the legal imprimatur. Besides cash, the former governors are bought fleets of cars, fuelled by the states, and furniture, which are all renewable every four years. Also, two mansions are built for them - one in their states, and the other usually in Abuja, preferably in Asokoro and Maitama zones, where a plot of land could go for as much as N500 million.

But with dwindling revenues and the fiscal exertions of such payments on the lean treasuries of states, it is time to abolish them. Continued receipt of such payments by these people already made rich by virtue of their previous political appointments, is the height of greed and insensitivity.

Yet, a few ex-governors have refused to be part of this extortion because of its moral odiousness. Therefore, state assemblies, as representatives of the people, owe it a duty to repeal the various laws that legalised the pension packages, to free such funds for development.

States should aggressively create an environment that fosters foreign capital inflows to their domains; de-

velop the agricultural sector for more revenue generation and job creation. According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 32 states could not attract foreign capital in the second quarter of 2022. Only Lagos, Anambra, Ekiti and Kogi did, but in minuscule sums of \$1.05 billion; \$24.7 million; \$500,000 and \$2 million respectively.

Agriculture remains a resource not well harnessed in our states yet. Anambra State, under Governor Chukwuma Soludo, has swung in the right direction in this regard with the importation of two million Malaysian palm oil and coconut seedlings.

The target is a yearly revenue of N160 billion from these to lessen dependence on allocations from Abuja. Instructively, most states have not taken advantage of the Federal Government's liberalisation of the solid mineral sector, to attract investors that will operate within the ambit of the law.

What is in vogue is yielding this underground wealth to artisanal miners, opaque licensed operators and their foreign rogue counterparts. The new governors and state legislatures should subject debts and other liabilities their states inherited from immediate-past governors to serious scrutiny.

Nigerians witnessed a binge of supplementary budgets in billions of naira and contract approvals in some states. Inquests, therefore, should be conducted to save the public treasury. Perhaps, the affected states were influenced by the National Assembly's irrational approval of a \$800 million loan to the Muhammadu Buhari regime, just two weeks before its departure. States whose governors remain adamant, or fail to align with the new realities, will wilt. There are no two ways about it!

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

Chinese, African women: It's shared progress amid enhancing of cooperation

CHANGSHA

WITH beads of sweat on her sunburnt face, Liang Qiuli found her overalls already soaked with perspiration.

At the construction site of the Central Business District in Egypt's new administrative capital, Liang meticulously examined building materials' sizes, quantities and specifications, braving the scorching sun.

Hailing from the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China, the female engineer is a relative rarity in a sector that typically demands on-site work thousands of kilometers away from home. "People often perceive construction sites as male-dominated environments, but women can also make significant contributions with their professionalism, attention to detail, and meticulousness."

Involved in the most sizable project undertaken by Chinese enterprises in Egypt to date, Liang tirelessly worked at the construction site throughout the day. When night fell, she diligently assessed the work's progress, checked data, and wrote comprehensive reports. "I aspire to engage in more projects in the future, supporting the infrastructure development of more African nations."

The stories at the construction site in Egypt are vivid examples of the vital role of women in Sino-African cooperation. From medical aid, scientific research, and poverty reduction to economic and trade exchanges and blending of lifestyles, women from China and Africa engage in broader, stronger, and more effective cooperation.

As China-Africa exchanges and cooperation deepen, these passionate, resilient, and courageous women continue to spread the gentle yet powerful force of "holding up half the sky," contributing to the enduring friendship between China and Africa.

Hoda Ibrahim Ahmed Gomaa, a female employee working side by side with Liang, served as a safety officer on the project after she acquired knowledge on equipment safety through the China-Egypt collaborative initiative known as the "Luban Institute."

The Egyptian woman made no bones about her apathy when she took the post at first. "Initially, I intended to secure a stable job to provide for my family, but as I worked, I became intrigued by this sector."

She sees Chinese projects as agents of change, introducing standardized employee training practices and advanced production technolo-



Exhibitors pose for a group photo at the third China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo at the Changsha International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Changsha, Central China's Hunan province, June 29, 2023. [Photo by Gu Pengbo/chinadaily.com.cn]

gies to Africa. "This position has equipped me with invaluable skills and significantly enhanced my family's well-being." Lineo Kobeli is another African female chasing her "Chinese dream" amid the evolving China-Africa cooperation.

Since childhood, the woman from Lesotho has heard many stories about the country in the Far East from her father, a businessman who frequently traveled to China.

After spending two years working in Africa, she seized the chance to pursue a master's degree in China, finally fulfilling her childhood dream.

During a youth entrepreneurship competition, Kobeli was captivated by a Chinese woman on the judging panel representing the Africa Guangdong

Business Association (AGBA).

"She stated that with sufficient determination, women can be successful in their careers," Kobeli recalled. Inspired by these words, Kobeli approached the judge after the competition.

"In her, I saw a woman I wanted to become. I asked her if there was an opportunity to work with them, and she agreed," she recalled.

The Chinese woman Kobeli mentioned was Tracy Huo, vice president of AGBA. Huo recalled being moved by the African woman's confidence, sincerity, and eagerness to learn, so she invited Kobeli to intern with her team.

"African youths can be inspired by China's development, learn and equip ourselves here, and

give back to Africa," Kobeli said.

Huo has also witnessed the changing social roles of African women in recent years. She said that an increasing number of African women had escaped poverty and realized their self-worth through education, skill development, and industrial growth.

"In the future, women will certainly play a greater role in China-Africa economic and trade cooperation and cultural exchanges," Huo said confidently.

On June 29, the China-Africa Women's Forum took place in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, as a side event of the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo.

Young American nationals urge govt to increase support for local artists

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

YOUNG American nationals have urged the government to increase support for local artists so as to enable them develop their talents for economic gain.

They made the call here on Thursday night at the Art Festival where they showcased their talents and visited special groups in the community to motivate the public through works of art.

According to them, the art industry was still good but much was yet to be done especially by the government

to support young people to grow their talents.

"Art brings positive changes to society and has the ability to contribute to the national income when it is recognised, so the government should create spaces for youth to showcase their talents which would also create employment and reduce poverty," said Nkosi Nathi from Washington DC, USA.

He said that art has been forgotten and governments do not give priority to artists

thus affecting growth of industry and market. "We are not given tools such as being given modern studios to do our work from our governments, but also remembering that art brings people together so the government should look at the works of artists and appreciate them," Nathi said.

Another US national, Jasmine Smalls said art can escalate the national income when it is well supported by the government.

"You spend a lot of energy in getting

yourself an art education and spend a lot of money in building talent, but many end up getting nothing despite the efforts," Jasmine said. Dr Romita Sillitti said that through talents, society unites and is built psychologically and also through talents, people go from one place to another with the aim of learning and showing what they have.

Nathi Mncube, also an artist from the United States said that through art, he has

got the opportunity to travel around different countries and educate people through his talent.

In addition, the art festival brought together young people from various colleges in the country, including Talent Informatics Computer Centre (TAI) of Mbeya Region Sheroes, Art Centre, Rungwe College of Business, TASUBA Bagamoyo and Dar Es Salaam College.



Muheza district education officer (Primary Schools) Pili Maxmilian speaks to journalists yesterday on the state of primary and secondary education in the district in terms of the construction of classrooms, toilets and teachers' houses after the government sent in funds for the purpose. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Manyara Region receives 6.417bn/- for construction of infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Region has received 6.417bn/- for the construction of infrastructure in 44 primary schools in seven district councils, Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga has said.

Addressing reporters yesterday here, Sendiga thanked the government for sending the funds which will greatly help bring transformation in the education sector.

According to her, the funds will also facilitate construction of eight new primary schools thus expanding educational services to easily reach more children in the Region. "Despite improving the infrastructure of the schools, each council will have one new primary school except Kiteto council which is going to have two new schools," she explained. She said the funds will also help increase other infrastructure in 36 schools which will involve a total of 87 classrooms, two dormitories, 90 toilet holes and two teachers' houses.

The RC said construction of the buildings was currently in various stages commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving the funds. Sendiga also mentioned other funds which the region has received as 1.490bn/- of Education Programme For Results (EP4R) projects, 3.187bn/- for the form five infrastructure project, 186.3m/ for the BARRICK Gold form five infrastructure and 4.09bn/- for the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP).

Youths urged to mobilise others on BBT programme

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Agriculture Minister, Anthony Mavunde has urged the youth who had the opportunity to join the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) programme to mobilise others to engage themselves in

agriculture for their economic wellbeing. Mavunde made the appeal at the weekend when inspecting the development of the youth who were receiving training through the programme at BBT Bihawana Centre, Dodoma Region.

He called on them to use

the opportunity to spur transformation in the agriculture sector. "Encourage more youth to involve themselves in agriculture to enable a huge group of youth to contribute to the growth of the sector in the country and the government will continue to make

sure it improves such training to prepare the youth well in the implementation of Agenda 10/30," he added.

For his part, BBT Programme Coordinator, Vumilia Zinkankuba said the programme continues in 13 centres in various areas of the

country and as for now it is in the last classroom training stages and in farms.

She said after the completion of this stage, the youth will be sent to farms to begin practical production of crops.

The leader of the youth, Razack Mbaraka said the programme has contributed a lot

in enhancing their knowledge on commercial agriculture.

"We thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the Minister of Agriculture under its Minister, Hussein Bashe for this training opportunity as well as for being granted land owner-

ship through BBT programme. "Since we came here we have learnt a lot of things, it is our pledge that from the training we shall endeavour to spur the agriculture sector growth, through professional farming practices for increased production of crops," he said.



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Govt financing appetite pushes T-bond prices lower

By Guardian Reporter

THE minimum successful price for 25 year Treasury bond fell to 90.0359 during last week's auction (28th June), from 93.5307 recorded by similar tenure bond auctioned on 10th May, 2023, which indicates increased financing appetite by the government.

The previous 25-year bond auction results showed the minimum successful price for the bond auctioned on 4th April this year was 94.5000, while during the auction held on March 1, 2023, the minimum successful price was 96.0496.

"The continued fall in price may reflect higher financing appetite by the government," said the weekly market review by Exodus Advisory, brokerage firm and member of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Analyst say long term bonds have remained the major target for the financial market investors, both locals and foreigners, in both primary and secondary markets.

"Investors are rushing to long-term bonds because they can also sell them over time, before the maturity period, at an attractive yield rate because of their demands," said an analyst.

The yield for the bond, which matures in June 2048, also went up slightly to 13.59 percent compared with 13.23 percent recorded during similar bond auctioned in May.

Analysts also say the increased yields

will also motivates investors in financial market both local and foreign, as they are now migrating from equities market to risk-free government bond market.

The auction results for the recent 25-year bond seeking to raise 180bn/- shows a total of 470 bids valued 334.27bn/- were tendered, an oversubscription by 154.2bn/-, whereby at the end of the auction, the government accepted bids valued 276.78bn/-.

During the previous auction, the government also accepted 213.5bn/- out of tendered 239bn/- against offered 180bn/-.

The highest bid was 100 while the lowest was 75.0000, lower than 89.0000 recorded during the previous auction of similar bond, while the minimum successful bid was 90.0359 against previously 93.5307.

The report by DSE shows outstanding government bond at the end of last financial year ended in June 30 amounted to 19trn/- an increase of 3.4trn/- compared with 15.6trn/- recorded during the end of 2021/2022 financial year.

The value of government bond traded during the last quarter of ended financial year amounted to face value of 1.12trn/- with the transaction value of 1.20trn/- higher than 654.8bn/- and 764.9bn/- respectively.

On Wednesday this week, there will be a 760% 2-years Treasury bond auction, of which the government is seeking to raise 139bn/- through competitive, and 0.35bn/- through non-competitive basis.

It is expected that demand will be high



Bank of Tanzania Dar es Salaam office

for the tenor as the market shifted from the equities to fixed income securities.

The bonds will be listed on the DSE and secondary trading in multiples of 100,000/- to commence on Monday 10th July this year.

Meanwhile, the equity market total turnover during the last quarter of just ended financial year amounted

to 28.6bn/- of which foreign investors dominated in both selling and buying activities, lower than 40.2bn/- recorded during similar quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year.

Total market capitalization fell by 6624bn/- to 15.010trn/- at the end of June this year from 15.634trn/- due to decreased share prices among cross listed com-

panies.

However, the domestic market capitalization gained by nearly 500bn/- during the reviewed period, which indicates an increased paper wealth among investors of locally listed firms.

An 800pc stock market rally puts Zimbabweans on edge

HARARE

IN Harare, Zimbabwe, home to the world's biggest stock market rally, the gains came at break-neck speed: 5 percent, 10 percent, even 20 percent in a single session. Tally them up, and the market is up an astonishing 800 percent on the year.

But in a country where up is often down and the next currency crisis is always just around the corner, the furious rally is a cause for concern, not jubilation.

It's a tell-tale sign, market observers here say, that investors are bracing for an inflation spiral and seeking a hedge to protect the value of their money. Consumer prices are climbing at an annual pace of over 100 percent, sparking jitters in a nation where the scars of hyperinflation run deep.

The stock market may be tiny – total capitalization is \$1.8 billion, dwarfed by neighboring South Africa's \$1 trillion-plus bourse – but at least it's a place where locals can easily invest. And, with the Zimbabwe dollar plummeting almost daily, few businesses will accept it as payment on any major purchase – property, cars, even fuel.

"So all of those Zimbabwe dollars will go into the equities market," said Tatenda Nemaungwe, a stock trader in Harare. Nemaungwe, 36, quit as a personal financial adviser five years ago to manage his own portfolio. "I was riding a dead horse." In an average month, he now earns more than 10

times his old salary of \$1,500 thanks to what he calls an "unending bull run."

Zimbabwe stocks have easily out-sprinted 2023's other big gainers. Argentina's Merval index has merely doubled, while S&P 500 investors must be content with a 16 percent rally. Given the country's economic ills, foreigners have largely abandoned the Zimbabwe equity market and account for just 15 percent of trading. Turnover is a fraction of major exchanges at about \$650,000 a day, compared with \$240 billion in combined dealings in the Wall Street benchmark.

Established in 1894, the Zimbabwe exchange is among Africa's oldest. Its home in the upmarket Harare suburb of Highlands, popular with diplomats and affluent retirees because of its smart residences in leafy and well-maintained streets, contrasts with the raucous bustle of the capital's downtown. A contrast, too, with the mayhem playing out on its trading board.

That price action has attracted about 23,000 retail investors, including Simba Nyamadzawo, who made his first trade in October using his mobile phone. "I am here for profit," the 35-year-old said.

Harare stock pickers have a universe of 55 companies to choose from. The most popular are the blue chips – like drinks maker Delta Corp., telecoms provider Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Ltd. and mobile money group EcoCash Holdings Zimbabwe Ltd.

They are among the exchange's most liq-

uid stocks, companies that provide products and services Zimbabweans rely upon. That buttresses their sales and earnings, even in times of eye-watering inflation. "Delta is tried and tested," is how Nyamadzawo summed it up.

It hasn't been a straight path higher. A fit of currency weakness in May wiped out 84 percent of the local dollar's value – and half of Nyamadzawo's fledgling portfolio. But the exchange-rate induced swoon was just a temporary setback and he is buying more stocks ahead of what he sees as the trigger for the next bull run: August's general elections.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa is facing off against a fractured opposition field of 10 candidates and Zimbabwe has a history of disputed votes since white-minority rule ended in 1980. Mnangagwa's government is blamed for much of the economic turmoil that has driven inflation to 176 percent as of June. The largest local banknote – the 100 Zimbabwe dollar bill – is not enough to pay for a single tomato. The central bank's main lending rate is the world's highest, at 150 percent.

"People tend to hesitate about making important decisions in the election run-up," Nyamadzawo said. "As soon as the election is over, people will want to buy once again."

Foreign investors are unlikely to be enticed to the Harare market by the latest rally, according to Hasnain Malik, who covers

emerging and frontier markets at Tellimer, a Dubai-based research firm. The gains are "driven entirely by the search for a hedge against inflation and a tradable security for local investors, who have little faith in the local currency and cannot easily access US dollars," he says.

For locals, there's a worry that regulators will put an end to the stock-market party. Back in 2020, authorities shut down the exchange for five weeks, complaining that speculation in stocks with overseas listings was undermining the Zimbabwe dollar. Exchange Chief Executive Officer Justin Bgoni declined to comment on this year's bull run.

Nyamadzawo doesn't plan to push his luck too far. "If I put my money in today and make a profit tomorrow, I will move it out." It's hard to predict the future when the economy is so volatile, he says. "I am not sticking around for five years."

End

Oil giants drill deep as profits trump climate concerns

LONDON

OIL and gas companies have intensified the hunt for new deposits in a long-term bet on demand, as they reinvest some of the record profits from the fossil fuel price surge driven by the Ukraine war, according to data and industry executives.

The exploration revival – on the part of European majors in particular – reflects a renewed commitment to oil and gas after Shell and BP went back on pledges to reduce output and invest in renewables as part of the energy transition.

It responds to pressure from a majority of investors to maximise their oil and gas profits rather than invest in lower margin renewable energy businesses.

It also defies protests from a minority of activist investors who want oil companies to be more closely aligned with global efforts to mitigate climate change.

The renewed appetite for oil and gas reserves and production is an especially big turnaround for BP, which got rid of most staff from its exploration unit three years ago.

Exploration is a long-term, high-risk business. Big-ticket offshore projects typically take five years to develop from discovery and at least another 10 years to return the initial investment.

But as a source of profit, it has proved more reliable for the energy majors than the very different business model of producing renewable energy.

Upstream oil and gas have historically had returns of around 15 percent to 20 percent, while most renewables projects have delivered up to 8 percent.

An oil and gas price rally driven by energy producer Russia's invasion of Ukraine translated into record profits for the energy majors.

That has increased confidence in the most costly, high-risk offshore exploration that can also deliver the highest rewards.

"Offshore is experiencing a renaissance," oilfield services company SLB Chief Executive Olivier Le Peuch said on June 21.

Leading industry data providers and consultancies endorse the view.

The number of offshore drilling vessels used to explore and produce oil and gas recovered in May to pre-pandemic levels, rising by 45 percent from October 2020 lows, an analysis of data from oil services firm Baker Hughes showed.

Wood Mackenzie analysts predict a continued increase in activity, forecasting offshore exploration and drilling activity to grow by 20 percent by 2025.

Already, the rise in drilling has helped to drive daily rates for leasing drilling rigs to the highest levels since a 2014 downturn when commodity markets crashed.

"Higher oil prices, the focus on energy security and deep water's emissions advantages have supported deep water development and, to some extent, boosted exploration," Wood Mackenzie analyst Leslie Cook said.

The potential size of offshore deposits can ensure economies of scale, meaning less energy is used to extract each barrel, limiting emissions.

The International Energy Agency forecasts global upstream oil and gas investments are set to increase by around 11 percent to \$528 billion in 2023, the highest level since 2015.

Barclays expects the number of offshore projects to get approval this year will reach a 10-year high.

Wood Mackenzie meanwhile predicts the commitment of up to \$185 billion to develop 27 billion barrels of oil reserves, with international oil companies focused on the higher-cost, higher-return deepwater developments.

It also anticipated the so-called Golden Triangle – U.S. Gulf of Mexico, South America and West Africa – as well as part of the Mediterranean will account for 75% of global floating rig demand through 2027.

FROM NAMIBIA TO FAR OFF EASTERN CANADA

Activity extends beyond that core exploration territory.

Namibia, which has yet to produce any oil and gas, has attracted strong interest after Shell and TotalEnergies made discoveries off the coast of the southern African country.

Shell's head of upstream Zoë Yujnovich said on June 14 that results from drilling tests so far were encouraging.

Together with its partners QatarEnergy and Namibia's national oil company, Shell plans to drill two further wells in Namibia by the third quarter of this year, a document seen by Reuters shows.

Shell has also applied for a licence to drill another 10 exploration and appraisal wells there, the document shows.

TotalEnergies made an oil discovery in February 2022 in the Venus well in Namibia's Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) 56, which analysts at Barclays estimate holds 3 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe).

Shell reported discoveries in the Graff, La Rona and Jonker wells in PEL 39, which together are estimated to hold 1.7 billion boe, according to Barclays.



DIGITAL MARKETING

The use of ChatGPT and brand strategy (in the franchise war)

By Alley Mtatya

I am fascinated by how some brands have already gone to war via the use of ChatGPT. We do know that for ChatGPT to be more effective, it requires constant questioning to improve its reasoning and therefore provide better answers. There are some big brands that compete fiercely to the point that they attract so much attention on the ground. That is advertising at its best.

Since early June 2023 there has been a burger or sandwich war between McDonald's and Burger King franchise giants. One has to ask as usual how far will this ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence (AI) battle go. Both fast food franchises have already taken to the streets to battle it out. Let me take you back in time.

The advertising battle between McDonald's and Burger King is a long-standing rivalry in the fast food industry. Both companies have engaged in various marketing campaigns over the years to gain an edge and attract customers. Here's a summary of some notable moments in their historical advertising battle:

Burger King's, "Have It Your Way" vs. McDonald's "You Deserve a Break Today" (1970s): Burger King launched its famous "Have It Your Way" campaign, emphasizing customizable orders and catering to individual preferences. McDonald's responded with the "You Deserve a Break Today" campaign, focusing on convenience and a break from the routine.

Burger King's, "Where's Herb?" (1985): Burger King introduced the character "Herb," a fictional customer who had never eaten at Burger King. The campaign encouraged customers to spot Herb and potentially win cash rewards, aiming to differentiate Burger King as a place where everyone had been. McDonald's, "Mac Tonight" (1980s): McDonald's introduced the character "Mac Tonight," a moon-headed crooner, to promote their late-night service and menu items. The campaign used a catchy jingle and a cool, stylish character to appeal to the nighttime audience.

Burger King's, "The King" (2003-2011): Burger King brought back their iconic mascot, "The King," who appeared in various commercials often with a creepy or surreal tone. The campaign aimed to grab attention and create a distinct personality for Burger King in contrast to McDonald's.

McDonald's, "I'm Lovin' It" (2003-present).



McDonald's launched the global "I'm Lovin' It" campaign, featuring a jingle by Pharrell Williams and emphasizing the positive experience of enjoying McDonald's food. The campaign aimed to create an emotional connection with customers and promote a sense of happiness and enjoyment.

Fast forward to today. McDonald's vs Burger King's new ChatGPT AI burger battle (2023). McDonald's caused a frenzy few weeks back after the franchise became the first brand to turn ChatGPT prompts into an ad. It asked the AI generative tool, "Which is the most iconic Burger?". ChatGPT answered, "The Big Mac". The prompt and answer was splashed onto a billboard. One could almost predict what was brewing in the kitchen. Yes! Their rival Burger King became the second brand to do the same with ChatGPT by placing a billboard right next to McDonald's billboard. Their prompt to ChatGPT was, "And which is the Biggest?". ChatGPT responded Burger Kings, "Whopper".

Anyone who is an expert user

or uses ChatGPT's generative AI, understands creative prompting that leads to an output. McDonald's vs. Burger King Social Media Banter (is ongoing). In recent years, McDonald's and Burger King have engaged in a playful banter on social media platforms like Twitter. They exchange humorous jabs, challenge each other's menu items, and compete for attention in the digital space.

For us Marketers, we love topical creative generated ads with short but bold responses. What gets us (Marketers) hyped up does not always register with the public. It all depends on the public's knowledge of ChatGPT and its AI generative tool. We as industry practitioners most often would not scramble for a ChatGPT endorsement. The fact that the ordinary viewers loved the adverts but did not notice the AI involvement, still shows the viewers enthusiasm about the tension between the two franchises.

It's important to note that these examples represent only a fraction of the advertising strategies employed by McDonald's and Burger King. The battle between the two companies continues to evolve as they adapt to changing consumer preferences and new marketing channels.

Alley Mtatya (pictured) is the founder of Eyeland Advertising and Analytics based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through Email. alley962003@gmail.com

Kenya Airways to ditch Embraer, Bombardier jets

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways (KQ) is set to do away with Embraer and Bombardier aircraft from its fleet as it opts for Boeing planes as the company adopts mono fleet.

Mono fleet, a cost containment measure, aligns with KQ's focus on optimising its fleet and network plan – a short to long-term strategy. So far, KQ has disclosed the exit of two Boeing B737-700 and two Embraer E190 jets.

"The board has approved that we move towards the Boeing aircraft. This is, however, going to happen progressively and not in one shot because we don't want to overheat," said CEO Allan Kilavuka last week.

Mono fleet has been tipped to ease KQ's fleet operational maintenance and training costs on crew and engineers.

"Mono fleet simplifies our fleet and brings more commonality to the type of airline that you fly. This helps with training and planning and reduces costs in terms of the crew you need and spare parts costs," he said.

The switch from Embraer would allow Kenya Airways to operate sizeable craft with aircraft types being deemed as too small.

In 2022, KQ operated 39 aircraft, both owned and leased, including nine Boeing 787 wide-body jets.

Additionally, the carrier operated eight Boeing 737 narrow-body jets, 13 Embraer regional jets and two Boeing 737 freighters and seven Bombardier Dash 8-400 jets.

The gradual move to mono leasing is expected to complement KQ's recent restructuring of lease rentals to ultimately reduce lease ownership costs.

Last year, KQ restructured lease rentals with 10 out of 12 lessors and achieved an average lease reduction of 22 percent across the fleet.

During the same period, the company agreed to extend

sublease agreements for three Boeing B777-300ER craft until they are 12 years old.

The period also marked the return of two leased Embraer E190s on the expiry of their leases.

KQ fleet ownership costs stood at Sh17.6 billion in the year ended December 2022 from Sh16.6 billion in 2021 but were lower than the Sh28.6 billion posted at the end of 2020.

The carrier's fleet costs include short-term lease expenses, depreciation and impairment of aircraft and related equipment, amortisation of right of use and return condition and variable lease expenses.

Depreciation and amortisation made up the bulk of KQ leasing costs in the year to December.

The airline's current fleet has an average age of 10 and is deemed to be fuel-efficient.

From 2021, the management of KQ says it has achieved an 18 percent reduction in aircraft rental obligations including savings of about Sh281 million (\$2 million) per month, and a reduction of Sh3 billion (\$21 million) in the outstanding lease deferrals.

KQ has terminated leases to two 777-300 ERs and is in negotiations to terminate leases for two sub-leased 777-300ER aircraft.

Mono leasing is part of a project known as Project Kifaru from which KQ hopes to emerge from.

The project will nevertheless be made or broken by the ability of the carrier to attract a strategic investor to ensure that KQ is substantively capitalized to soar again.

KQ's debt load which was estimated at Sh189.3 billion (\$1.347 billion) as of May 31 is nevertheless expected to impact the company's ability to source for the strategic investor.

The tapping of the investor will allow KQ to undertake a comprehensive debt and capital restructuring to ensure the airline's obligations are sustainably met going forward.



Alliance One donates ICT kits to primary tobacco cooperatives

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

ALLIANCE One Tobacco Tanzania Limited (AOTTL) has emerged first runners up at the just concluded world cooperatives day in Tabora in the non-government institutions.

The company also donated at least 30mn/ towards the successful completion of the annual event in the form of t-shirts and laptops, which were presented to the five best performing tobacco primary societies.

The firm clinched the victory via its pavilion, which was always thronged by a number of tobacco farmers anxious to further educate themselves in various areas in the sub sector.

The awards to both the company and the primary societies were presented by minister of agriculture Hussein Bashe over the weekend.

The company's Spokesperson Advocate John Magoti said that Alliance One had won the title of second runners up not by coincidence or sheer luck, but by it was the company's strong adherence to good farming practices as well as closely taking care of the farmers contracted to them.

"This donation to the farmers is aimed at upgrading record keeping in tobacco primary societies, a swift divert from the usual tedious paperwork to the adoption of modern information and communication technology," he said.

The five recipient agriculture marketing cooperative societies were Ibambala amcos in Kahama district, Shinyanga region, Mgwazi amcos in Kigoma region, Imalaukina amcos

of Sikonge district in Tabora region, Twendepamoja Kalunde amcos of Tabora region and Kombe amcos in Urambo district in Tabora region.

In his thanks-giving note, Chairman of Ibambala amcos Faida Paul was quite upbeat by the company's hospitality, saying from now onwards, all unnecessary complaints from his members regarding records keeping malpractices would be a thing of the past.

"The use of computers in keeping agriculture records is the best way to resolve unnecessary squabbles among members, so we greatly thank Alliance One for coming to our rescue," he said.

On his account, Chairman of Kigoma based Mgwazi amcos Gilbert Makwaya said the introduction of computers in running and managing of their affairs was a stitch on time.

"The government has recently launched the information system for use in managing cooperatives, so this donation to us of ICT based items has come at a very right time," he said.

Earlier in the week, Deputy Minister of Industries and Trade, Exaud Kigaha visited the company's pavilion congratulating them for their excellence in the tobacco sub sector.

He was taken on a guided tour of the company's pavilion by David Mayunga, the company's director of agronomy who told the minister that the company was paying farmers as per government instructions.

"For us there are no complaints, we are paying farmers on time, I mean after every 48 hours," he said.



Agriculture minister Hussein bashe (L) presents a laptop to Faida Paul Chairman of Kahama-based Ibambala Amcos, for use in record keeping by members. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Firms partner for promoting sustainable energy adoption

By Guardian Reporter

TWO companies have entered a partnership aimed at addressing the need for safe and reliable electrical products, widely available in the Tanzanian market in order to unlock the potential for sustainable energy adoption.

The partnership between Schneider Electric and AG Energies which was announced over the weekend will see AG Energies which is a renowned distributor of cutting-edge solar and retail electrical distribution products, supplying Schneider Electric solar and retail products in Tanzania.

The partnership represents a powerful synergy that combines Schneider Electric's expertise in developing innovative energy management products and solutions with AG Energies deep-rooted network and extensive distribution channels in Tanzania.

By joining forces, both companies aim to expedite the adoption of solar and energy management retail electrical products, catalyzing the region's sustainable energy revolution.

"We are thrilled to partner with AG Energies in our mission to drive the adoption of safe and reliable electrical distribution products and renewable energy solutions in Tanzania," said Carol Koech, Country President Schneider Electric.

She added, "Their market knowledge and distribution capabilities make them an ideal partner to help us penetrate the Tanzanian market and establish a strong foothold in this rapidly developing region. Together, we can make a significant impact on the transition to a more energy efficient and sustainable future," said Ahmad Ghaddar, CEO & Founder, AG Energies Company Limited.

"Through this partnership, we aim to provide our customers with cutting-edge products that not only help them reduce their carbon footprint but also enhance their energy efficiency in their homes, buildings and industries. Together, we can overcome the energy challenges in the country, in Dar es Salaam and beyond. By leveraging on our network of installers we are able to extend our offering beyond solar products to providing safe and reliable electrical products for our homes and buildings," she said.



Carol Koech, Country President Schneider Electric (R) and Ahmad Ghaddar, CEO & Founder, AG Energies Company Limited (L) signing an agreement to promote sustainable energy adoption in Tanzania. Photo by Guardian Correspondent

Xi's central bank shakeup prioritises continuity over change

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's elevation of a long-serving technocrat as the central bank's top Communist Party official strongly suggests that policy makers will avoid any drastic shifts for now as the world's second-biggest economy struggles to regain momentum.

Pan Gongsheng's appointment Saturday as party chief of the People's Bank of China indicates the bank will stay the course, consistent with its recent approach of only modestly cutting interest rates and encouraging banks to lend more to targeted areas. The government has faced calls for greater stimulus in recent weeks as data continues to show the economy losing steam.

"It's abundantly clear that the leadership is opting for continuity with this particular pick," said Christopher Beddor, deputy China research director at Gavekal Dragonomics. "The leadership and PBOC are very well aware that Pan is a known quantity and well-regarded by both domestic and global investors, and they have occasionally taken advantage of that fact."

The central bank's appointment of Pan as party chief was met with muted reaction in China's equities and credit markets, with most analysts seeing the move as an indication of policy continuity. China's high-yield dollar bonds, dominated by developers' notes, were little changed Monday morning.

With a resume that includes top positions at Chinese commercial banks and research stints at Harvard and Cambridge, the 59-year-old Pan has been entrusted to help steer China's economy out of a post-Covid slump as concerns mount over lingering weakness in areas like consumer spending and real estate.

His promotion comes shortly before a visit from US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen from July 6-9, part of a renewed attempt at diplomacy as China seeks to attract more foreign investment while the Biden administration looks to restore communications with Beijing. Xi vowed to "better protect the rights and interests of foreign investors" last week.

"China's weak economic recovery and worsening geopolitical tensions likely prompted Pan's hasty elevation," Eurasia Group analysts said in a note. "He is a proponent of regulatory reform and oversight and boasts strong international knowledge and connections relative to other Chinese central bankers."

Still, his appointment leaves key questions unanswered about the PBOC's role as Xi shakes up the upper echelons overseeing the financial system. Pan lost his membership of the Communist Party's Central Committee at its twice-a-decade leadership shuffle last year – a rank held by his predecessor at the central bank, Guo Shuqing.

Leadership Shuffle

On Saturday, Guo retired from his party role while current PBOC Governor Yi Gang relinquished his position as the bank's deputy party chief. The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that Pan will also take on the governor title, a position appointed separately by the government, which would see the central bank revert to the norm in recent decades of having both top jobs held by one person.

"Pan's relatively weak party ranking could lead to less PBOC influence in economic decision making at the highest levels," said Adam Wolfe, emerging markets economist at Absolute Strategy Research Ltd. "Of course, the system is essentially a black box at that level, so it's not clear how much it will matter that he isn't on the Central Committee."



Chinese President Xi Jinping

Unlike the US's Federal Reserve and central banks in Europe, the PBOC is not independent. It answers to the State Council, China's cabinet led by Premier Li Qiang, and needs approval before making major policy decisions such as setting interest rates or managing the currency.

"Pan being the PBOC's party secretary without being a member of alternate member of the party's Central Committee could mean a de facto demotion of the bank's status and influence," said Hui Feng, co-author of *The Rise of the People's Bank of China* and a senior lecturer at Griffith University in Australia.

The PBOC is "less likely to take any major leading role in macroeconomic decision-making under Xi's third term, and would become more of a technical consultant," he said.

First among the challenges Pan faces is his area of recent expertise – the yuan. In addition to holding a deputy governor role at the central bank since 2012, he became head of China's foreign exchange regulator in 2016, overseeing the country's \$3 trillion in foreign reserves.

Under Yi's leadership, the PBOC transformed its interest rate system to a more market-based one, and also ceased intervening formally in the currency even though it still has several tools at its disposal. The central bank on Friday vowed to step up efforts to stabilize the yuan after it approached the lowest level in 15 years.

"In terms of the immediate policy outlook, Pan's insider status, structural stresses from high debt and overcapacity that limit PBOC room for maneuver, and the need to gain consensus on major policy shifts mean continuity is the best bet," said Tom Orlik, chief economist for Bloomberg Economics.

"Pan's technocratic resume and – relative to most alternative picks – strong market and international experience should allay fears that the PBOC faces a political takeover."

Like most Chinese bureaucrats, Pan usually sticks to the official script when he's in the limelight. One of his more lively remarks came in 2017, in the midst of Beijing's crackdown on cryptocurrencies.

"If you sit by the river and watch, one day the corpse of Bitcoin will float in front of you," he said at an event, according to local media.

As the PBOC's deputy governor, Pan has been the point person for managing the imposition of guardrails on China's once-surgeing property market. In 2020, he was credited with introducing the so-called three red lines policy, a set of regulatory measures designed to rein in highly indebted developers like China Evergrande Group.

Pan could move away from that policy given China's slowing economy and troubled property sector, Rachana Mehta, co-head of regional fixed income at Maybank Asset Management, said on Bloomberg Television. "He may actually very well choose another option to help stabilize the property market this time," she added.

China's home sales tumbled last month, ending a four-month rebound and suggesting the country's vast property market is far from stabilizing.

Prior to joining the PBOC, Pan was in charge of the initial public offerings of some of China's biggest state-owned banks, including Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. The recent reorganization of financial regulatory bodies means the PBOC will likely focus on more on mandates related to monetary policy and financial stability as the new regulator takes over functions such as oversight of financial holding companies.

"As to the expectation that the governor and party secretary roles may be consolidated with Pan: it's not yet entirely clear how much that would matter with the new institutional setup," said Beddor from Gavekal Dragonomics. "It's quite a new operating environment now for the PBOC."

Tesla delivers record number of cars as price cut pays off

LONDON

TESLA delivered a record number of vehicles in the second quarter, beating expectations and demonstrating the value of price cuts earlier this year.

The electric vehicle pioneer said it delivered 466,000 vehicles between April and June, up 10.4 per cent from the previous quarter and 83.5 per cent from a year before. Production was even higher, at nearly 480,000.

The results exceed an already ambitious target of increasing volumes by an average of 50 per cent a year, helping to justify a 142 per cent rally in the stock so far this year.

Tesla's market cap as of Friday was \$820bn, below its all-time record above \$1tn but still multiples higher than any other

carmaker.

The stock has jumped in the past two months as General Motors, Ford, Volvo and Amazon-backed Rivian signed deals to adopt the battery charging standard developed by Tesla, opening up a new line of revenue for the company by selling access to its large network of chargers.

Tesla cut prices of its vehicles at the start of this year to help boost demand, with chief executive Elon Musk saying affordability was the problem.

"A vast number of people want to buy a Tesla car but can't afford it, and these price changes really make a difference for the average consumer," Musk said in January.

The Tesla Model 3 saloon now starts as low as \$32,740 after federal tax credits worth \$7,500.

Nearly all of the vehicles shipped last quarter were the mass-market Model 3 and the Model Y SUV. Fewer than 20,000 shipments were the higher-margin Model S and Model X vehicles.

Deliveries of the Cybertruck, Tesla's highly anticipated rival to pick-up trucks, are due to begin this quarter.

Tesla said earlier this year that it aimed to boost margins by scaling up production, introducing lower-cost models and making its factories more efficient – steps "necessary" to ensure affordability so it could "become a multimillion vehicle producer".

Musk predicted in January that Tesla could deliver as many as 2mn vehicles this year, up from 1.3mn in 2022.

Full results for the quarter are scheduled for July 19.



India refiners start to use yuan payment for Russian oil imports

NEW DELHI

INDIAN refiners have begun paying for some oil imports from Russia in Chinese yuan, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, as Western sanctions force Moscow and its customers to find alternatives to the dollar for settling payments.

Western punishments over Russia's invasion of Ukraine have shifted global trade flows for its top export, with India emerging as the largest buyer of seaborne Russian oil even as it casts about for how to pay for it amid shifting sanctions.

The US dollar has long been the main global oil currency, including for purchases by India, but now the yuan is playing an increasingly important role in Russia's financial system because Moscow has been frozen out of the dollar and euro financial networks by international sanctions.

China has also shifted to the yuan for most of its energy imports from Russia, which overtook Saudi Arabia to become China's top crude supplier in the first quarter this year.

"Some refiners are paying in other currencies like yuan if banks are not willing to settle trade in dollars," said an Indian government source.

Indian Oil Corp, the country's biggest buyer of Russian crude oil, in June became the first state refiner to pay for some Russian purchases in yuan, three sources familiar with the matter said.

At least two of India's three private refiners are also paying for some Russian imports in yuan, two other sources said.

All the sources declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter. None of India's private refiners – Reliance Industries Ltd, Russia-backed Nayara Energy and HPCL Mittal Energy Ltd – responded to requests for comment. Indian Oil also did not reply to a request for comment.

It could not immediately be determined how much Russian oil Indian refiners have bought with yuan, although Indian Oil has paid in yuan for multiple cargoes, sources said.

The rise in yuan payments has given a boost to Beijing's efforts to internationalise its currency, with Chinese banks promoting its use specifically for Russian oil trade.

Since the imposition of sanctions on Moscow, Indian refiners have mostly bought Russian crude from Dubai-based traders and Russian oil companies such as Rosneft, the Litasco unit of Russian oil major Lukoil, and Gazprom Neft, according to shipping data compiled by Reuters.

Indian refiners have also settled some non-dollar payments for Russian oil in the United Arab Emirates' dirham, sources have said.

"First preference is to pay in dollars but refiners sometimes pay in other currencies such as dirham and yuan when sellers ask them," said the government source, who did not elaborate further and declined to identify any Indian companies paying in yuan for Russian oil.

India's oil and finance ministries, which had previously been trying to convince Russia to accept rupees for oil payments, did not respond to requests for comments.

Reuters reported in March, citing government officials and banking sources, that India had asked banks and traders to avoid using the yuan to pay for Russian imports because of long-running political differences with China. It was not immediately clear whether recent purchases represent a change in that view.

India's imports from Russia rose to a record in May, with Russian crude oil accounting for 40% of India's overall oil imports compared with 16.5% a year earlier, denting purchases from Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

SANCTIONS MINEFIELD

While Western sanctions against Moscow are not recognised by India and its purchases of Russian oil may not violate them, Indian banks are wary of clearing payments for such imports.

In May, State Bank of India, the country's top lender and a key banker for state refiners, rejected IOC's planned payment in dollars for a cargo delivered by Rosneft, two sources said.

The cargo was loaded on tanker NS Bora, handled by Dubai-based Sun Ship Management, an entity connected to Russia's largest state shipping company, Sovcomflot, which the European Union sanctioned in February and the United Kingdom in May.

In June, IOC used ICICI Bank, a private-sector Indian lender, to settle this trade with Rosneft by paying in yuan to Bank of China, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said. One private refiner has also been using the same mechanism for payments for Russian oil, one of the sources said.

Since then, IOC has used the same method to pay with yuan for other cargoes from Rosneft, one of the sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

"Whenever IOC will face problems it would push for payment in yuan," the person said, adding that IOC had asked Rosneft to consider supplying oil in vessels not managed by sanctioned entities.

Rosneft did not reply to a request for comment.

Another state refiner, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd, is also exploring yuan payment for Russian oil, a separate source said.

"Many traders (sellers) are insisting for yuan payments," the source said.

BPCL, ICICI, State Bank of India and Bank of China did not respond to requests for comment.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

FRANCE RIOTS:

Shot teenager's grandmother says violence must stop

PARIS

THE grandmother of the teenager shot dead by police during a traffic stop in a Paris suburb said on Sunday she wanted the nationwide rioting triggered by his killing to end, as France braced for a potential sixth night of unrest.

Some 45,000 police were deployed again on Sunday night, according to Interior Minister Gerald Darminin, to deter rioters who have torched cars, looted stores and targeted town halls and police stations - including the home of the mayor of a Paris suburb, which was attacked while his wife and children were asleep inside.

President Emmanuel Macron postponed a state visit to Germany to deal with the crisis. He was due to meet with leaders of parliament on Monday and with more than 220 mayors of towns and cities that have been affected by riots on Tuesday.

The interior ministry reported 719 arrests following Saturday's funeral for Nahel in the Paris suburb of Nanterre, down from 1,311 on Friday night and 875

on Thursday night.

But officials cautioned it was too early to say the unrest was over.

"There was evidently less damage but we will remain mobilised in the coming days. We are very focused, nobody is claiming victory," Paris police chief Laurent Nunez said.

'Telling them to stop'

Nahel's grandmother, identified as Nadia by French media, said the rioters were using the 17-year-old's death last Tuesday as an excuse to cause havoc and that the family wanted calm.

"I'm telling them to stop," she told BFM TV.

"Nahel is dead. My daughter is lost ... she doesn't have a life anymore."

Asked about a crowdfunding campaign that had received pledges of more than 670,000 euros (\$731,000) for the police officer charged with voluntary homicide over the shooting, Nadia said: "My heart aches."

The riots amount to the worst crisis for Macron since the "Yellow Vest" protests gripped much of France in late



Charred cars and a bus are pictured in Lyon, central France, June 30, 2023. AP

2018.

In mid-April, Macron gave himself 100 days to bring reconciliation and unity to a divided country after rolling strikes and sometimes-violent protests over his raising of the retirement age, which he had promised in his election campaign.

Instead, Nahel's death has fed longstanding complaints of discrimination, police violence and systemic racism inside law enforcement agencies - denied by authorities - from rights groups and within the low-income, racially mixed suburbs that ring major French cities.

The officer involved has acknowledged firing a lethal shot, the state prosecutor says, telling investigators he wanted to prevent a dangerous police chase. His lawyer Laurent-Franck Lienard has said he did not intend to kill the teenager.

Teargas in Marseille

The biggest overnight flashpoint was Marseille, where police fired teargas and fought street battles with youths around the city centre late into the night. There was also unrest in Paris, in the Riviera city of Nice and in Strasbourg in the east.

The unrest delivers a blow to France's image a year before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

China, along with some Western nations, has warned its citizens to be vigilant due to the unrest, which could pose a significant chal-

lenge for France in the peak summer tourism season if it were to envelop prominent attractions. China's consulate lodged a formal complaint after a bus carrying a Chinese tour group had its windows smashed in on Thursday, leading to minor injuries.

In Paris, shop facades on the popular Avenue des Champs-Élysées were boarded up overnight, and there were sporadic clashes elsewhere. Police said six public buildings were damaged and five officers wounded.

In the Paris region, the home of the conservative mayor of L'Hay-les-Roses, Vincent Jeanbrun, was rammed with a vehicle, and his wife and children were attacked with fireworks as they escaped.

Borne visited the area on Sunday with the conservative Paris region president, Valerie Pécresse, who blamed the violence on small, well-trained groups. "The Republic will not yield, and we will fight back," she said.

As the mayor was greeted by well-wishers, a resident who gave her name as Marie-Christine said: "They're smashing things up just to smash things up, they want to spread terror, attack elected officials and try to put the Republic in danger."

The far-right Rassemblement National party of Marine Le Pen, Macron's main challenger in last year's presidential vote, has doubled down in its portrayal of Macron as weak on immigration.

Agencies

Successful partnership will keep gold shining for Mali

LOULO-GOUNKOTO

THE 26-year-long partnership between Barrick (previously Randgold) and the state of Mali has built the country's gold mining industry into a world leader and positioned it strongly for further growth, president and chief executive Mark Bristow said here yesterday.

Speaking at a media briefing, Bristow said the Loulo-Goukoto complex, one of the world's top 10 gold producers, was the biggest business in terms of enterprise value in the whole of West Africa.

Together with the Morila mine, the complex has contributed \$9.3 billion to the Malian economy and accounted for between 5% and 10% of the country's GDP over the past 10 years.

Loulo-Goukoto is one of Mali's largest taxpayers and employers, with a workforce of some 7,000, 97% of whom are Malian nationals. Over the life of the complex the state has received more than 70% of the economic benefits it created.

"We are continuing to invest in the future of Loulo-Goukoto. Successful exploration is more than replacing the ounces we mine as well as identifying new growth opportunities with the potential to deliver the next generation of major discoveries in the Loulo region.

The new underground mine at Goukoto - the complex's third - has developed its first production stopes and the Yalea South cutback is ahead of plan," Bristow said.

"We foresee that the complex will be a major contributor to the Malian economy for years to come. The achievement of that vision will require the continued commitment to the mutually rewarding partnership which has brought us this far and delivered sustainable benefits to all stakeholders, including the country's citizens."

In line with Barrick's global policy of local procurement, Malian suppliers accounted for 74% of the complex's purchases, amounting to \$298 million, during the first half of this year.

Turning to Loulo-Goukoto's operations, Bristow said the complex was continuing to perform strongly and was on track to achieve its production guidance for this year. It remains tightly focused on the safety of its workers and there were no lost-time injuries again during the past quarter.

As part of Barrick's transition to renewable energy, the complex is extending its solar power installation and battery storage system by 40MW. The project is already feeding 10MW into the mines micro-grid and it is expected that its second phase will be commissioned well ahead of the current end-2024 completion date. **Agencies**

Russia, Belarus jointly counter serious external threats, says Putin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin (pictured) sent congratulations to his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko on the occasion of the republic's Independence Day, according to the presidential message posted on the Kremlin's website yesterday.

"The bonds of fraternal friendship and mutual support tempered in the hard wartime years remain a reliable basis for allied Russian-Belarusian relationships.

"This is fully confirmed today when our countries jointly counter quite serious external threats and challenges," the head of state said in his message.

This holiday holds its significance not only for the Belarusians but also for the Russians because it is linked with quite a remarkable event in the common history of both states: the liberation of Minsk from the German-fascist invaders, Putin pointed out.

In his message, the Russian leader said he was confident that by building up bilateral ties and strengthening institutions of the Union State, Russia and Belarus would be able to overcome any difficulties and safeguard their legitimate interests on the international scene.

The Russian president wished his Belarusian counterpart good health and success and "the Belarusian people happiness and prosperity."



'World today sees PM Modi as a troubleshooter'

GORAKHPUR

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that in the nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government, India has set new benchmarks for progress and prosperity and today the entire world recognises India's ability to manage the biggest crises.

"During the past nine years, India has set new benchmarks for progress and prosperity. Now the entire world recognises India's ability to manage the biggest crises of the present," said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday. Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of the Post Master General (PMG) office and Arogya Mandir sub-post office buildings and inaugurating the parcel hub and nodal delivery centre at Rapti Nagar Phase-III, Yogi said: "Not only has the prestige of India and its people increased on global forums, but the attitude of the people of the world towards India has also changed.

The whole world today

sees Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a troubleshooter."

The Chief Minister said that a new India has emerged under the leadership of PM Modi. "A new enthusiasm is seen in people in all the countries that PM Modi visits.

The whole world is eager to congratulate PM Modi for the kind of leadership he gave to the country during the Corona crisis while upholding freedom of expression and democratic values. PM Modi provided free check-ups, treatment, and vaccines for all the citizens of the country.

As many as 220 crore doses of vaccine were given along with maintenance allowances to the needy."

He added, "Twelve crore farmers are being given the benefit of PM Samman Nidhi. Funds for public welfare schemes are being sent to Jan Dhan accounts through DBT, and for the last three and a half years, free ration facilities have been provided to 80 crore people.

Such arrangements were not there in any other coun-



try in the world during the pandemic."

The Chief Minister said that the people of the world, who earlier believed that India could not do it, now believe that India alone can do it.

From infrastructure development to internal and external security, through poor welfare schemes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about massive changes in the lives of the citizens of the country, he pointed out.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that under the leadership of PM Modi, the picture of New India is also visible in the field of postal services.

When the digital revolution came in the communication sector, it seemed that postal services would stop. But, under the leadership of PM Modi, the postal services also joined the digital revolution, giving a new dimension to their services."

CM Yogi stressed the importance of postal services since the times when there were no means of transport and the postmen delivered letters and money orders by travelling long distances on foot.

Today, a new form of Postal department is being created by connecting it with banking and insurance services. Through commemorative postage stamps, the Department of Posts has done an important task of connecting the past with the present, he added further.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the services of the Postal department have been highly commendable during the Corona crisis, as it worked as a reliable companion. When all institutions had come to a halt, the postmen went from village to village and delivered the money to people sent by their near and dear ones.

Referring to the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana launched by PM Modi through the Postal Department, the Chief Minister said that the scheme will help achieve the goal of the slogan 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.

Mentioning the importance of the newly inaugurated Parcel Hub, CM Yogi said that it is a sign of the Postal Department's growing popularity and commitment to public aspirations.

Apart from Eastern Uttar Pradesh, different regions of the country will also benefit from this coordination of railways, he informed.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also honoured the beneficiaries of the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Mahila Samman Bachat Patra, and Daendayal Sparsh Scholarship Scheme on the occasion. **ANI**

US eyes plan for non-Mexican asylum seekers in Mexico

WASHINGTON/MEXICO CITY

US and Mexican officials are discussing a new US refugee program for some non-Mexican asylum seekers waiting in Mexico, four sources said, part of President Joe Biden's attempts to create more legal avenues for migration.

The programme would likely be open to Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan refugees in Mexico, the sources said. Migrants would need to show they were in Mexico before June 6 to qualify, one of the sources said.

The sources - a US official, a Mexican official and two people familiar with the matter who all spoke on condition of anonymity - stressed that the issue remained under discussion and no final decisions had been made. It was not clear how many people might benefit from such a program.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants from those four nations have passed through Mexico en route to the US during political and economic upheaval in recent years, straining resources in both countries and putting polit-

ical pressure on Biden, a Democrat seeking reelection in 2024.

The plan under discussion would allow qualifying migrants approved for refugee status to enter via the US refugee resettlement program, which is only available to applicants abroad, the sources said. Unlike most migrants who claim asylum after entering the US, refugees receive immediate work authorization and government benefits such as housing and employment assistance.

Refugees using the US resettlement program can apply to

become permanent residents within one year, offering more stability than other options. To be approved, they must establish that they face persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

In a statement, Mexico's foreign ministry said it is in constant communication with the US about expanding labor mobility and refugee protections. To that end, it said it had held discussions over various programs and policies, while always safeguarding national sovereignty.

However, Mexico has not reached any agreement with the US, the ministry added.

Broader Biden migrant strategy

The Biden administration has opened up new ways for migrants to enter the US legally as part of a broader strategy to discourage people from crossing the US-Mexico border illegally.

Migrants waiting in Mexico can apply for US entry on a smartphone app and later request asylum, but slots on the app fill up quickly. Under another Biden

program, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans can request to enter the US by air if they have US sponsors. But those routes do not provide the same benefits available to refugees or a direct path to permanent residence and eventual citizenship.

In April, the Biden administration said it aimed to admit 40,000 refugees from Latin America and the Caribbean in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, doubling a previous target. As of May 31, about 3,400 had arrived, showing that the pace would need to greatly accelerate to

reach the goal.

Some refugee backers are concerned the focus on Latin America could slow processing from other parts of the world, including of refugees already waiting for approval.

The initiative under discussion would be a "Priority Two" refugee program, the sources said, similar to one opened for Afghans in 2021. Such programs allow certain groups of people to apply for refugee status directly without needing a referral from the United Nations.

Agencies

World delegates commend China's contributions to global food security, expect further cooperation

ROME

DELEGATES from member nations of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) praised China's remarkable contributions to global food security, and expressed anticipation for closer collaboration in the fight against poverty and for zero hunger.

The remarks came after Qu Dongyu, incumbent FAO director-general, was re-elected earlier on Sunday during the ongoing 43rd session of the FAO Conference, the highest governing body of the Rome-based UN agency. His second term will run from Aug. 1, 2023, to July 31, 2027.

Founded in 1945 and headquartered in Rome, Italy, FAO is a specialized UN agency leading cooperation in food and agriculture.

The organization plays a vital role in global food and agricultural policy exchanges, standard-setting, information gathering and statistics.

Qu, who was elected in June 2019 to head the UN agency and the first Chinese national to

serve in the position, is expected to further boost China's cooperation with FAO and its member nations in the coming years, said delegates to the session on Sunday.

"China's endeavors in eliminating poverty and ending hunger have greatly impressed many delegates, including Basam Essam Rady Abdelhamid Rady, Egypt's permanent representative ambassador to FAO.

"I think China has made a tremendous job during the past years and it will continue to make progress, especially at this critical moment that the world is witnessing, after the crisis of COVID-19 and the crisis of Russia-Ukraine," said Rady.

Egypt, an active participator in FAO's South-South Cooperation (SSC) Program, appreciates China's "major and pivotal role" in this field, he noted.

Since the SSC was launched by FAO in 1996, China has always been actively involved and played a very important leading role in the SSC and has donated 130 million U.S. dollars to FAO since 2009, exclusively for



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Director-General Qu Dongyu (C, Front) prepares to plant a medicinal seedling during a tour of Karura forest on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, on Feb. 19, 2023. Xinhua

South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Chinese government has also provided considerable agricultural technical assistance to developing countries. To date,

China has dispatched more than 1,000 Chinese experts and technicians, through FAO, to Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Egypt is honored to have a part

in the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative by aligning the initiative with Egypt's national projects in the seaports and Suez Canal, said Rady.

The collaboration serves not

only the interests of the two countries, but also that of the world and all humanity, and is for the betterment of the job that FAO is doing, he added.

"Bangladesh and China enjoy extremely cordial bilateral relations, and we have a multi-faceted collaboration," said Shameem Ahsan, Bangladeshi permanent representative to FAO. "And I think both countries can immensely benefit by collaborating and even exploring other new areas of cooperation."

During the session, Chinese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Tang Renjian reaffirmed his country's international responsibilities as a major developing country for global food security.

China will firmly practice multilateralism, and work with other countries to ensure global food security, eradicate poverty, achieve zero hunger, and push to achieve the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, said Tang. Xinhua

Biden to embark on Euro trip to boost NATO bloc

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will be heading to Europe for a three-country trip to -- the United Kingdom, Lithuania, and Finland -- to bolster the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) coalition.

During his trip from July 9-13, President Biden will first travel to London, United Kingdom for engagements with King Charles III and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to further strengthen the close relationship between our nations, the White House informed in a statement.

He will then travel to Vilnius, Lithuania from July 11-12 to attend the 74th NATO Summit. This will be followed by a visit to Helsinki, Finland for a US-Nordic Leaders Summit.

According to Al Jazeera, the intention of Biden's Europe visit is to bolster the international coalition against Russian aggression as the war in Ukraine extends well into its second year.

The main focus of Biden's five-day visit will be the annual NATO summit, held this year in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Also planned are stops in Helsinki, Finland, to commemorate the Nordic country's entrance into the 31-nation military alliance in April, and Britain, the White House has announced.

The NATO meeting comes at the latest critical point in the war.

Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, says counter-offensive and defensive actions against Russian forces are underway as Ukrainian troops start to recapture territory in the southeastern part of the country, according to its military leaders, Al Jazeera reported.

Notably, the Russia-Ukraine war started after Ukraine expressed the desire to be a part of the NATO alliance.

Even after the Russian invasion going on for over a year, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is firm on the stand.

"I am also grateful for the support of our movement in NATO. It is now the obvious fact - the wider NATO is in Europe, the wider the space of peace is in Europe," he said on Twitter after meeting Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Saturday. ANI

Sudan clashes intensify with no mediation in sight

CAIRO

CLASHES between Sudan's army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) intensified on Sunday, as the war in the country's capital and western regions entered its 12th week with no attempts in sight to bring a peaceful end to the conflict.

Air and artillery strikes as well as small arms fire could be heard, particularly in the city of Omdurman, as well as in the capital Khartoum, as the conflict deepens a humanitarian crisis and threatens to draw in other regional interests.

The RSF said it brought down an army warplane and a drone in Bahri, in statements to which the

army did not immediately respond.

"We're terrified, every day the strikes are getting worse," 25-year-old Nahid Salah, living in northern Omdurman, said by phone to Reuters.

The RSF has dominated the capital on the ground and has been accused of looting and occupying houses, while the army has focused on air and artillery strikes.

Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan last week called on young men to join the fight against the RSF and on Sunday the army posted photos it said were of new recruits.

The Sudanese Doctors Union accused the RSF on Saturday of raiding the Shuhada hospital, one of the few still operating in



People flee as smoke billows in Wad Hamid, about 100 kilometers north of Sudan's capital, on June 28, 2023. AFP

the country, and killing a staff member. The RSF denied the accusation.

The war has also hit cit-

ies in the western Kordofan and Darfur regions, in particular the westernmost city of El Geneina,

where the RSF and Arab militias have been accused of ethnic cleansing.

The Combating Vi-

olence Against Women Unit, a government agency, said on Saturday it had recorded 88 cases of sex-

ual assault, which it said was a fraction of the likely real total, in Khartoum, El Geneina, and Nyala, capital of South Darfur, with victims in most cases accusing the RSF.

Talks hosted in Jeddah and sponsored by the United States and Saudi Arabia were suspended last month, while a mediation attempt by East African countries was criticized by the army as it accused Kenya of bias.

Last week, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy on the country's Sovereign Council Malik Agar expressed openness to any mediation attempts by Türkiye or Russia, though no official efforts have been announced. Xinhua

Xi sends congratulatory letter to Bond with Kuliang: 2023 China-US People-to-People Friendship Forum

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on June 28 sent a congratulatory letter to a forum on people-to-people friendship between China and the United States.

The event, titled "Bond with Kuliang: 2023 China-U.S. People-to-People Friendship Forum," is being held in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian province.

In the letter, Xi said that back in 1992, he invited Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner to Kuliang, helping her fulfill the wish of her late husband to return to his childhood home. In the following 30 years and more, members of the Kuliang Friends and people from various sectors of both countries have delved deep into the history of this town, actively spread its culture, and worked tirelessly to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and American peoples.

Kuliang is where a touching story of China-U.S. friendship happened.

In 1901, Milton Gardner, born in the United States, came to live in Fuzhou with his parents when he was still in his infancy, and his whole family moved back to the United States in 1911. Gardner had been longing for revisiting his childhood home, but had never been able to make his wish fulfilled.

Gardner's story was told by an article published on People's Daily on April 1992. In 2012, when visiting the United States as China's vice president, Xi shared the



Guests attending a symposium of the Kuliang Friends plant trees in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, June 28, 2023. (Photo by Bai Ziwei/People's Daily)

Kuliang story with the audience at a welcome luncheon held by American friendly groups, drawing warm response from all sectors in the two countries.

Amity between peoples holds the key to the relationship between countries, and the people are the cornerstone of its growth, Xi said. "I hope that you will continue to write the Kuliang story and carry forward the special bonds, so that the friendship between our two peoples can stay forever strong and robust like the thousand-year-old cedar trees in Kuliang."

Lee Gardner is a grandnephew of Milton Gardner. Though the man, in his seventies, is physically challenged, he still came to China to join the forum this time. It marked his fourth time returning to Kuliang.

Lee Gardner's grandfather and father were all born in Fuzhou. This time, he returned to Kuliang wearing a tie in "Chinese red."

Opening an album of his family, Lee Gardner told People's Daily that his entire family is grateful to Xi, and the Chinese President's efforts to help an American senior fulfill his wish have touched many people in the United States.

Elyn MacInnis, is the Lead Researcher of

the Kuliang Tourism and Culture Research Association. Her husband Peter MacInnis was born in China, and her father-in-law Donald MacInnis was once a member of the Flying Tigers, a formidable group of volunteer fighter pilots who helped China fight the Japanese invasion.

After hearing the letter from Xi at the forum, Elyn MacInnis noted that the three generations of her family all have a bond with China and love the country very much.

In 2015, the woman started studying the history and culture of Kuliang through conversations with the members of Kuliang Friends. In her point of view, the Kuliang story mirrors the peace and friendship carried by this piece of land.

"Thanks to the efforts of President Xi, the Kuliang story of China-U.S. friendship is known to the world. The article was published on April 8, 1992, and me and Mrs. Elizabeth Gardner arrived in Fuzhou on August 21. This was organized by President Xi. He is as easy-going as family," said Liu Zhonghan, author of the 1992 People's Daily article.

He said that the forum, which was joined by many from the United States, reflected the people-to-people friendship between

the two countries.

Currently, the international community is generally concerned about today's U.S.-China relations, and it's more important than ever for the two countries to inherit their friendship, transcend disputes, find common value and establish a heart-to-heart bond, said Luca Barone, who received Xi when the latter visited Iowa in 1985 as the party secretary of Zhengding county in China's northern province of Hebei.

Barone noted that the Kuliang story is inspiring and shows what true friendship is. Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, told People's Daily that non-governmental friendship is a foundation on which different countries enhance mutual understanding, expand consensus and strengthen friendliness.

Xi's congratulatory letter is of vital significance for the United States and China to get rid of the difficulties in their relations and restart communication in all fields, Kuhn said, adding that it demonstrates China's sincerity in developing China-U.S. relations and commitment to cooperation.

Kuhn hopes that the people-to-people friendship between the United States and China can be passed down from generation to generation and help the two countries improve their relations. People's Daily

Russia open to Ukraine conflict's political solution, but 'prospects are slim' – diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA remains open to a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, but prospects are slim due to the stance of Kiev and its Western curators, who place their bets on a military solution, Gennady Gatilov (pictured), Russia's permanent representative to the UN headquarters in Geneva, said in an interview with Russian daily Izvestia.

"Russia keeps the door open to a political and diplomatic resolution of the crisis, but the prospects this scenario are rather slim, since Kiev and its Western curators continue betting on the use of military force," he said. "We are not mentioning the fact that the Kiev regime legally banned all negotiations with Moscow."

The diplomat noted that so far there are no vital signs that the United Nations and its Secretary General Antonio Guterres "can play a constructive role in the settlement of the conflict."

"UN efforts on Ukraine are paralyzed by unwillingness of listening to either our point of view or of any other party," Gatilov said. "In fact, this organization, and primar-

ily the General Assembly, was transformed by the West into a platform for voicing unsubstantiated accusations against Russia and repeated speculations in the context of the Ukrainian crisis."

At the same time, according to the diplomat, Russia "treats with respect all efforts of countries, organizations and individuals in the search of possible solutions to the Ukrainian crisis." "There have already been many voiced proposals and initiatives on the issue," he said. "Recently, a group of African countries voiced similar ideas."

"It all reflects a growing understanding that the current developments in Ukraine pose serious threat not only to the regional security, but also the global security as well," Gatilov noted.

However, the Russian diplomat continued, a targeted work with the Kiev regime and the collective West is required to facilitate the peaceful solution of the conflict.

"The Ukrainian side must be persuaded to cease hostilities and get down to the negotiating table, and the West must stop pumping Ukraine with weapons and dispatching mercenaries over there," Gatilov added. Agencies



SPORT



Runners are pictured battling it out in the 2023 Lake Victoria Marathon in Mwanza on Sunday. KCB Bank Tanzania sponsored the showdown that brought together hundreds of participants from various parts of the country and abroad. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mpango urges JKT to nurture junior soccer players

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

VICE President, Philip Mpango, has instructed the National Service (JKT) to develop strategies for grooming young football players that will successfully turn out for Simba SC, Yanga, and other clubs that participate in Premier League.

Mpango said so during the launch of the celebration for the JKT Week now taking place at Medeli East grounds in Dodoma.

The celebration is accompanied by dance and Taarab genre performances staged by the institutions' troupes.

Mpango said the army has every reason to invest in sports, arts, and culture because there are opportunities for young people to excel in the institution via participation in the three fields.

"JKT should invest in sports, we need to see JKT Tanzania and Mashujaa FC put stellar displays in Premier League," Mpango pointed out.

He further explained apart from promoting soccer, JKT should dwell in investing in music given the army has bands that can challenge other troupes in the profession domestically.

He said that if the institution opts for such a move, the sports industry in Tanzania will be highly competitive and will further promote the country internationally.

Mpango said JKT Tanzania and Mashujaa FC, the army's clubs that have garnered promotion to the 2023/24 Premier League, should sign up good players so that they can efficiently battle for the title when the top flight begins.

He said that Mainland Tanzania Premier League is currently at its best and is competitive, so, he would like to see the teams challenge the rest in the top flight and stay in a good position by the time the showdown concludes.

Minister for Defense and National Service, Innocent Bashungwa, said that the army has put strategies in sports teams it owns to ensure that they perform well in national and international tournaments.

He said right now, the institution's women's football outfit, JKT Queens, is battling it out in the 2023 Military World Games, so the institution believes the other teams will excel in their respective competitions.

The Head of National Service (JKT), Major General Rajabu Mabele said, the army is doing well in the sports sector, especially athletics, boxing, soccer, and volleyball.

Mabele said in commemoration of JKT's 60th anniversary, they have organized various sports shows and entertainment staged by JKT music troupes.

According to Mabele, there will moreover be animal shows which are one of the tourist attractions, so he called on Tanzanians to come out in large numbers to enjoy the entertainment.

Mbwana Samatta joins Greece's PAOK Salonika

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

TANZANIAN forward, Mbwana Samatta, has signed for Greece's Super League 1 big gun, PAOK Salonika, after having a loan spell at Belgium's KRC Genk.

Information issued by various international media outlets revealed due to a lack of strikers, Belgium's KRC Genk, an outfit Samatta (pictured) was loaned to by Turkish Süper Lig's Fenerbahçe, had hoped to keep the goal-getter at the club for free but the move has been canceled.

KRC Genk was not inclined on settling for the option in the loan deal for the Fenerbahçe forward and the Turkish top club was reportedly resorting to terminating his contract.

With Fenerbahçe reportedly keen on being relieved of Samatta's heavy wages, the move would have brought about his free return to Genk possible.

Both Greek and Turkish media though now report that Samatta already has an agreement with the Greek top club PAOK Salonika.

Samatta is said to be the chosen one by PAOK Salonika, nicknamed 'Biceps of the North', to reinforce the team's striking force.

The information revealed the 31-year-old Tanzanian striker did not appear in last weekend's Fenerbahçe training, further strengthening the rumours that they want him to join the PAOK Salonika roster.

Samatta, according to reports, was transfer-listed by Fenerbahçe amid talk of interest being shown from Egypt.

The 30-year-old striker, who spent five years with DR Congo's TP Mazembe, has been on the books with Turkish giants since 2020 but has spent the past two seasons on loan at KRC Genk and Royal Antwerp FC.

Samatta was not included in the squad planning of Fenerbahçe last season and was loaned to KRC Genk, where he had a



four-year successful first spell including winning the Jupiler Pro title, top scorer award, and the best Foreign player of the season.

He scored six goals and assisted once in 36 appearances for KRC Genk but the buyout option in the contract did not come into play.

If KRC Genk was champion in the Belgian Premier League, a transfer fee of 4 million euros would be paid to Fenerbahçe but they ended up losing the title on the last day of the season.

After the end of the season in Belgium, Samatta returned to Fenerbahçe. With the signing of former Manchester City FC striker Edin Dzeko and the return of Samatta to the squad, Fenerbahçe has six strikers in total. They were planning to part ways with three names.

SPORTS

Local hockey in need of a massive fillip

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is an incontestable fact that field hockey is an entertaining and captivating sport that is capable of serving up plentiful thrills and spills.

Here, in our neck of the woods, field hockey is a sport that has been played for many a year in the eventful history of national sports.

However, in the last few years, local hockey has been blighted by several woes that include a chronic lack of funds among other impediments.

Indeed, another challenge that hinders local hockey is the saddening fact that hockey competitions are rare on the local scene throughout the year.

In fact, for some time now, the lone hockey championship that is staged on the home front every year is the Julius Nyerere Memorial Hockey Tournament that commemorates Nyerere Day.

Local hockey is facing a conundrum and what makes matters worse is the fact that few sports stakeholders have even recognized the aforesaid drawbacks.

Still, despite this worrisome status quo in local hockey, there are a few measures that can be taken to put the sport back on the right footing.

Encouragingly for hockey stakeholders, it is cheerful to note that authorities in the present day have distinctly demonstrated their readiness to bolster local sports.

Apart from offering huge financial incentives to Simba SC and Yanga during the respective campaigns of both clubs in CAF inter-club championships last season, the authorities have also recently unveiled grand plans to build more sports stadiums to boost local sports.

Bearing this in mind, it seems highly likely that if the top brass of the Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) were to solicit the assistance of those individuals in the corridors of power, then they might get quite a favourable response.

Having said that though, to make a convincing case for greater support from the authorities, the higher-ups of the THA will have to present a detailed plan to improve hockey's flagging fortunes.

Apart from other things, such a plan



Dar es Salaam's Buza Secondary School students showcase their hockey skills during drills at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Youth Park's venue recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

would have to include the following, (a) new potential sources of funds and (b) clearly expressed ways how to tap talents at the grassroots level.

Alas, few administrators in local hockey have sounded the alarm about the massive problems confronting the sport.

Nonetheless, it is hoped though that over time, a rallying cry will be issued for the improvement of local hockey which would be a godsend for the sport.

Having put that matter to bed, let us now focus on tennis' most invaluable grand slam championship, Wimbledon, which got underway at the genesis of this week.

Indeed, Wimbledon every year features a who's who of tennis maestros all giving their blood, sweat, and tears towards winning the whole shebang.

Unquestionably, one female tennis icon who is in the running to secure her first grand slam is the Tunisian Ons Jabeur who will be fancying her chances of success on the grass courts of Wimbledon.

Last year was undoubtedly a breakthrough one for Jabeur as she entered into the top ten ranking of global

women's tennis by dint of consistently sublime displays all season long.

The affable Tunisian even progressed to the final of Wimbledon last year only to lose 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 to Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in what was, unfortunately, an unsuccessful effort to claim world tennis' most treasured competition.

Hope springs eternal that Jabeur will this year prove to be eminently capable of becoming the first African in history to win a coveted grand slam tennis event.

SportPesa rewards Singida Fountain Gate FC for excelling in Premier League

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, has awarded Mainland Tanzania Premier League outfit, Singida Fountain Gate FC, 50m/- for performing well in the just-concluded domestic top-flight season.

Singida Fountain Gate FC was widely known as Singida Big Stars before the club was bought by owners of Dodoma's Fountain Gate FC after the season's conclusion.

It finished fourth in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League, which had Yanga lifting the top flight's silverware, Simba SC taking second place, and Azam FC finishing third.

The fourth-place finish has, as a result, guaranteed Singida Fountain Gate FC participation in the 2023/24 CAF Confederation Cup, with the side set to get its campaign underway in the preliminary stage.

SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas, presided over the award's handover ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The occasion was as well attended by other officials including SportPesa Tanzania's Head of Communications Sabrina Msuya, Singida Fountain Gate FC's officials- vice-president for Administration and Finance John Kadutu, and Marketing Director Tabitha Kidawadawa.

Abbas congratulated Singida Fountain Gate FC leadership and footballers for the success and pointed out that the feat has proved the outfit was determined to scale great heights in the game.

"I would like to congratulate the leaders and players of

Singida Fountain Gate FC for the success you have achieved, as you have accorded Singida's people great respect," Abbas noted.

The SportPesa Tanzania official pointed out: "The most important thing is the respect you have given us, your main sponsors, the way you fought for the prestige of the brand and distinguished yourself on the pitch that you are genuine competitors, not mere participants."

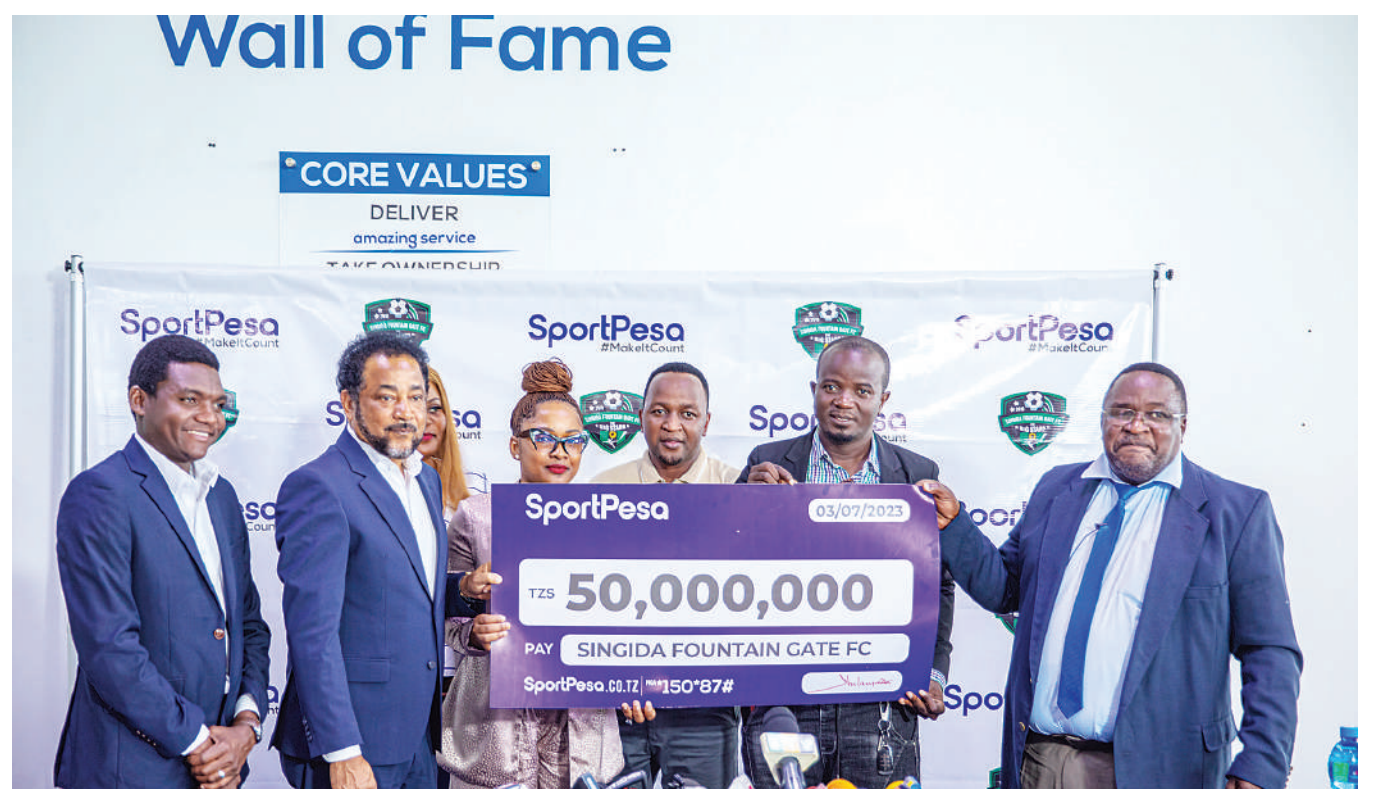
"The fourth-place finish is a good opportunity for you to step up your performance next season, and it is also a good sign because you can fight to secure either of the top two places in the league and even win the title," the official noted.

Abbas revealed: "I also take this opportunity to congratulate you for successfully getting a chance to participate in next season's CAF Confederation Cup."

Singida Fountain Gate FC's vice-president, Kadutu, noted: "I congratulate SportPesa for following every aspect of the agreement in this contract by presenting a bonus of 50,000,000/-, which is to be presented if the team ends within the top five in the respective season's league for four years from the 2022/23 season."

Kadutu pointed out: "This gesture has been productive thus awakening the morale of the players and executives in carrying out their daily duties and fighting to ensure the outfit is doing well."

"Let me take this opportunity once again to thank SportPesa for caring about us and being close to our team when we need your help," the official stressed.



SportPesa Tanzania's Board of Directors Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (2nd L), hands over a 50m/- check to Singida Fountain Gate FC's vice-president for Administration and Finance John Kadutu (R), at a function held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are (L-R) Singida Fountain Gate FC's vice-president for competitions and infrastructure Ibrahim Mirambo, SportPesa Tanzania's Head of Communications Sabrina Msuya, Singida Fountain Gate FC's information officer Hussein Massanza, and official Muhibu Kanu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Manchester City set to sign £86m Josko Gvardiol in world record fee for a defender

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are on the brink of making Josko Gvardiol the most expensive defender in world football history with negotiations over a £86 million deal with RB Leipzig expected to be concluded in the coming days.

The German club's sporting director, Max Eberl, has revealed the talks with City and says a deal for the Croatia centre-back will start at €100 million before add-ons. Gvardiol's representatives have told his club their client wants to move from Bundesliga to the Premier League champions this summer.

His fee would be more than the £85 million Manchester United paid for Harry Maguire in 2019, which is currently the most expensive fee for a defender ahead of Virgil van Dijk to Liverpool and Matthijs de Ligt to Juventus.

City have targeted Gvardiol, 21, as the best centre-back available to them this summer in a position Pep Guardiola has prioritised to strengthen.

"Gvardiol and his agents gave us their desire to move to Manchester City. We are in talks with City," said Eberl. "Yes, for €100 million plus bonuses, Gvardiol will end up in Pep's strong hands. The value of the deal would make Gvardiol the most expensive defender in history. But it might take a few more days."

Guardiola has Ruben Dias as the cornerstone of his defence, while John Stones has often been used in midfield, with Nathan Ake and Manuel Akanji played full-back at times during the Treble-winning season. Aymeric Laporte could move on this summer after losing his place in the team.

City have also signed Mateo Kovacic, Gvardiol's international teammate, in a deal worth £30 million from Chelsea. They were looking at a deal for Declan Rice but refused to get into a bidding war with Arsenal, with the England midfielder a consideration in the area where they lost Ilkay Gundogan, who moved to Barcelona as a free agent. Leipzig

also sold Dominik Szoboszlai to Liverpool for £60 million.

Meanwhile, Tottenham have moved swiftly to agree a deal with Manor Solomon from under the noses of Fulham after his loan at Craven Cottage last season.

The Israel winger, 23, is ready to put pen to paper with Spurs as a free agent, as Fifa rules allowed him to suspend his contract with Shakhtar Donetsk due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

After his loan with Fulham last season they were in a good position for him to continue for the 2023/24 campaign but he is now set for a medical at Spurs after an agreement over personal terms.

He will become the next new addition to the squad for coach Ange Postecoglou following his appointment this summer. James Maddison has also arrived from Leicester City and along with Solomon will add competition in attacking areas.

Italian goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario has arrived from Empoli, while Dejan Kulusevski's loan from Juventus has turned into a permanent deal.

Solomon's move has come after he caught the eye with Fulham last season, where he enjoyed a run of scoring goals in five consecutive matches during the second half of the campaign.

His move was a loan but his contract with Shakhtar expired six months ago. Fifa have extended their ruling that gave players and coaches "the right to unilaterally suspend their employment contracts with clubs affiliated to the Ukrainian Association of Football until 30 June 2024, provided that the clubs are duly informed of the suspension in writing by 1 July 2023".

Shakhtar have spoken of their frustration with the Fifa rules, suggesting they could pursue legal action and take Solomon's next club to court over the matter. Shakhtar CEO Sergei Palkin has insisted it is unfair that his club bought Solomon for an initial €6million from Maccabi Petah Tikva but will lose him for nothing.

THE TELEGRAPH

Ex-France captain Vieira appointed Strasbourg coach

PARIS

FORMER France captain Patrick Vieira on Sunday took over as coach of Strasbourg in the French Ligue 1 on a three-year contract, the US-owned club announced.

Vieira, 47, (pictured) succeeds Frederic Antonetti, who was dismissed early last week after Strasbourg finished 15th in Ligue 1, two places and five points above the relegation zone.

"I welcome Patrick Vieira, whom I know from the French national team; I am very happy to welcome him to Strasbourg," said Marc Keller, the Strasbourg president and a former France midfielder in a statement on the club website.

"He corresponds to the profile we were looking for: a manager with international experience, and who also has a good knowledge of Ligue 1 and its young players."

The Alsace club is under new ownership, with The BlueCo consortium, led by Chelsea owner Todd Boehly and US-based Clearlake Capital, buying a majority stake on June 22.

Vieira played 107 times for France captaining his country 21 times and winning the World Cup

in 1998 and the Euros in 2000. A midfielder he played for AC Milan, Arsenal, Juventus, Inter and finally Manchester City, where he started his coaching career.

He has been head coach at New York City FC, Nice and Crystal Palace.

He said he was "particularly happy" to take over at Strasbourg.

"I know the history and the identity of this club, the fervour it arouses, the importance it has for its region, which is a place of football and passion," said Vieira.

"It is exciting as a coach to be able to build something while relying on the values that have defined the strength of the club."

Vieira had been without a club since he was fired by Palace in March.

In his first season he led the club to 12th place in 2021-2022 but was sacked this spring with the club just above the relegation places and on a 12-game winless run.

Palace had failed to manage a shot on target in each of his last three Premier League games, the first instance of that happening since the statistic was first recorded in 2003-04.

AFP



South Africa Women's World Cup team sits out game in pay dispute as 13-year-old player called in

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

A STANDOFF between South Africa's Women's World Cup squad and the national soccer association over pay and other issues forced officials to field a makeshift team of little-known players that included a 13-year-old for a game against Botswana on Sunday.

The game was supposed to be the final warm-up match for the African women's champion on home soil before it headed off to the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, but it turned into an embarrassment on and off the field as the entire World Cup squad sat out the game.

South Africa's team of replacement players hastily pulled together from local clubs lost 5-0 to Botswana at the Tsakane Stadium near Johannesburg. They were 4-0 down at halftime in a game that was delayed for an hour at the request of the South African Football Association (SAFA) so it could scramble and put together a team.

South Africa coach Desiree Ellis said one of the players she had to draft in was aged 13. In a post-match interview, she didn't comment on the problems.

The World Cup players only arrived at the match at halftime, when they emerged to watch from the stands. SAFA also didn't immediately comment on what sparked the standoff but Thulaganyo Gaoshubelwe, the president of the South African Football Players Union, which represents the interests of soccer players, said the incident was partly caused by poor pay for the players.

"They are fighting for their rights," Gaoshubelwe said of the South Af-



FILE - South Africa's women's soccer team pose for photographers and fans during a welcome ceremony at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 26, 2022, after winning the Women's Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco last July 23. Agencies

rican players in a video posted on his union's official Twitter account. "SAFA doesn't want to include money in their contracts. We must fight for the rights of these players."

Gaoshubelwe, who was standing next to some of the players outside the team hotel in the video, said their complaints had been "dismissed" by SAFA. He was also seen in discussions with the players and accompanied them to the stadium when they turned up at halftime.

Gaoshubelwe claimed SAFA president Danny Jordaan was to blame for the standoff.

South Africa Sports Minister Zizi Kodwa said in a statement he would be meeting with the players' union on Tuesday "to hear the serious con-

cerns expressed by the team."

The meeting would be about the players' "welfare" and issues related to their contracts, Kodwa said.

The squad is due to fly to New Zealand in two groups on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported that players were also annoyed that their farewell game before the World Cup was held at the Tsakane Stadium, which holds just 5,000 people and is not a high-profile soccer venue.

The players viewed that as a mark of disrespect for them from their national soccer association, the SABC reported.

SABC and other television networks broadcast images of the

World Cup squad members standing around outside their team bus at a hotel shortly before the game was due to kickoff. SAFA CEO Lydia Monyepao was seen speaking with the players.

South Africa won the Women's African Cup of Nations last year for its first major title, yet the players have often complained that they aren't given the recognition or benefits that the men's team gets.

South Africa is due to play Costa Rica in New Zealand on July 15 in its final World Cup warm-up game. South Africa plays Sweden, Argentina and Italy in the group stage at the World Cup, starting against the Swedes on July 23.

AP

From human ashes to cellphones, what's going on with concert fans lately?

NEW YORK

FROM flinging bras to tossing flowers, concertgoers have long been a bit extra in showing adoration for their beloved artists – but a recent spate of artists being hit by weightier projectiles raises concerns about extreme fan culture and security.

Country singer Kelsea Ballerini was the latest artist to be struck by a flying object, Wednesday evening at a Boise concert. In the moment caught on video, Ballerini is playing her guitar onstage when a bracelet hits her face and she takes a step back.

Ballerini, clearly caught off guard, takes a moment before a brief intermission is called.

"Hi, I'm fine," she later said on Instagram. "Someone threw a bracelet, it hit me in the eye and it more so just scared me than hurt me."

Ashley Highfill, 30, was at the Idaho Botanical Garden show and said Ballerini seemed visibly upset. Highfill, who often attends concerts with her friends, said it's become a normal occurrence to see fans throwing items onstage at concerts.

"Stuff like that can be very dangerous," she said. "It's disheartening to see even though there is no bad intention, people are not thinking of the consequences that these people are putting on a show."

That same day, rapper Sexy Red cut short her own show when fans refused to stop throwing water bottles at the stage.

Morgan Milardo, managing director of the Berklee Popular Music Institute in Boston, said some venues will have signs that say "no mosh pits" or "no crowd surfing" – but perhaps signs that explicitly say "no throwing items at the stage" now need to be added to protect artists.

"Everyone in attendance at a concert is responsible for keeping one another safe," she said. "Concerts are supposed to offer a community where folks can come together to share in the magic of live music, not have to worry about a chicken nugget hitting them in the eyeball."

Long gone are the days of in-person fan clubs, but social media users can join in with the Swifties or the Beyhive at any moment online or get



Bebe Rexha performs at the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball in Los Angeles. (Agencies)

daily updates from accounts run by or dedicated to celebrities. Social media has created a deeper sense of connection and emotional closeness for fans, said Laurel Williams, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Baylor College of Medicine.

That sense of closeness played out at a recent concert where one fan tossed their mother's ashes onto the stage as Pink was performing.

"Is this your mom?" Pink asked the fan. "I don't know how to feel about this."

David Schmid, a pop culture expert at the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences, said the idea of tossing items on stage historically goes back to the etymology of the word "fan." Short for fanatic, it was a term originally associated with religious devotion. And many tend to see celebrities "as if they are gods or at least semi-divine beings," he said.

"From that perspective you can read the stage as a kind of altar and the objects that are thrown onto the stage as devotional objects," Schmid said.

The role of social media has also changed the nature of the items being thrown onstage. Rather than toss a note, some are hurling heavy cellphones onstage, hoping the performer will grab it and record a moment for them. In some cases, it ends up being a dangerous grab for attention.

A man was arrested after throwing a cellphone that struck pop star Bebe Rexha in the face on June 18. According to a court criminal complaint, the man later told a third party that he hit the artist because he thought "it would be funny." After the New York concert, Rexha shared a photo of her black eye and bandaged face to Instagram, with a thumbs up.

"I'm good," she said in the post.

"Although the show ended in an un-

fortunate way it was still an amazing show in my hometown," she wrote in a subsequent post.

While female artists have been the targets this month – including singer Ava Max, who was slapped at her Los Angeles show – even male performers like Harry Styles have faced projectiles heavier than underwear. At a November 2022 concert, Styles could be seen tossing his head back in pain after he was hit in the eye by a projectile.

Mid-concert provocations from fans aren't necessarily new: Rock legend Ozzy Osbourne notoriously bit the head off a live bat after a fan tossed it to him onstage. Some punk fans might remember the days when concertgoers would spit at artists to show appreciation.

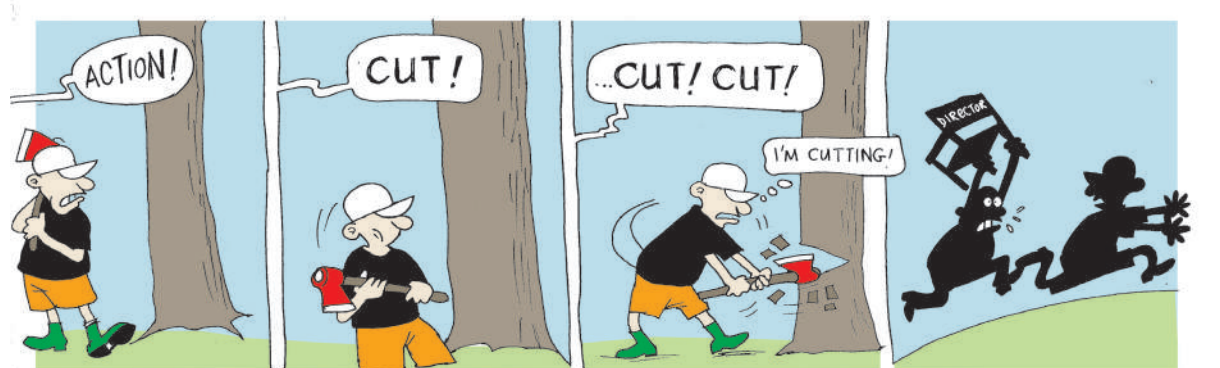
But with such behavior seemingly becoming more mainstream, venues, promoters and artists might look to reinforce security.

Paul Wertheimer, founder of Crowd Management Strategies/Crowdsafe, said artists often have security contracts with the promoter that lists out what kind of security the artist will pay for or wants at the show. Venues can also decide to limit what can be brought inside or sold at the event space.

"You need to have proper security to protect the artist," Wertheimer said.

After the deadly 2021 Astroworld crowd surge, protocols around safety at concerts have been called into question. With recent advancements in surveillance technology, like facial recognition and crowd monitoring with artificial intelligence, fans may no longer be able to fade into the crowd after hurling a personal item at their adored

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

South Africa Women's World Cup team sits out game in pay dispute as 13-year-old

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Newly signed Azam FC winger, Gambian Gibril Sillah.

Gambian winger aims to win major titles with Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NEW Azam FC recruit Gibril Sillah has set his sights on winning the NBC Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup as well as making inroads into the CAF Confederation Cup with the ice cream boys.

The winger is hoping the experience he gained in Morocco's Botola Pro League with his previous club, Jeunesse Sportive Soualem, a club he was loaned to by Raja Casablanca, helps him.

The Gambian international is almost guaranteed to be in the Azam FC's starting eleven after his \$70,000 arrival from Raja Casablanca was confirmed.

The 24-year-old can play as a right winger, left winger, attacking midfielder, or center-forward.

The winger was one of the influential players at Jeunesse Sportive Soualem in the just-concluded Botola Pro League, in which the squad finished ninth.

Sillah netted seven times and racked up four assists for Jeunesse Sportive Soualem in the Botola Pro League.

He arrived in Dar es Salaam on Sunday to finalize the paperwork for his move to Azam FC.

Upon signing the contract, Sillah stated his ambition of making history with Azam FC by winning major titles.

The winger disclosed: "I came here because I know the coach and the team is growing. My agent told me about the team. I am coming here to help the team so that we can make history together, win trophies together."

He continued: "I had many offers but I saw the Azam FC project, the complex, and the coach impressed me. I said to myself, 'Let me go to Azam FC, I can develop and grow more here and keep going forward'."

This week, Azam FC is expected to unveil two more new signings including Senegalese left full-back Cheick Sidibe from his home country's club, Teungeuth FC, who will, as is the case with Sillah, unite with head coach Yousouph Dabo.

Last season, Azam FC finished third in the league, 19 points behind champion, Yanga, and 14 points shy of first runner-up, Simba SC.

Azam FC reached this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup final after edging out Simba SC 2-1 in the semi-final but lost 1-0 to Yanga in the final to end up trophyless for a third season.

The Chamazi-based Azam FC footballers will be reporting back for pre-season today as they prepare to begin a new campaign.

They will be eager to right the wrongs of the last campaign. Azam FC will head to Tunisia for a pre-season training camp on Sunday.

In Tunisia, they are expected to play several international friendlies including one with Esperance de Tunis.

Azam FC will kick off the 2023/24 campaign with a semi-final knockout game against Yanga in the expanded Community Shield tournament set to be played in Tanga as a curtain-raiser to the 2023/24 NBC Premier League season.

Mtibwa Sugar out to promote U-20 team's youngsters

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NBC Premier League side, Mtibwa Sugar, has earmarked some of the club's U-20 team's players for promotion to the senior side.

Mtibwa Sugar's U-20 team clinched this year's U-20 Premier League title having edged Geita Gold FC U-20 squad 1-0 in the final played at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Promising forward Athuman Masumbuko, alias 'Makambo', registered the only goal of the clash in the 97th minute of the game, which stretched to 120 minutes, to hand the Mtibwa Sugar U-20 team the deserved victory.

The Morogoro squad, consequently, defended the league's silverware it had lifted in the previous season.

The team also produced the showdown's top goal scorer, Masumbuko, who scored seven goals, the Best Goalkeeper Toba Reuben, and Player of the Tournament Ladack Chasambi.

Speaking after the final, Mtibwa Sugar's information officer Thobias Kifaru said the U-20 team is serving its purpose.

He said the club's management is happy with the U-20 squad's achievement and some of the team's players will be promoted to the senior team while others will be sold to other Premier League clubs.

The official noted: "The U-20 squad is designed to feed the main team, we are happy that our junior players always live up to the occasion in the main team."

"Should some players fail to make it to our senior team, we let them play for other clubs in either Premier League or Championship League," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar's U-20 squad's head coach Awadh Juma congratulated his players on the victory.

"The win today is a great achievement to the players, I owe it all to them, they did their best and after this showdown, I can say that some of them are ready for the Premier League challenge," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar's U-20 team cruised to a 2-1 win over Azam FC U-20 squad in a pulsating semi-final clash that took place at the venue last weekend to book a place in the final.

The last-four round's clash between Geita Gold FC U-20 and Kagera Sugar U-20, which took place early on the same day, culminated with the former commanding 2-0 victory to make it to the final.

Soccer outfits having U-20 teams is one of the requirements set forth by the Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) and FIFA to fulfil the Club Licensing.

The primary objective of having a youth side is developmental, namely grooming talent.

Yanga SC set to grace Malawi's 59th independence anniversary celebrations



Yanga's Information Officer, Ali Kamwe. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE government of Malawi has invited Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League champions, Young Africans SC, to mark the climax of the 59th-anniversary celebration of the nation's independence that will be held on Thursday.

Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, will play against local champions Nyasa Big Bullets in the Independence Day celebrations.

The celebrations will also be graced by Tanzania's President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, that will undertake a three-day state visit to Malawi from Wednesday to Friday.

The trip was announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday by Yanga's Information Officer Ali Kamwe while talking to journalists.

Kamwe explained that the schedule was not in the club's initial pre-

season plans but they feel honoured and privileged to be invited to such an event.

The official pointed out: "We have received a special invitation from the government of Malawi to play a special game on the 59th anniversary of Malawi's independence to be held on July 6, 2023... it is a great honour for our club and the nation as a whole."

"The guest of honour at Malawi's independence celebrations is Tanzania's President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, and the government of Malawi gave us this unique honour with this great and historic invitation," Kamwe disclosed.

"It is the respect that the government of Malawi has given us, seeing that we deserve to provide entertainment to Malawians celebrating their independence anniversary," Kamwe noted.

"Yanga's leadership called the players to inform them that we have to go to Malawi to honour the historic invitation," the official revealed.

Kamwe added that the Yanga squad will depart for Malawi tomorrow with about 15 players from the first team and an addition of six others from the youth squad.

As a mark of respect to the Malawi government, Kamwe said, they will parade all of their trophies won last season.

Yanga won the Community Shield, the NBC Premier League title, and the Azam Sports Federation Cup to make a clean sweep of domestic trophies.

The Jangwani Street club also garnered first runner-up medals in the CAF Confederation Cup following a final defeat against Algeria's USM Alger on away goals rule. They will travel to Malawi on a chartered flight.

The club will also unveil its first signing of the coming season today. The new signing will be part of the travelling squad to Malawi and will feature against Nyasa Big Bullets.

In addition to playing the international friendly, Yanga will be treated to a state dinner by Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MY HUSBAND IS SO JEALOUSY THAT HE WAS THE ONLY MAN IN OUR WEDDING RECEPTION

THAT WAS A KITCHEN PARTY!



TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Mpera Mpera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
14:00 SSPORTS (I)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mpera Mpera
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Hot Spot
16:30 Zote Kuntu
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 Club Bangers

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM