



National Pg 3 Cope with tech development



National Pg 4 WVC to launch genebank in Arusha



National Pg 6 Hanang mudslide victims get support



Angellah Kairuki (L), the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, cuts a ribbon to launch two conservation projects engaging multilateral stakeholders, the wildlife policy implementation strategy and the elephant management plan in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Others are Dunstan Kitandula (2nd L) the deputy minister, Dr Fortunata Msoffe (C), the Wildlife director, UNDP resident representative Shigeki Komatsubara (2nd R) and USAID biodiversity senior technical advisor Jason Ko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt sets out Form I entries, with 98pc put in day schools

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

A TOTAL of 1,092,984 students have been selected to join Form One next month, with 1,410 students joining technical secondary schools as the government starts to put into effect the new education curriculum. Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) made this observation as a press conference here at the weekend. He said that 585,051 of those selected are girls and 507,933 are boys, with 3,587 students in the special needs group, namely

1,590 girls and 1,997 boys. A batch of 5,606 students have been assigned to 48 boarding schools qualified as national schools, while 17,412 students were selected for regional boarding schools. The vast majority of 1,069,966 students will be in 4,566 day schools up to 97.9 percent of total, he said. Students with high marks, numbering 942 students were selected to seven notable secondary schools, namely Ilboru, Msalato, Kibaha, Kilakala, Mzumbwe, Tabora Boys and Tabora Girls. Nine technical secondary schools will take up 1,410 students, who include 1,136 boys and

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Major stakeholder hosts BBT vision symposium

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

BUILDING a Better Tomorrow (BBT) youth initiative in agriculture is expected to increase agro-sector productivity by supporting groups of young university graduates to engage in agricultural activities. Gerald Mweli, the Agriculture permanent secretary, said this over the weekend when presenting the government's vision for the BBT programme at a televised symposium to mark the 62nd independence anniversary at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). The agriculture sector contributes 65 percent of industrial raw materials and 26 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), while just over nine percent of public expenditure is directed to agriculture, he said. The government expects that more youths, who make up 34 percent of the country's population will take up agriculture through BBT plans, he said. The ministry had collected views from various stakeholders on the right way to enhance agricultural activities among educated youths, the result of which was the BBT programme, solving challenges such as access to agro-sector education, credit and markets. In implementing the programme, the government is allocating one million hectares of farmland, obtaining 231,000 hectares so far, resettling 812 young people with farms by early next month. The youths are those graduating from National Service training, taking up farms located in Ndogoye and Chinangali areas of Dodoma Region, he elaborated. Young people taken for the BBT pro-

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Dar port dredging finished, easing access to large ships

It can serve vessels with an overall length of 305 metres, a beam of 40 metres and a draft of 14.5 metres under restricted tidal conditions at berths one to seven

By Guardian Reporter

MAJOR dredging work to deepen and widen the main approach channel and turning basin at the port of Dar es Salaam has been completed, enabling bigger ships to dock.

Plasduce Mbossa, the TPA director general, said in an interview over the weekend that the milestone stands to reinforce the port's position as a vital gateway, lowering the cost per container for shipping stakeholders, cutting import and export expenses.

TPA announced the new berthing situation last Wednesday, saying the depth of the main approach channel has been increased to 15.5 metres below chart datum (CD), with an average channel width of 200 metres. "What this means is that the port can now handle large post-Panamax II vessels, with 8,000 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) capacity," he stated, noting that earlier, the port could only handle fully cellular ships with a capacity of not more than 2,500 containers. The turning basin at the port has been widened to 520 meters diameter, with

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Stakeholders fete exponential numbers for elephants, rhinos

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government over the weekend hosted a platform to examine the situation in the fight against poaching, illegal wildlife trade and rising invasions of wildlife in villages and massive destruction of crops. Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, supervised the formal launching of the Wildlife Policy Implementation Strategy and the Tanzania Elephant Implementation Plan 2023-2033 late on Friday in Dar es Salaam, preceded by the 6th project

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Works minister Innocent Bashungwa witnesses the contract signing for Sukuma Bridge construction, 70 meters long and a 2.29 kms access road at tarmac level, between Tanroads CEO Mohamed Besta and Mumangi Construction Co. investor Nyangureta Mumangi in Magu, Mwanza Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS



TANZANIA SET TO HOST 2024 CHAN FINALS
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LUTON GAME ABANDONED AFTER PLAYER'S CARDIAC ARREST AS MAN CITY SQUADERS LEAD
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Govt sets out Form I entries, with 98pc put in day schools

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274 girls, joining Bwiru Boys, Ifunda, Mwadui, Iyunga, Moshi, Mtwara, Musoma, Tanga and Chato, the minister noted.

This number includes 274 students with special needs, where 31 are girls and 243 are boys, he elaborated, highlighting that 3,254 students where 1,511 are girls and 1,743 are boys join 32 ordinary boarding secondary schools.

This includes 1,629 students with special needs, of whom 836 are girls and 793 are boys. Seven regional secondary schools will take up 897 girls of whom 116 have special needs, he further noted.

Still, 19 other regional boarding schools for girls take in students by the end of this month as they are being fully registered, he said, urging regional and district commissioners to ensure that all students selected start studies as early as possible.

Directing his gaze to local gov-

ernment authorities, he said there should be no hindrances in effort to implement the government-driven free education policy.

All requirements must be in place to ensure all schools take in students joining Form One next month, he emphasised.

"For all boarding school make sure the budget for meals is there and all students report as they have been allocated," he further appealed.

Dr Charles Msonde, the deputy permanent secretary, assured the minister that all instructions he gave on student placement will be observed, underlining that they are in accordance with the spirit of patriotism and administrative integrity.

Students who have not been placed in their favorite school or found themselves in day schools located in neighboring their areas need to proceed to that location, he added.

Major stakeholder hosts BBT vision symposium

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gramme must go through National Service training to sharpen their sense of patriotism tied with modern agriculture, thus learning the use of modern agricultural tools, he said.

The second BBT phase will involve anything up to 2,000 youths, where the government has allocated 800m/- to be handed as seed money or capital, he said.

Prof Samweli Kabote, a SUA academic, said the government has

since 1961 sought to improve the agricultural sector by enabling people to engage in improved farming.

He said there is a need to connect the sector with the credit sector to ensure productivity, as the country can achieve sustainable development through farming.

Dr Muumin Hamad, a SUA lecturer, advised that young people need to grab opportunities in the fishing sub-sector as the government has created an enabling environment for productive fish farming in its blue economy agenda.

Environment to be saved as nearly 20 villages in Longido DC enter into carbon trading pact

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

GRAZING lands and vast plains mapped within the Nomadic Pastoralists Precincts in Northern Tanzania are being converted into 'green gold,' following the new carbon trading initiatives.

The Soils for the Future (Tanzania) Limited has just inked a Memorandum of Understanding with 16 villages of Longido District through which a special generation and trading of carbon credits will be undertaken.

It will be executed under a new project known as Longido and Monduli Rangeland Carbon Project (LMRCP).

The Soil for the Future Tanzania coordinator, Iddi Mfunda said the carbon trading benefits go beyond monetary gains.

"It will also improve the environment and grazing areas for the Maasai which will now be covered with fresh pastures and restore natural vegetation cover," pointed out Mr Mfunda.

Longido and Monduli Rangeland Carbon Project, which covers the two districts, will be undertaken for at least four decades, with five-year renewal periods in between.

LMRCP is jointly implemented by Soil for Future Tanzania and villages located within both Longido and Monduli districts in Arusha Region.

Villagers in the areas have thus agreed to adopt rapid rotational grazing practices to allow fresh grass to sprout and flourish.

It means the current Maasai livestock grazing practices and reverts to a rotational grazing system that more resembles traditional grazing practices with some modifications.

The Longido District Commissioner, Marko Ng'umbi said once responsible grazing methods are in place the health of livestock in the area will improve.

"We have many cattle in Longido but the District still relies on milk from other parts of the country, meaning the livestock menagerie here is unproductive due to malnourishment," pointed out the DC.

Rotational grazing which has been a dominant feature of traditional Maasai pastoralist grazing practices will now be fading away due in large part to more permanent settlement of households to access healthcare, education, and water for people and livestock and other social services.

The LMRCP seeks to partner with pastoralist communities, to re-establish rotational grazing rather than the current practice of continuously grazing livestock in areas near water and settlements, which has led to long-term degradation of rangelands in many areas.

The carbon project focuses on quantifying how RRG activities result in removing Carbon from the atmosphere to the soil. This carbon is measured in units of 'Carbon Dioxide equivalents' that can be sold as 'carbon credits' on the Voluntary Carbon Market to generate rev-

enue for the project.

Soil for Future, apparently, promotes soil carbon projects that aim to remove greenhouse gases (GHG) from the atmosphere by implementing sustainable grazing management over large savanna and grassland areas.

The project assists local communities in planning new rapid rotational grazing (RRG) practices, as opposed to the current practices that can be described as repeated, continuous grazing on most if not all grazing lands.

These new practices are additional, as they would not occur without incentives derived from carbon financing to motivate changes in livestock herding behaviour.

"These changes in grazing management will help not only to reduce overgrazing and decrease soil erosion but will also promote the recovery of perennial grasses that increase the rate that carbon is removed from the air and transferred to the soil," explained the coordinator.

He added that soil carbon storage from these improved grassland management practices is expected to result in significant removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

To sell carbon credits, it is necessary to follow a methodology approved for estimating how much carbon is removed from the air and put in the ground.

The LMRCP will use a methodology approved by the international registry Verra entitled "Sustainable Grassland Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing".

Improved livestock grazing and revenues from carbon credits are expected to result in several socio-economic benefits and very few - if any - detrimental impacts.

It was stated that the new grazing practices should favour the return of deep-rooted perennial grasses that help water infiltrate the soil, improve forage production, and soil fertility, and increase the production of milk to households from healthier livestock well into or even throughout the dry season.

The ecological changes in vegetation and soil from the implementation of the project should also enhance the region's resilience to drought as increased soil carbon results in both increased in soil moisture retention capacity and improved nutrient cycling. As the probability of droughts is expected to increase because of climate change, this is an extremely important non-financial benefit of soil carbon projects, particularly in extremely arid areas.

In addition, we anticipate benefits to biodiversity. For example, restored rangelands should support more endemic birds and ungulate species as well as endemic plants and key insect groups.

It is anticipated that CCBA accredited carbon projects will be perceived as producing higher quality carbon credits that, in turn, achieve a higher value in the voluntary carbon market.



Police Sub Inspector from Traffic Police section Faustina Ndunguru (2nd R) offers safety road education to motorbike drivers during the 'Okoa Maisha' (Save Life) campaign at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam organised by ABInBev which is subsidiary company of TBL over the weekend. Right is ASP Mwashamba Onesmo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dar port dredging finished, easing access to large ships

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berths one to seven dredged to 14.5 metres CD, while berths eight to eleven, serving as the container terminal and the roll-on, roll-off berth have been dredged to 12.5 metres CD.

"In view of the above, Dar es Salaam port can now handle vessels with an overall length of 294 metres, a beam of 32 metres and a draft

of 13.5 metres without any tide restrictions," it explained.

It can serve vessels with an overall length of 305 metres, a beam of 40 metres and a draft of 14.5 metres under restricted tidal conditions at berths one to seven, it further noted.

Mombasa port, a key competitor, is also set for fresh dredging as the main access channel to the port was dredged in 2012 to a depth of 15

metres and a width of 300 metres, such that it can at present handle ships with a maximum length of 300 metres.

The government is keen to transform Dar es Salaam port from a secondary sea outlet to a regional transit hub, where apart from dredging and upgrading of port infrastructure, the government is reaching out to investors.

It has signed a concession agree-

ment with the Dubai-based global ports giant DP World to operate some of the berths at the port in the next few months, with the government projecting that efficiency gains from this arrangement will shift more business to the gateway and boost revenues.

DP World is expected to start operations at the port in the next few months, with the government projecting that efficiency gains from this arrangement will shift more business to the gateway and boost revenues.



Finance Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba bids farewell to Kigamboni residents who represented Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at an event of receiving and handing over equipment for various groups donated by stakeholders for groups of women, elderly, young people as well as people with special needs on Saturday. Photo: Ministry of Finance

Stakeholders fete exponential numbers for elephants, rhinos

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steering committee meeting.

The new wildlife sector initiative was prepared by the ministry in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in partnership with dedicated partners.

Engaging development partners in wildlife conservation in efforts to combat poaching and attract more tourists was the key theme, with the minister laying emphasis in the sustainability of wildlife numbers to ensure higher tourist flows.

As the government puts in place conservation measures to ensure sustainable wildlife numbers, the private sector must build more hotels to accommodate expected tourists, she said, citing recent data affirming real successes in combating poaching.

Since 2014, Tanzania has witnessed a commendable increase in its elephant population, soaring from 43,330 to an impressive 60,000 mid-2023, while rhino numbers rose in a spectacular fashion, to more than 200 from only 15 rhinos roam-

ing Tanzania in 2015.

By December 2020 there were 167 of the endangered animals, making rhinos more numerous in Tanzania, with a late 2022 count showing their number at 190 and projected to reach 205 by late 2023.

Conservators say that in the 1970s Tanzania had 10,000 rhinos in various national parks and game reserves but with industrial decimation of the animals put them to near extinction during the 1990s.

This situation reached the low end of 15 towards the end of that decade and it remained stable for more than a decade, while the situation stirred up international alarm.

The UNDP's illegal wildlife trade project, taken up by the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry and with support from GEF moved in to help in combating poaching.

Experts say there was a period of heightened poaching from 2009 to 2013 when Tanzania was identified as one of the "Gang of Eight" by conservationists, implying countries where conservation efforts were in dire straits.

Shigeki Komatsubara, the UNDP resi-

dent representative, commended the government, partners and local communities for their commitment to combating poaching.

The agency's anti-wildlife trading project has served as a catalyst for positive change, he said, affirming that it had reinforced the importance of international collaboration in preserving wildlife.

The UNDP remains steadfast in its commitment to support Tanzania in advancing its efforts against poaching, he stated, intoning that fighting illegal wildlife trade had fostered vigilance, with proactive measures enabling safeguarding Tanzania's rich wildlife heritage.

Critics however point at radical cleaning up of corruption in government agencies and various public bodies from late 2015 as the main reason for the turnaround in conservation prospects.

Gangs of traffickers often with foreign connection agents operating from within the country, as well as those responsible for the murder of a noted anti-poaching campaigner from South Africa, had their networks destroyed by fifth phase no-nonsense approach to public service diligence.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule participates during cleanliness removal of a portion of the suspended solids and organic matter from the sewage at Miyuji and Mnadani wards Maili Mbli yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Minister calls upon DAWASA to keep up with technological change

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MINISTER for Water, Jumaa Aweso has urged the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) to keep up with technological change by replacing the current meters with pre-paid water meters.

He made the remarks over the weekend in Kibaha, Coast Region at a signing ceremony between DAWASA and the Shanxi Construction Company for implementation of water projects worth 48bn/-.

Aweso said that pre-paid meters will help to reduce complaints on increased water bills. He challenged the ministry experts to put in place strategies to ensure the old meters are replaced.

He asked DAWASA to closely monitor water projects from Pangani, Kimbiji, Tanzania Institute of Accountancy to Kwala dry port for them to be completed on time and contribute to promoting industrial economy in Kibaha District.

Aweso insisted on the authority to ensure reliable water services to the people, as he challenged water us-

ers to also ensure timely payment of water bills. He said to reduce complaints from customers, meter reading should involve customers.

Coast Regional Commissioner, Aboubakar Kunenge said that through the implementation of various water projects, availability of the precious liquid has reached 86 percent.

"We are satisfied with DAWASA's efforts to improve services; we are optimistic that we can reach a 95 percent water availability by 2025," he said.

DAWASA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kiula Kingu said the contractor will implemented three projects including the Kwala project, Pangani and the Kimbiji to improve water services in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

He said the Pangani water project will benefit 14,868 citizens in Kibaha - Msufini, Lulanzi, Tamco and Pangani areas while the one at Kimbiji and Tanzania Institute of Accountancy will benefit residents of Tazara, Ukonga and Gongo la Mboto.

The Kwala project will benefit 7,901 people residing near the Kwala dry port.



We are satisfied with DAWASA's efforts to improve services; we are optimistic that we can reach a 95 percent water availability by 2025

SALE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.

The Embassy of the state of Qatar in Dar es Salaam, announces the sale of office equipment and surveillance cameras. Interest buyers can view the Equipment between 9:00 am-15:00 pm at the Embassy located at (6) Masasani Road.



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By Correspondent James Kandoya

GCLA hailed for facilitating the forensic investigations

MTWARA Regional Crime Officer, Adam Salim Amiri has commended the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) for facilitating forensic investigations to enhance justice and rule of law

Amiri made the remarks over the weekend in Mtwara Region when opening training on handling samples related to crimes to senior police officers from Lindi and Mtwara regions which also involved medical practitioners and laboratory technicians. "I would like to commend the GCLA office for accomplishing its duty on time thus enabling courts to make judgment at the right time and contribute to timely provision of justice," he said.

He said the training to build the capacity of stakeholders in the entire chain of collecting,

packaging and transporting the particular samples was important because it ensures efficiency of the samples," he said.

Amiri noted that scientific diagnosis at this juncture is inevitable adding that it contributes in facilitating court procedures.

GCLA southern zone manager, Hosea Hosea said the training will add value to their day to day duties of collecting, packaging and transporting samples.

GCLA is a number one centre for laboratory analysis of samples/exhibits related to forensic sciences in order to facilitate forensic investiga-

tions and hence assurance of justice and rule of law, samples related to agricultural and industrial produce to ascertain safety and quality, samples related to paternity or sex identification in order to address society concerns and samples related to environmental and occupational health for the protection of health and the environment.

It is the principal advisory organ of the government on matters relating to relevant forensic sciences (illicit drugs, DNA, toxicology), laboratory testing on food, medicine, chemical and environmental management.

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360 Dar women benefited from UN Women empowerment plan

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A TOTAL of 360 women operating their businesses at Machinga Complex Market in Dar es Salaam have benefitted from the leadership and economic empowerment programme implemented by UN Women in Tanzania.

Dubbed "Strengthening Women's and Girl's meaningful Participation, Leadership, and Economic Rights (WLER) at local level in Tanzania" is a four years project worth \$9 million funded by the Finland government.

The project is implemented in 18 districts in six regions including Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Coast, Lindi, Mtwara and Singida.

Stella Mgunia, Machinga Complex Market manager said that over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking to the Vice Minister, Under-Secretary of State for International Development of Finland Pasi Hellman accompanied by his delegation who toured the projects to see the development of the project.

She said over 300 stakeholders including women from the four wards and nine streets but also men leaders have received educational and capacity strengthening on the need for having women participation leadership for different social economic structures.

The project has also enabled women to know how they can participate and actually how they should be part of decision makers.

Mgunia said women are now aspiring for leaders the position in coming local government election next year and others are participating in Jua Kali business exhibition in Kigali, Rwanda

She said through the project, 50 males including religious leaders have benefitted from the training and committed to advocate women rights and justices. "Ilala council in collaboration with UN women in

Tanzania allocated and renovated special safe rooms where mothers can take a short break to feed and change clothes of their children and leave them safe when going back to their business stalls," she said.

Theresa Zitting, Finland ambassador to Tanzania encouraged them to produce more high quality products, selling more and increasing their shares in the market.

"I'm honored to be here today thanking for organizing this programme successfully. I'm happy to see your products,"

Ilala District Commissioner Edward Mpogoro expressed appreciation for the good collaboration with UN women Tanzania to strengthen women economic rights and leadership and participation in decision making.

He thanked for the good corporation before and after independence of the country and further expressed strong collaboration of Tanzania high level officials and that of Finland.

"The government is happy that the project is contributing to the commitment of the president Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan and further enhancing the promotion of women economic rights," he said.

Mpogoro said that Dar es Salaam region alone has set aside 27bn/- adding that women benefitted 27 per cent of the total fund allocated through soft loans.

On January 10, the UN Women launched a 4-year project on strengthening women's and girls' meaningful participation, leadership, and economic rights (WLER) at local levels.

At the launch, UN Women Tanzania representative, Hodan Addou, said the project seeks to increase the number of women, including young women and women with disabilities, in leadership and decision-making positions at local levels.

WVC set to launch Genebank in Arusha

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Arusha

THE Tanzania's vegetable sector is inching towards impressive development following a plan by the World Vegetable Centre (WVC) to launch the continental top genebank in Arusha.

With official launch of the vital facility drafted for 3rd March, 2024 in Arusha, the continental maiden genebank is projected to play a meaningful role in helping stimulate and heightening the general performance of the country's vegetable and spice sector.

Dr. Gabriel Rugalema, the Associate Director General (Africa) and Regional Director (ESA) at World Vegetable Center (WVC) expressed that the state-of-the-art genebank is equipped with modern facilities.

"The genebank we're constructing has multiple key facilities, including special sections for receiving and processing seeds, a place for drying seeds, as well as a tailor-made seed laboratory," Dr Rugalema said, adding that the facility will also incorporate a special section for dealing specifically with seeds health.

He explained, installation of the vital seed facility at the Tengeru-based centre in Arusha region was part of the implementation of the Taiwan Africa Vegetable Initiative (TAVI) project.

"When I was tasked to lead this center, in 2020, there was no any major project which caters for many countries in Africa, and thus since my role is to serve for other countries I decided to write a proposal for a major project which will at least be executed in some countries across Africa," the WVC high-ranked officer expressed.

He added that the project which managed to acquire a lucrative sponsorship of \$6.3million is being implemented in the four countries of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Benin, Madagascar and Tanzania.

"This project, which is due to phase out this December, is focused on guaranteeing the safe and long-term conservation of vegetable seeds, for at least 99 years," Dr Rugalema unveiled.

He also said the project saw roll-

ing out of a special financial support for the construction of two modern genebank facilities in Tanzania and Eswatini, all equipped with needed driers, coolers, refrigeration and myriad other equipment.

As part of implementing the project, in Tanzania we have been working in sync with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to collect and store the large number of vegetable seeds that the country banks on.

"We're very delighted as the European Union (EU) and Crop-Trust have agreed to sponsor us to professionally launch the general, the colourful event which will attract different seed stakeholders from within and outside the country," he informed.

Dr Rugalema, who was recently promoted from the post of Director for WVC for Eastern and Southern Africa to the title of the Associate Director General (Africa) and Regional Director (ESA) expressed gratitude for the possible manner to which the government has always been keen to support the centre, the development which has been allowing the centre to run its smooth set vision professionally. "I am remaining optimistic that the government will in a near future be part of our genebank as the facility will play a pivotal role to put the status of the country's vegetable seeds into the global's platform," he observed.

Located in Tengeru, a market-town in the Arusha region of northern Tanzania, the World Vegetable Center (WVC)'s genebank maintains the world's largest public vegetable germplasm collection with 65,152 accessions encompassing germplasm of 133 genera and 330 species from 155 countries, including about 12,000 accessions of indigenous vegetables.

The Center's African regional program began in 1992 in Arusha, northern Tanzania. Today the World Vegetable Center has professional research and development staff working across Africa on important vegetable crops such as tomato, pepper, onion and cabbage, as well as a range of African traditional vegetables, and partners with more than 40 national institutions and many international organizations.



Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera gives orders to Busokelo Council engineer (not named) in Rungwe District on the construction of classrooms of Lupata secondary school. The school expects to enrol Form One students next year. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Environmentalists call for more efforts towards reducing pollution via recycling

By Carlos Banda

ENVIRONMENTAL activists have called for increased efforts in building capacity and understanding on the importance of reducing environmental pollution through recycling plastic waste bottles.

Speaking on the sidelines of the December Festival 2023 over the weekend, Nicholas Ambwene, PETPro country coordinator, stressed on the importance of having collective efforts to protect the environment through recycling plastic in building knowledge protecting recycling and also encouraging innovative ways of repurposing the use of plastic bottles.

"Through this event we have

been working to change people's attitudes and perceptions towards plastic waste bottles, teaching them on the importance of recycling these wastes to address the environmental challenges," said Ambwene.

He also added: "During the course of our activities to protect the environment from plastic wastes, we organized today's event in partnership with Think Green and other partners to increase awareness about post-consumer PET bottle recycling and the circular economy, proper disposal methods, and how recycling can save our surroundings, create jobs, be a source of income, and change people's lives."

Eliakiza Jackson, founder of Think Green Club, said engaging youth

and children to get involved with environmental protection through recycling will help build communities environmental conservation is a priority citing that, through outreach programs in schools where young scholars can understand and take action towards keeping the environment clean.

"The key objective of the club is to conduct outreach programs for primary and secondary school students because they make the highest number in the population. Hence, having the right knowledge will aid in creating a future generation that cares and protects the environment," she said.

Editha Mtweve, from AI products and bottles said the joint initiative

by PETPro has set a course for creating employment opportunities for the youth as you can see currently, a lot of young men and women have engaged in collecting plastic waste bottles to generate an honest income while at the same time leaving the surrounding environment clean.

The event was organised by PETPro - an institution formed by beverage companies such as Coca Cola Kwanza, Bonite Bottlers, Mo Enterprises, SBC Tanzania, Sayona, Cool-Blue, - in collaboration with Think Green Club to purposely connect the members of the community effort to reduce the impact of environmental pollution caused by the dumping of plastic waste bottles.



Zanzibar Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister Riziki Pembe Juma (R) receives certificate from young women's network in Africa, as a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the President of Samia Suluhu Hassan during the youth conference held in Coast Region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Scholars suggest reparation, common understanding about colonial history

By Carlos Banda

SCHOLARS have suggested that reparation and common understanding about colonial history play a crucial role in improving the post-colonial ties between Tanzania and Germany as well as the development of ancestral communities that were brutalized by the former German colonial power during Europe's scramble for Africa.

They made the suggestion over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking during the launch of the new series by Deutsche Welle (DW) dubbed: 'Shadow's of German Colonialism which explores the legacy of

German colonialism in Africa.

Speaking during a panel discussion on the status of the post-colonial relationship between Tanzania and Germany, Assistant Lecturer from the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), Dr Yovita Vakolavene, pointed out that understanding Germany's colonial history in Tanzania, the country should consider implementing activities that will appease the communities whose ancestors suffered from colonialism and those societies that almost disappeared citing that doing will improve the relationship between the two countries.

"But I think the relationship will

depend on Germany on how they try to take a step like what the president did coming to talk about colonialism acknowledging that at one time Germany colonized Tanzania. It is very difficult to say in terms of where we are, what kind of relationship we are going to have," she said.

Dr Vakolavene added: "I think Germany has a responsibility to consider the local communities taking an example of the Maji Maji war which impacted many people, they should come and try to do something for the communities living now in that area. It should not be necessarily reparations. This is because some communities almost went extinct because of

the Maji Maji war, for example Wazigunda. They should come and do something at the community level."

Cece Mlay, a Filmmaker, hailed Germany's acknowledgment of the atrocities committed during the colonial era where she also emphasized on the importance of common knowledge about the history of the colonial era stressing that reparation for the impacted communities should not be a matter of debate as it will help the communities to develop.

Claus Stacker, Director of DW Programs for Africa said the series focuses on the past effects of the relationship between Africa and Germany to-date where he added that the series will help fill the knowledge gap for Africans and Germans instead of leaving the discussion among experts.



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University don urges CSOs to carry out research before introducing new projects

By Beatrice Philemon

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) have been advised to conduct research before introducing climate change projects in areas and give chances to communities to speak on the challenges they face.

Dr Lazaro Mngumi from the Institute of Human Settlement Studies (IHSS), Ardhi University, made the statement last week when speaking to members of CSOs from different regions and government officials who attended training on feminist principles and climate change.

The training was also meant to discuss financial resources and women participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

It was organised by Women Action towards Economic Development (WATED). It brought together youth, private sector and experts from Ardhi University.

He said research will guide CSOs on how to implement their project before introducing climate change projects. He said findings of the research would help them in coming up with projects that will help people in specific localities to mitigate climate change impacts.

"It is important to ensure that all the groups including people with disabilities, children and elders are included in the research. This will help you to get proper data and accurate information of what is required by the communities," he added.

He however reminded them to integrate gender equality in their strategies that focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation so that they don't leave anyone behind.

Maria Maria, WATED Coordinator, called upon CSOs to work in partnership with the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the country.

"As stakeholders engaged in environmental conservation, let us make follow-up on government priority areas and identify some areas where we can contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions," she said.

She said climate change has resulted in a number of challenges whereas in places like Mahenge in Morogoro Region, human activities near water sources have contributed to reduced fish stock and deforestation.

During the event, participants were educated on the importance of using clean energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Organizers informed them on guidelines and strategies that have been formulated by the government as well as priority areas where they can work with the government when implementing their projects.



It is important to ensure that all the groups including people with disabilities, children and elders are included in the research. This will help you to get proper data and accurate information of what is required by the communities

Environmental pollution affects economic development, expert

By Jenifer Gilla

THE head of environment department in Temeke Municipal Council Mkana Mohamed has warned that environmental pollution affects economic development as the resources spent in treating people could be directed on other projects.

He said over 70 per cent of diseases in the municipality are linked to poor cleanliness, hence the need to curb pollution and ensure environmental cleanliness.

He was speaking over the weekend at a ceremony to hand over a zero-waste project to Kibasila secondary school which was donated by the Environment Plus Institute in collaboration with TCCI Environment, Dar es Salaam.

The project presents a model for tackling pollution challenges by setting up waste sorting and separation facilities, as well as educating students on how they can turn waste into economic opportunities.

Mohamed emphasised that waste should not be dumped in landfills as they can be recycled by making fertilisers or other things to be supplied as raw materials to the factories.

He stressed the importance of the school taking care of the project, insisting it would help students to become environmental educators in their communities.

Ramadhani Mwaka, Project Coordinator from Mazingira Plus said the project aims to support the government's goal of diverting 80 percent of solid waste from landfills by equipping schools with the tools and knowledge to cultivate a culture of environmental awareness in future generations.

Kibasila secondary school principal Patrick Sinyinza expressed pride in their role as pioneers in this national initiative. He reported a noticeable shift in students' attitudes towards waste, with a new respect for proper disposal.

One of the students, Edson Michel,

highlighted the project's successes since its launch in September saying they have been provided with environmental education, planting 500 fruit trees and vegetable gardens, and producing fertilizer from collected waste.

He said students collect and sell plastic waste to farms for recycling, and hazardous materials are responsibly disposed of by the municipality.

While acknowledging challenges like the lack of essential tools, Michel remains optimistic about the project's impact. He sees it as a beacon of hope in the fight against environmental pollution and a catalyst for economic growth driven by responsible waste management.



While acknowledging challenges like the lack of essential tools, Michel remains optimistic about the project's impact. He sees it as a beacon of hope in the fight against environmental pollution and a catalyst for economic growth driven by responsible waste management



Ubungu resident walks near the new kiosks for second hand clothes traders at Mawasiliano Sinza in the outskirts Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NGO provides equipment worth 60m/- to Hanang mudslide victims

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

SAVE the Children Tanzania has supported victims of landslides in Hanang District, Manyara Region with equipment 60m/-.

Speaking in Hanang District over the weekend when handing over the equipment to Hanang District Commissioner, emergency response manager with Save the Children, Dr Victor Minja said that since the emergence of the natural disaster they have been collaborating with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Ministry of Commu-

nity Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to offer mental health and psychosocial support to the residents.

He said: "We have offered psychological first aid and trained over 40 community health workers whose work will be to execute this service. At first, we also donated some emergency working equipment which includes umbrellas, torches among others."

He said to ensure children forget the ordeal they faced during the disaster, the organisation has offered them some equipment that would

be used to normalise their mental health and psychological health and forget the impacts of the disaster.

On disease prevention, he said that Save the Children procured and offered an emergency mobile treatment centre, which has eight beds, two offices and two mobile toilets.

Save the Children's psychologist officer, William Nkui said that in order to ensure children become normal after the disaster they have been collaborating with the government and other key players to offer mental health and psychosocial

support.

According to Nkui, so far they have reached around 100 children in all affected areas in Hanang.

Hanang's District commissioner, Janeth Mayanja commended Save the Children for their support to Tanzanian children.

"You are the first organisation that has given support to children who have been affected by the disaster," she said.

Save the Children started working in Tanzania in 1996, focusing on ensuring children survive, learn and are protected.



Masta Shangwe (in helmet) Vodacom Tanzania PLC, shares a light moment with a mother who benefited from a health insurance cover at the Sekou-Toure Regional Referral Hospital in Mwanza over the weekend. Through its ongoing campaign 'Sambaza Shangwe, Gusa Maisha,' the company has handed over comprehensive insurance cards to a total of 200 mothers and their children. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has spent 346,920,000m/- to establish an electronic system which will help in collection of employment information from district to national level.

Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment & Persons with Disability) made the revelation in Dodoma yesterday when briefing journalists on the various activities conducted by the ministry.

Katambi said the newly formulated system would help to control common who have been announcing fake job opportunities and claiming money from job applicants.

"In the foreign labour market, the system will help reduce various challenges facing Tanzanians including being denied access to their travelling documents (passports) when working in foreign countries. It will also reduce incidents of gender based violence such as sexual

State spends 340m/- to establish digital tool for job data collection

abuse," he said.

He added: "Currently, Tanzanians have been taken to work abroad without proper procedures; we want them to be registered through the system which among other things, will be used to coordinate all the jobs in foreign countries."

He said that in the year 2021/2022, the total number of jobs created in the country in the public and private sectors was 1,226,925 whereas an average of 670,140 jobs were created from projects implemented by the central government, local government authorities, and public organizations. He said that 556,785 jobs were created in the private sector.

The deputy minister noted that the government has completed

preparations for 6,000 youth who are expected to begin the sixth phase of the apprenticeship training in 42 different colleges countrywide.

He said the apprenticeship training programme will start in January 2024 whereas the government will spend 346,920,000/- to ensure it is successfully implemented.

"The government has also conducted skills development training to 637 hotel workers in Arusha Region, aiming to build their capacities to serve guests including tourists. He said the move is part of strategies to ensure the country achieves its set target of attracting five million tourists per year.

The training cost was 157,000,000/- said Katambi, noting that his ministry will continue to

coordinate employment of foreigners where a total of 8,392 applications for work permits have been received and processed.

"Of the applications 7,729 have been accepted and 82 rejected due to various factors including failure to meet the set criteria.

He said the ministry has continued to take action against employers who are proven to have violated labour laws, where a total of 199 employers have been given orders to work on the identified gaps.

Regarding provision of services to people with disabilities, the government has developed a system for collection of information on people with disabilities to facilitate issuance of social services to the important group.



The wife of former Prime Minister Tunu Pinda (2nd Left) hands over a certificate of participation to one of mentees of AMDT mentorship programme for youth and women entrepreneurs 2nd cohort which was held over the weekend in Dodoma city. The one year programme which involved 24 participants was sponsored by Agricultural Markets Development Trust. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TAMWA-Zanzibar calls for more promotion of freedom of expression, access to information

THE Tanzania Media Women's Associations in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has called on the government, civil society organizations, and all stakeholders to promote freedom of information and access to information.

The call comes at the time when the world concludes the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (GBV) campaign, culminating in the commemoration of human rights.

TAMWA-Zanzibar joins the world in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This landmark document laid the foundation for our global human rights system as well as national laws and international treaties protecting and promoting human rights. Human rights transcend borders and cultures.

They are inherent to every individual human being without distinction.

By Special Correspondent, Addis

Ababa

THE African Union (AU) has expressed concern over the continued prevalence of violent conflicts in Africa that undermine the fundamental rights and welfare of children.

The call was made by the Peace and Security Council of the AU in a statement issued over the weekend that followed the council's recent meeting that dwelt upon the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children in situations of conflict in Africa.

The council "reaffirmed Africa's commitment to continue to take appropriate measures to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the African child," the statement read.

It underscored the need to prevent the grave violations against children's rights and welfare, which include wanton killing and

"We observe Human Rights Day which carries a message - 'Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All', which gives another chance for nations to assess the level in which the freedom is exercised," said Dr Mzuri Issah, TAMWA-Zanzibar director.

Thus, along with other things, freedom of expression has a special importance that will make society understand various issues facing society and actively participate in bringing solutions.

She said that for a long time now, media practitioners in Zanzibar have been advocating for revised versions to unfriendly media laws, especially the Registration of News Agent, Newspapers and Books Act No. 5 of 1988 as amended by Act No. 7 of 1997 and The Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act No. 7 of 1997 with its amendment in

2010. "If the laws undergo appropriate amendments, encompassing protecting journalists, upholding editorial independence, streamlining registration processes, establishing an independent oversight board, eliminating vague terms like 'national interest,' and empowering the courts to adjudicate errors, they can serve as a significant catalyst for constructive discussions and substantial advancements in the country, both economically and democratically," she said in a statement.

According to TAMWA, the situation is concurrent with the increasing presence of education and technology in the country. A growing number of youths are actively engaging with information-related matters, simultaneously

utilizing information technology through mainstream media and various social networks.

Dr Mzuri said: "The responsibility to protect and respect human rights belongs to every group, including society, government, media, and institutions, so it is prudent to establish strong laws that will ensure that these rights are protected in every part."

Human rights include the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to education, and the right to have a good and dignified life and immunity from discrimination and violence.

The Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 and sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

AU expresses concern over grave violation of children's rights in Africa

maiming of children, recruitment or use of children in armed forces and groups, attacks on schools and hospitals, rape and other grave sexual violence, abduction, and denial of humanitarian access.

The council called on AU member states to redouble efforts and prioritize local programs, which promote the rights and protection of children and anchor a culture of child protection both in peacetime and conflict situations.

It called on African countries to promote the exchange of best practices, fostering regular exchanges, as well as establishing and strengthening existing capacity-building efforts that promote children's rights and welfare.

It emphasized the imperative to develop a continental child justice framework addressing both

punitive measures as well as the recourse and restitution elements for child survivors.

The council further stressed that child protection should be gender transformative and mainstreamed in all governance, peace and security mechanisms and processes, including early warning, resolution, peace support operations, and post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Commending AU member states that have signed, ratified and domesticated the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the council urged the remaining five AU member states, which are yet to sign, ratify and domesticate the charter, to follow suit in order to make the charter fully owned by the entire continent.

Local organisations urged to cooperate with govt in building the capacity of youth

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE wife of former Prime Minister Tunu Pinda has advised local organisations to cooperate with the government in building the capacity of young people engaging in agricultural activities.

She was speaking in Dodoma over the weekend during a graduation ceremony for mentees of the Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) mentorship programme for women entrepreneurs involved in the 2nd cohort.

She said agricultural activities have a lot of challenges which requires joint collaboration to achieve targeted goals.

"It is important for organizations like AMDT and others to work together with the government to alleviate youth so that they improve their livelihood," she said, commending mentees, saying the government recognizes their role in economic development through agriculture.

According to her, youth and women in agriculture can stimulate development in the sector hence they should not left behind. She urged them to keep on learning and use various opportunities available in agriculture sector

A mentee graduate, Aisha Senkondo, thanked the organization for supporting them throughout the year.

"We have learned a lot and moved from one step to another through modern agriculture and improved market systems which has changed our lives," she said

Mary Kalavo, who is a senior manager for Gender, Youth and Business Enabling Environment at AMDT urged women and youth

who are dealing in the agribusiness sector to adhere to ethics in order to improve their livelihood and economy.

She said all mentees engaged in the agri-business sector have to conduct their activities more professionally.

"Your role as mentees is to manage and work on all activities and participate fully in the mentorship program", she said, calling upon mentees to receive advice and work on it.

"Mentees should set achievable, relevant and time bound targets in order to realise their dreams," she said.

A mentor, Fatma Riyami urged participants to turn challenges into opportunities.

"We know that agribusiness has a lot of challenges, I urge you to turn them into opportunities so that you can improve your livelihood," she said, urging youth to formalise their business in order to get various services such as loans or certification for development of their projects.

Riyami said that she started growing mangoes in 1992. Eight years later, she registered her company and went into business full-time, exporting mangoes, mainly to the Middle East.

She said producing high-quality mangoes for export presents a number of challenges such as, lack of cold facilities and unreliable transport services.

The one year mentorship program involves 4 mentors and 24 mentees aimed at exchanging experience of improving business between experienced entrepreneurs and the upcoming ones.

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Kishapu District Commissioner Joseph Mkude (L) presents agriculture equipment to one of 556 Ngunya villagers Sele Shija. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

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Africa needs to hear more whether CITES thaw on elephants is reality

CONSERVATIONISTS are likely to receive with mixed feelings a reported thaw in the way the conference of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which is said to have more or less downgraded elephants as an endangered species. The mixed feelings are tied to the fact that countries like Tanzania have for years wished that elephant tusks be put to auction so that there is income at least for conservation activities. Not until a new position was mooted this past week, the refusal at CITES was rigid.

There was an affirmation of the sort from a leading official in that regard who attended a CITES meeting last month, but the terms of the supposed thaw were not clear. The problem is that removing elephants from a list of critically endangered to say, moderately endangered can also touch off a relaxed attitude as to their conservation, which would return their being hunted on an industrial scale as in the period 2007-2016 or thereabouts. The elephant might not at the moment be critically endangered, but the moment the guard is lowered, some traffickers will accelerate their pursuits, and return elephants to the 'red list.'

In a way this dilemma is less of a conservation dilemma but a governance conundrum, where the idea of controlled exploitation or trading of elephant tusks when they did natural deaths - where hunting is still proscribed - frees the market to 'shout for more.' And when conservation agencies have been put to a different culture about elephants, and then a time comes to reverse the new view, it is uncertain it would succeed. Relaxing controls would create rights, or modes of behaviour, expectations or facility

that would be hard to close later.

There is at the same time the CITES concept of the matter, where it isn't the numbers that are always at issue but the morality of shooting down the animals, especially as some medicinal traditions in Asia favour using their tusks for various preparations.

The point with global conservation is that there should be no wish or proposition to use elephant tusks for anything, as when that wish is acknowledged as valid or right, the other parameters would be hard to control. That isn't how we see issues, as we don't uncritically forget that elephant tusks can provide revenues; but we risk losing multilateral revenues with such trade.

So the matter hangs in the balance at the moment as it is not possible to ignore a new tone that has been heard at CITES, at least on the basis of what top officials here attending the meeting have testified. Yet reclassification is not a panacea in a trade sense of the term if it doesn't involve limited exploitation of elephant resources, which all the same risks a restart of vast poaching. So there is a gap of significance as to what reclassification entails, or it is just a statistical item.

Without being able to do actual trading on elephant tusks in particular, it would follow that reclassification simply acknowledges at a global level what we know here all too intensely, that elephants aren't a threatened species at all. This much if true and it appears that the world acknowledge it, but so long as the trade or availability of tusks will be ruled by a yes or no approach, where 'yes' leads to mayhem in conservation, it will not be easy for CITES to actually relax its position on that score. That is why we need to hear more on reclassification.

Illegal migration to Europe appears to decline while legal migration may rise

THOSE who monitor or administer the waves of migratory arrivals from the Libyan and Tunisian costs for southern Europe claiming to be asylum seekers say that 'perilous journeys' have sharply diminished. A Greek minister of the Interior told a Nigerian minister charged with humanitarian issues that such journeys are down by 75 per cent for those who travel to Cyprus in particular. Not surprisingly there have been daring crossings to Spain by a longer and far more dangerous sea route, with a few grotesque incidents of capsizing reported.

For one thing, officials both in Greece and Cyprus were not saying that migrants are not needed altogether, as most industrialized countries need cheap labour from Global South as their own youth detest manual work.

While this is the case, anti-migration political parties are winning more seats in European Union legislatures, as unemployed youths believe they hinder them from being given jobs as well as good salaries. Without migrants employers would incline, it is so believed, while the opposite would happen; draconian control on labour unions.

That was the case in parts of southern Europe before migration caught up, while in other countries industrialists close down and transfer manufacturing to poorer countries. There is similarly the generalised use of automatic machinery like rolling machines for routine tasks with defined manual movements which machines take up, even if they aren't robots per se. But there are numerous service

jobs or occupations where making a profit demands that one pays fairly low salaries, and those who grew up in Europe or North America simply detest.

Inability to conform to labour market needs is not just a Western phenomenon but is well spread here as well. Youths raised in well to do households often become labour misfits of sorts, wishing that they transit to the labour market in much the same way as they lived their childhood, schooling and college. At times they fail to do college due to addiction to pleasures, unused to struggle.

So it is unavoidable that Europe will have to import quite a good number of youths but they ought to know where to recruit them, assuming that they will be seeking them by legal migration. Those who come from sub-Saharan Africa are more amenable to positive adaptation there, while those from radicalised social environments often carry that bug with them and pose trouble. This soils the image of migrants as a whole, despite that some of the discrimination is based on traditional attitudes of racial discrimination, tied up with colonialism legacy.

All these drawbacks notwithstanding, there is plenty of unemployment even among college graduates spend sleepless nights trying to find their way out. The trouble is that so many people, and tragically entire families at times, were putting their lives at risk being transported on dingy boats by racketeers who milk what they can from them and then put them to sea. Migrants usually expect that the ordeal ends well, but a strong wind could envelope an overloaded boat



Cabo Delgado: Volatile security situation still persistent

By Special Correspondent

“The security situation is still volatile in some districts of Cabo Delgado in Mozambique and since September, there have been multiple attacks, leaving thousands newly displaced in the districts of Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, and Muidumbe. Access remains challenging in some areas of these districts, which have been isolated and without support over the past few years.

It is premature to talk about stabilisation and life returning to normal in Cabo Delgado - over 600,000 people remain displaced, while 540,000 people previously displaced have returned to their areas of origin. Most have witnessed and experienced extreme violence and were forced to flee multiple times over the last few years. This had a significant impact on the mental health of most families in Cabo Delgado, with many still living in fear.

Although previously displaced families have been returning to areas of origin, it does not mean they are and feel safe. Even for those who returned to their areas of origin, many are being forced to flee again. Some 500 families (1,500 people) who had returned in June to their homes in the village of Novo Cabo in Macomia were forcibly displaced in November due to new attacks. They returned to the same displacement site where they had been living for over two years until they tried to return back home in June. MSF has supported them with Non-Food Items (NFIs), water and sanitation interventions, and health and mental health services.

Access to healthcare remains a challenge in areas of displacement and areas of return, as most infrastructure has been and remains destroyed. In Macomia and Mocimboa da Praia, out of 14 health centres, only five are working - one in Macomia and four in Mocimboa.

Displaced families and families returning to their villages often have the same needs, as they lost everything they had to this conflict. Most people are still struggling to access food, clean water, shelter, and basic services, including healthcare.

It is imperative to maintain and increase humanitarian assistance to address the immediate and basic needs of thousands of families that remain affected by the conflict in northern Mozambique. At the same time, it is critical to engage in development interventions in the longer term and rehabilitate the health infrastructure destroyed during the conflict.” - Francesca Zuccaro, Deputy Head of Mission in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.

Meanwhile, in late colonial Mozambique, in the city of



Lourenço Marques (today's Maputo), a carnival festival was held almost every year. From the 1950s to the 1970s, the event was more than just a street parade. It also became a space of queer expression and joy.

As a Brazilian queer scholar based in South Africa, I have been painfully aware that English-speaking contexts tend to be far better represented in queer African studies. I have chosen to focus on countries whose queer politics and history are lesser known and understudied - such as Mozambique and Angola.

Which is how I came across the history of carnival celebrations in Lourenço Marques. With the support of Johannesburg's Gala Queer Archive and LGBTQ+ organisations such as the Arquivo de Identidade Angolano in Angola and Lambda in Mozambique, I've been collecting queer histories in and from these countries.

In these documentary projects, I strive to balance the focus on "African homophobia" by finding histories and spaces in which queer African cultures have also flourished (and, at times, continue to flourish).

In a recent research paper, I flesh out how the Mozambique festival opened up a space of freedom to the marginalised. Especially women of colour and queer people, black and white. It also built on and activated transnational networks in the wider Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) world. Brazilian musicians and cross-dressing performers, for example, travelled across borders to become important presences in late colonial African society.

Celebrating these histories of joy is important because it allows the archive to become a site of freedom too, where one might reclaim the past and imagine a brighter future.

Carnival as queer culture
Like others elsewhere in the world, the carnival festival in

the global sexual revolution of the late 1960s.

These emerging urban and youth cultures pushed against the sexual and moral conservatism of the Portuguese colonial regime. Especially during the carnival. While travesti performances were secluded in clubs attended by a mostly white and middle-class clientele, popular forms of cross-dressing were common in the carnival.

A poem published in the Mozambique press in 1958 encouraged the practice as an expression of freedom:

A Mozambican, described to me his experience of joining the street festivities dressed as a woman, even "wearing breasts".

João mentioned his desire to experiment with femininity as a child, which he had never done for fear of outing himself. What was particularly compelling about the carnival, he said, was the ability to enjoy this freedom without social repercussions. Stories like this suggest that in Lourenço Marques the carnival could be a site of queer joy, however fleeting.

In the aftermath of independence, the ruling party Frelimo cancelled the street carnival. The socialist regime intended to build a new revolutionary culture by fighting practices associated with colonial society, including drinking and sexual licentiousness. It is not surprising that the carnival was caught up on this moralist wave. While the festival experienced a rebirth in the late 1980s, it never regained the status it once had.

In gender and sexuality studies, much has been written about how desires are regulated and how gender stereotypes are produced over time. Looking at the carnival invites us to focus instead on moments of sexual transgression and gender-bending, to imagine the possibility of freedom and disruption, despite the inherent violence of the colonial situation and its aftermath.

In 2015, after 40 years of independence, Mozambique joined the growing list of countries to put an end to colonial era "anti-sodomy" laws. The a recent report suggests that Mozambique still needs to more effectively fight discrimination and violence against sexual and gender minorities.

Spaces of queer self-expression and joy exist more visibly now, but they have also flourished in the not so distant past. In remembering the carnival, we are invited to bring joy back to the centre of our collective memory. Not for the sake of history writing alone, but also to undertake the transformative labour of queer liberation - as the queer icons and dancing queens in Mozambique remind us.

Lourenço Marques was a period of temporary subversion of dominant morals and social hierarchies of race, class, gender and sexuality. While the festivity had been celebrated in Mozambique since at least the 1900s, it went through a renewal in the late colonial period.

From the 1950s until the early 1970s, the carnival took place in unequal worlds. It was in the racially segregated spaces of elite clubs and hotels, on the one hand, and in the most popular and racially mixed environments of the subúrbios (suburbs), on the other. These middle- and low-income neighbourhoods, such as Mafalala, Alto Maé, Xipamanine and Malhangalene, were known hotspots of African culture and creativity.

Transnational connections shaped the celebrations too. Carnival parties often featured Brazilian musicians and rhythms, especially samba. Mozambican playwright Manoela Soeiro suggests that dancing samba and enjoying the Brazilian-style carnival offered black Mozambicans a kind of joy that was otherwise denied to them by dominant colonial culture.

Besides Brazilian musicians, Lourenço Marques also received travestis, cross-dressing queer performers. Travestis were becoming increasingly successful in entertainment culture in Brazil and elsewhere, in theatre and film and nightlife. Brazilian travestis, such as the iconic Rogéria, held artistic residencies in Mozambique in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In Lourenço Marques and Beira, they performed regularly in clubs and cabarets, helping spur an emerging queer subculture.

The Mozambique-born Portuguese writer Eduardo Pitta explains that their presence was a sign of cultural change. It signalled a relative openness on matters of gender and sexuality that reflected

ASTANA, Kazakhstan

EBRD provides footing for youth-led businesses in Central Asia

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is addressing the issue of youth entrepreneurship and employment in Central Asia by launching a seven-year €200 million (US\$ 218 million) Youth in Business (YiB) programme.

The programme is designed to provide better access to finance and relevant training to young entrepreneurs in the region, where up to one third of the population is aged between 18 and 34 years.

The Youth in Business programme in Central Asia (YiB CA) will target micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) led or owned by young individuals under the age of 35.

It will consist of up to €200 million for on-lending to up to 20 partner financial institutions in Central Asia and Mongolia; targeted non-financial services for eligible small businesses will be provided by the Bank's Advice for Small Businesses programme to help develop their entrepreneurial skills through training, advisory services and networking opportunities.

The EBRD's investment will be complemented by a package of up to €30 million consisting of grants and concessional co-financing to stimulate inclusive lending and youth entrepreneurship.

It is expected that the first loan agreements under the YiB CA will include: a loan of up to US\$ 10 million to Uzbekistan's largest private bank Hamkorbank, a loan of up to US\$ 8 million to Shinhan Bank Kazakhstan, a loan of up to US\$ 4 million to Mongolia's leading micro lender Transcapital, and a loan of up to US\$ 2 million to Kazakhstan-based microfinancial organisation Arnur Credit.

A market assessment conducted by the EBRD in the region reveals that while many young people across Central Asia have a strong entrepreneurial mindset, very few have access to equal economic opportunities. Only around 10 per cent of them have access to necessary training and professional expertise.

This is very important for Central Asia, where MSMEs account for almost half of total employment and contribute to almost 40 per cent of regional GDP.

Grant support and concessional finance to the programme is provided by the government of Kazakhstan, the Small Business Impact Fund and the European Union.

The EBRD is a leading institutional investor in Central Asia. It has to date provided close to €19 billion through more than 1,000 projects.



Rich nations, IMF deepen world stagnation



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia

With the US Fed raising interest rates, the world economy is slowing as debt distress spreads across the global South, increasing poverty worldwide to pre-pandemic levels, with the poorest countries faring worst.

Extreme poverty continues to be high and is now worse than before the pandemic in low-income countries (LICs) and among those affected by fragility, violence and conflict. The promise of eradicating poverty worldwide by 2030 has

become unachievable.

The Bretton Woods institutions' (BWIs) annual meetings in Marrakech in October were only the second-ever in Africa. But the rich nations-dominated BWIs failed yet again to rise to the challenges of our times, setting Africa and the global South even further back.

Instead of fostering cooperation to address the causes and effects of the contemporary catastrophe, neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank governments could agree on joint communique due to the greater politicisation of multilateral fora.

Indebtedness immobilises governments

Indebtedness and restrictive creditor rules prevent governments from spending more counter-cyclically to overcome the many contractionary tendencies of recent times, besides preventing them from addressing looming social and environmental crises.

The G20's largest twenty economies have urged strengthening "multilateral coordination by official bilateral and private creditors ... to address the deteriorating debt situation and facilitate coordinated debt treatment for debt-distressed countries".

But its Common Framework to restructure debt has been roundly criticised by civil society, think tanks and even the World Bank on many grounds, including the paltry concessional credit relief offered to a few of the very poorest countries.

In contrast, the G24 caucus of developing countries at the BWIs has emphasised the need for "durable debt resolution measures while collaborating on resolving the structural issues leading to such vulnerabilities."

But all those advocating purported solutions are not even trying to ensure fiscal space and public spending capacity for counter-cyclical efforts, let alone achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and national development objectives.

Surcharges

The IMF currently imposes additional charges on countries that do not quickly clear their debts to the Fund. Besides the usual fees and interest, borrowing countries paid over \$4 billion in such surcharges in 2020-22, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Surcharges will cost debt-distressed countries about \$7.9 billion over six years. The G24 has emphasised that surcharges are pro-cyclical and regressive, especially with monetary tightening.

Governments have undertaken contractionary policies and cut im-

ports for lack of foreign exchange. This deepens the problems of heavily indebted poor countries who cannot but count on the Fund for relief and solutions.

At Marrakech, the governing International Monetary and Financial Committee decided to "consider a review of surcharge policies". The G24 called for "a suspension of surcharges while the review - which we hope will lead to substantial permanent reduction or complete elimination - is being conducted."

Rich nations have been divided over surcharges. With Ukraine now among the top surcharge payers, following civil society criticisms, the Biden administration's refusal to review surcharges in 2022 was heavily criticised by the US Congress.

Deepening austerity

IMF fiscal austerity measures of the 1980s returned with a vengeance after the 2008 global financial crisis, and then again during the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020. Most Fund loans require cutting the public sector wage bill (PSWB), the budget line to pay employees.

Most wage earners in many LICs, including nurses, teachers and other social service workers, work for the state, directly or indirectly. Although much needed, these employees have been more likely to be targeted by such budget cuts.

PSWB cuts may involve hiring or wage freezes, or limiting, or even cutting wages. These inevitably undermine government capacities and services. Fiscal consolidation has also involved raising more indirect, consumption taxes, and tax exemptions, e.g., for essential goods such as food.

In 38 countries with over a billion people, loan conditionalities during 2020-22, the three years of the Covid-19 pandemic, meant regressive tax reforms and public spending cuts. PSWB and fuel or electricity subsidy cuts are also common demands worsening economic contractions.

Austerity bound to fail

But the IMF's own research suggests such austerity policies are generally ineffective in reducing debt, their ostensible purpose. The April 2023 IMF World Economic Outlook acknowledged austerity programmes and fiscal consolidations "do not reduce debt ratios, on average". Yet, its Fiscal Monitor still demands "fiscal tightening" of most developing countries.

The new IMF-World Bank debt sustainability framework sets the LICs' external debt-to-GDP ratio limit at 30% or 40%. It insists debt-distressed economies must have lower ratios than 'strong' countries, effectively further penalising the weak and vulnerable.

Instead of enabling consistently counter-cyclical macroeconomic frameworks, the IMF's current short-termist approach is mainly preoccupied with annual, or worse, quarterly balances, mimicking corporate reporting practices.

Such short-termism further limits fiscal space, effectively preventing or deterring public sector investments requiring longer-term macroeconomic frameworks to realise benefits. This discourages 'patient' medium- to long-term investments required for national economic planning and transformation, essential for sustainable development.

Restrictive debt and fiscal targets have meant even less public investment. This is typically required of borrowing countries as a credit conditionality. Annual IMF Article IV consultations cause other countries to also accept similar constraints to avoid Fund disapproval.

While a few better-off economies enjoy full employment, most countries face further economic contraction, not least due to interest rate hikes led by the US Fed and their many effects. Instead of being part of the problem, the IMF should be part of the solution.

IPS UN Bureau

Kabul residents endure hours-long queues in severe water crisis



Women and children in Afghan cities endure hours-long queues for a vital resource—water. Credit: Learning Together

Afghanistan

According to United Nations statistics, nearly 80 percent of Afghan families lack access to sufficient water for their daily needs. Afghanistan, a landlocked country with limited water resources, is grappling with an exacerbated drought fueled by climate change, affecting the entire region.

In the western parts of Kabul, residents must endure lengthy queues, waiting for hours to secure the water they need.

The situation has reached a critical point, exemplified by

the district of Dasht-e-Barchi running out of water as temperatures rise. This crisis has persisted for months.

In the 13th district of Kabul city, the water company has suspended the water supply. Muhammad Ali and Juma, who have been living in the district for more than seven years, describe their plight as the worst they've experienced, emphasizing the absence of water and any communication from officials.

To obtain drinking water, residents must travel considerable distances, enduring hours of waiting only to bring home a few barrels. Families designate someone to stand

in line constantly, yet they still experience several days and nights without water.

A private company that used to distribute water to people in exchange for money does not do it anymore. Residents say that there is no government water supply system in this area.

People can't afford to dig their own wells. Therefore, they must wait for hours to get water from mosques and public distribution centers.

Groundwater levels in Kabul have dwindled significantly. In the Pole Khushk area, western Kabul, people wait from morning to evening for just one barrel of wa-

ter, highlighting the severe impact of poverty and water scarcity on the city's residents.

The Ministry of Energy and Water has plans to manage groundwater. The head of water program coordination, Rafiullah Stanakzai, says that there are several ongoing projects: the Kabul-Panjshir water canal project as well as the Shah Tut and the Shah Arous projects that supply water to Kabul. The work on these projects will begin after the technical team has reviewed them.

Officials attribute the decline in groundwater levels to population growth and ex-

cessive groundwater usage, underscoring the urgency of resolving the water crisis.

The water crisis needs a quick resolution. The Taliban government lacks a comprehensive plan to address the population's needs for drinking water and essential necessities, casting a dark and hopeless shadow over the country plagued by drought.

A recent United Nations report highlights the gravity of the water crisis in Afghanistan:

Around 8 out of every 10 Afghan people drink unsafe water.

93% of children in Afghanistan (15.6 million children)

live in areas of high, or extremely high, water vulnerability.

Nearly 4.2 million people practice open defecation.

5 out of every 10 Afghan people don't have access to at least basic sanitation facilities.

Over 6 out of every 10 Afghan people don't have access to basic hygiene facilities.

Around 94% of schools across Afghanistan lack access to basic handwashing facilities.

Around 35% of healthcare facilities lack access to at least a basic drinking water supply.

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

High-level e-meeting suggests better system to boost food security in EAC



By Guardian Reporter

DIVERSIFICATION of food basket by including early-maturing and drought-resistant crops, allocating more land to bananas, potatoes, and other root tubers is one of the issues featured in the just-ended High-Level e-Conference on “Building a Resilient Agricultural Sector for a Food-Secure EAC Region”.

The conference was convened by the East African Business Council (EABC) in partnership with GIZ - Sequa gGmbH under the Business Scouts Fund and aimed to address

the challenges facing the East African Community (EAC) in achieving food security amidst global crises impacting the agricultural sector.

The e-conference convened 200 stakeholders, including MPs, officials from ministries, investment promotion agencies, and agri-food actors, women & youth-led MSMEs, traders and experts who deliberated and charted out solutions for a resilient agricultural sector and food secure EAC regions.

In their communiqué, participants resorted to prioritize local innovations and incentivize the creation of substitution and diversification options for selected regional

food products against major food imports like rice, wheat, and edible oils, which may attract bans.

They resolved to create opportunities for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), youth, women, and large companies engaged in value addition and processing of grains, edible oils, fertilizers, and major staple foods in the region.

Participants also suggested to leverage trade opportunities under regional and continental free trade agreements by providing incentive schemes to support agriculture and food production.

They also suggested the need to invest in value addition, blending,

and fortification in local staple foods like millet, cassava, sweet potatoes, etc., to offer alternatives to wheat products, fish, related food products, and fruits.

They also suggested to deploy technology such as irrigation, hydroponics, fortification, and mobile apps to monitor food availability, trade, pricing, and information dissemination.

“Adopt high-yielding seed varieties and invest in research, crop husbandry, and extension services. Establish food reserves to cushion populations against food shortages,” said part of the resolutions.

They also suggested strengthen-

ing food systems by scaling up irrigation and distribution infrastructure through additional budget support. “This includes irrigation systems, telecommunications, transport, storage facilities, and renewable electricity to support inter/intra-regional trade,” part of the resolutions read in part.

They directed the partner states to implement targeted insurance schemes and ensure access to finance as well as focusing on capacity building and institutional strengthening.

They also ordered to enhance food production and trade diversification by broadening agricultural production and expanding intra and extra-regional trade, improve food value chains by supporting farmers in minimizing food waste and enhancing access to nutritious food through streamlined food value chains and investments in post-harvest management systems.

EAC countries to establish robust social safety nets to support vulnerable populations and mitigate food insecurity, as well as addressing inflation and affordability issues by managing inflationary pressures and ensuring sustainable national debt management for adequate agriculture financing.

EAC stated urged to promote inclusiveness in agriculture by addressing gender disparities and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities in the agricultural sector and enhance productivity and market access through better inputs, advanced farming techniques, and expanded market access.

Implement existing frameworks and commitments to address food security at the global, continental, and regional levels.

Develop and implement regional agricultural policies supporting value addition, production, processing, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food products and harmonize Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures across Partner States to facilitate seamless agricultural trade.

States also urged enhance extension services, including agro-forestry and aquaculture, at all levels.

On investment Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains, EAC partner states, private sector, and development partners have been tasked to facilitate broader access to modern farming technologies, including early warning systems, by providing subsidies and similar incentives to farmers.

On infrastructure development, partner states should invest in enhanced infrastructure for improved transportation and storage facilities. Emphasis should be placed on ensuring adequate infrastructure in rural areas, where agriculture is predominant. This includes energy, services (education and health), irrigation, storage, and roads, among others.

On enhancing post-harvest management, member countries have been urged develop and implement efficient post-harvest handling and storage systems to reduce losses.

On simplified trade regulations, EAC states and the private sector urged to streamline trade regulations to facilitate smoother domestic and international trade.

On market access improvement, regional states urged to work towards expanding market access by creating consistent and broader marketing opportunities.

AFTER twelve years of exceptional service at the National Institute of Transport (NIT), Prof. Zacharia Mganilwa (pictured) retires from his role as Rector.

Under Prof Mganilwa's leadership, NIT has managed to create a surplus through significant growth in student numbers, partnerships and improved operating performance. Under his leadership, NIT is now one of Tanzania and as well as East and Central Africa's best higher learning institutions, with graduate employability and employer satisfaction rates among the highest in the region. Prof Mganilwa who is still a public servant until 2028 when he will be at 65, says his wish is to remain at NIT to continue imparting knowledge and skills to the young academic generation with a vision of making the National Institute of Transport to start offering PhD's programmes before his retirement in 2028. The Outgoing Rector believes that achieving great success requires great personal sacrifice and energy, and he has done this with the utmost passion and integrity. Our Correspondent spoke with Prof. Mganilwa. Read on:

Question: What are the greatest achievements you're most proud of during your time as NIT Rector?

Answer: One of my greatest achievements that I have recorded at NIT are many but in short, when I joined the National Institute of Transport in 2011/12 as Rector, the number of degree programmes offered here was only two but now when I'm leaving the office, there are 16-degree courses, the number of diploma programmes was only 2 in 2011/12 but now there are 25 courses.

Regarding students, by 2011/12 there were only 575 students but now we have 16,000 students.

During my time, the Institute has trained some academic staff to cope with the increased number of students. The academic and non-academic staff as of now is 400 compared to 12 years ago when the number of staff was 113.

In 2011, the Institute managed to employ only four transport specialists but now those specialists are over 150.

As for the domestic revenue, NIT has

Prof Mganilwa retires as NIT rector after serving 12 years



managed to increase its income from Tsh800 million in the fiscal year 2011/12 to Tsh25 billion in 2021/2022 and the Institute's budget improved from Tsh5 billion to Tsh96 billion.

When I came here in 2011, only one model of transport (Road) programme was trained here but now all five models of transport programmes are offered at NIT including Railway, Air, Marine and Pipeline.

Under my leadership, the Institute managed to purchase two aircraft Cessna Skyhawk single-engine worth \$1.057million from United States-based Textron Aviation Inc. for pilot and other aviation courses.

In my time, I also managed to establish three more campuses that are still in the implementation stages. The campuses are NIT Lindi for Marine Engineering in supporting the blue economy, NIT Tabora Campus for training students on railway courses includ-

ing manufacturing and repairing of railway wagons in the country and the other campus at Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) for aviation studies specifically on pilot courses.

During my time I also managed to establish the Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations (CEATO) supported by the World Bank under the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EAST-TRIP) worth 49bn/- and establishment of a Regional Center for Excellence in Road Safety (RCoE) with the funding of \$2.25 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) administered by Tanzania Road Agency.

Q: What are your plans as you retire as a rector?

A: Well, I have retired as a Rector after 12 years, but I have five more years until I retire as a public servant in 2028. With these five years that remain until I officially retire, I

want to spend the remaining time here at NIT to continue imparting the knowledge and skills that I have to the young academic generation.

I have marked over 500 theses and dissertations on master's and Ph.D. levels from several universities and higher learning institutes including Jomo Kenyatta University, Zimbabwe University, Makerere University, Nairobi University, University of Dar es Salaam, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and many more.

I want this experience to remain at NIT and my vision is to make sure that by 2028, the National Institute of Transport can offer PhD's programmes.

Q: What do you see as your legacy at NIT?

A: It's a very modest accomplishment. Now, the National Institute of Transport is attracting students with very high marks very differ-

ent from the time that I joined the Institute. I am also happy that I leave a very motivated staff.

I also left the Institute with five faculties; no learning Institution under the NACTVET has such a big structure as we have.

Q: What are the biggest risks you've taken in your time at NIT?

A: The biggest risk I took during my time was making possible things into possible. I remember announcing the pilot course while we didn't have any planes for practical but now we have two practical aircraft and the other one is coming next year.

I hope I'll be remembered as someone of integrity and principles, who was prepared to make some difficult decisions and who always acted in the best interests of NIT's students and staff.

Q: As the Rector of the most respectable higher learning institution in the country. How have you approached balancing the interests and opinions of different stakeholders?

A: The greatest quality of any leader is to be responsive. During my time I managed to work very closely with stakeholders which has also helped the Institute especially students and academic staff to have opportunities for industrial attachments.

However, the good collaborations with stakeholders have also enabled us to get good feedback that enabled NIT to make positive changes in our curriculums.

Q: Your role as Rector must have been incredibly demanding at times. How have you managed to juggle the many issues that you've been dealing with?

A: As a professional Engineer, I was trained to handle the multi-tasks, no matter how the tasks I

used to have; I managed to handle all the work in my office because I understand that time doesn't wait for anybody.

Living and studying in Japan for 7 years has helped me to achieve a lot and develop my career, this is one of the reasons why I managed to handle many issues as a Rector without problem.

Q: Why has it been so important to you that the NIT deepens its relations with the alumni community?

A: When I was appointed as Rector here, the Institute didn't have a convocation or Alumni organization but I tried my best to unite all the alumni and now we are celebrating the 10th convocation.

Meanwhile, after the establishment of the Alumni network of NIT for the past 10 years, we have managed to attract many public and private companies that are supporting our best students during the convocation celebrations.

Q: You have consistently championed philanthropy and made your donations to NIT. What has motivated you to give?

A: What I want to say, as a Tanzanian who received free education from Primary School to University as well as taken to Japan for seven years, I was indebted to my lovely country. That's why I decided to work day and night to make sure that the Institute achieves its goals.

Q: What has been the biggest single change in the Higher Education sector during your time at NIT?

A: The biggest change I can be proud of is that when I started working as Rector, the Institute used to have only three academic staff with PhD's but now there is more than 40 academic staff with PhD's. Not only that, there were only two departments but now we have 14 departments and all of them are managed by PhD Holders.

IFAD's record-breaking pledges: Lifeline for rural communities cornered by climate and hunger

NAIROBI

The world is not on track to end hunger and poverty as a future of growing food insecurity and climate challenges beckon. Small-scale farmers are the backbone of food production, producing one-third of the world's food and up to 70 percent of the food consumed in Africa and Asia, yet they are often cut off from the services they need to pull themselves out of poverty and food insecurity.

As small-scale farmers and communities in rural areas—where 80 percent of the world's poorest live—edge even closer to the epicenter of climate-induced disasters, there is an urgent need for world leaders to increase funding to provide much-needed tools for rural communities to adapt to and mitigate these challenges.

To address these challenges, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) received record-breaking pledges in support of its largest replenishment ever, putting the organization on track to positively impact the lives of millions of rural people across the globe.

"This is a clear sign of the confidence member states have in IFAD and the importance they place on our ability to deliver results and impact through targeted investments that transform agriculture, rural economies, and food systems. They understand that investing in rural people and small-scale producers, who produce one-third of the world's food and up to 70 percent of the food in low- and middle-income countries, is the only path to a food-secure future," said Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD, following the pledging session in Paris.

The fourth replenishment session, which Angola and France hosted in Paris, saw an increase in pledges. IFAD is both a UN organization and an International Financial Institution (IFI), working in remote rural areas where poverty and hunger are at their deepest, so that rural populations are not left behind and are equipped to lift themselves out of poverty.

A replenishment session is the process by which IFAD mobilizes its core resources—an exercise in accountability by which IFAD reports to its Member States on its strategy, reform, and performance, usually at the mid-term of the previous replenishment period. To date, 48 Member States have pledged USD 1.076 billion to replenish their core resources. Ten countries have increased by more than 50 percent from their previous contribution, and 31 countries have committed to their highest contribution ever, marking a record level of financing achieved for IFAD's 2025-2027 programme of work.

IFAD launched its 13th replenishment in February 2023, calling for increased investments in small-scale farmers and rural people across developing countries. Every three years, member states replenish IFAD's resources. The consultation culminated in a pledging session in Paris. Fundraising will then continue in 2024. Typically, over 100 countries contribute to IFAD's replenishments, making it the most widely supported of all the major IFI replenishments.

"I am humbled by the positive momentum from today's session and confident that IFAD's ambitious call to mobilize USD 2 billion in new funding to support a USD 10 billion programme of work impacting over 100 million rural people will be achieved in the coming months," said Lario. To address today's complex challenges facing rural communities, IFAD urged world leaders to increase rural investments. IFAD's Member States have demonstrated their record-breaking support and IFAD's pivotal role in revitalizing the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals through investing in rural people. "We rely on IFAD to ensure the resilience we seek to build, taking into account climate change and all other factors that hinder our development," said Carmen do Sacramento Neto, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Angola, at the opening of the session.

"There has been an improvement in the living conditions of rural and fishing populations where the IFAD project was implemented, and it has had a significant impact. We announce that Angola will maintain its contribution and increase it in the coming years as a clear sign of our commitment."

"With four in five of the world's poorest people living in rural areas, the road to a prosperous, resilient, and food-secure future runs through rural communities. As multiple crises converge, rural people need us to invest in them more than ever before. As countries scramble to respond to unforeseen crises, development budgets are stretched, making the right investments is urgent and critical." Collaborating with member states, IFAD invests in rural development and across food systems to help small-scale farmers produce more food in greater variety, access markets, apply new technologies, and adapt to climate change. IFAD ensures that member state contributions reach those who need them the most, with 45 percent of total concessional financing going to low-income countries and at least 30 percent of core resources dedicated to fragile situations.

Plugging funds towards SDGs 1 and 2 today means spending less on development tomorrow. For every USD 1 spent on resilience, it now saves up to USD 10 in emergency aid in the future, not to mention avoiding hardship for millions of people the world over. IFAD's work achieves measurable impact. Between 2019 and 2021, IFAD's investments improved the incomes of 77.4 million rural people, while 62 million rural people increased their production, and 64 million rural people improved their access to markets, enabling them to sell their production. Additionally, thanks to improved agricultural practices, access to technical assistance and credit, as well as the diversification of their income sources, IFAD assisted 38 million people in building their resilience, which is a measure of their capacity to recover from climatic and non-climatic shocks.

IPS UN Bureau Report



Research associate, Tania Eulalia Martinez Cruz from Oaxaca, Mexico shows how intercropping assists communities remain self-sufficient. Credit: Conrado Perez/IPS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 11. Spread out in Kiswahili, 12. Person's sense of self-esteem, 14. rest on a chair, 15. reach a destination, 17. feeling sorrow, 18. Air Travel Organizer's Licence, 20. ugly, warlike creatures, 21. discharge, 22. having courage. Solutions: SWAN, TATA, ELON, NIABA, OLMEC, SAILS, WAGER, REBUKED, ARABICA, WARSHIPS, AREA, GABION, EBULLIENT, RIKSMAL, E-BOAR.

Photograph of Eunice Mwape, a woman in a pink shirt and patterned skirt, holding green vegetables. She is identified as the mother of four children who used to travel far for water but now has it close to her house thanks to an IFAD project.



Eunice Mwape is 26 and the mother of four children. She used to travel far to the garden because there was not enough water near her village of Shatubi. Now, thanks to the IFAD-sponsored project E-SLIP, Eunice has water close to her house. Credit: IFAD

Radio One advertisement for the day JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes the Radio One logo and a detailed schedule of programs from Monday to Sunday, listing start and end times for various news and entertainment segments.

Footer with the slogan "Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One" and social media icons for WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, followed by the Radio One logo.

BUSINESS

Exim Bank, Karambezi Cafe extend digital services to Tanzanians during festive seasons

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank has teamed up with Karambezi Cafe extending beyond the festive season to provide a continuous 10 percent discount to Exim Bank cardholders.

This collaboration encourages secure, cashless transactions, aiming to offer convenience and a reward to EXIM Bank customers.

The partnership not only promotes a move towards cashless payments but also allows customers to enjoy moments while benefiting from hassle-free, secure transactions.

Andrew Lyimo, Exim Bank head of retail banking expressed excitement about this partnership, emphasizing their commitment to providing secure and convenient solutions.

He highlighted the partnership's goal of enhancing customer experiences, extending well beyond the festive season, ensuring they savor every celebration with loved ones and continue to enjoy enhanced benefits throughout the duration of this enduring collaboration.

Peter Selane, Karambezi Cafe general manager emphasised their joint effort to create a fulfilling experience for Exim Card Holders.

He underscored the aim of delivering not just exceptional dining but also a rewarding outing for patrons, aligning with their commitment to customer satisfaction.

Shani Kinswaga, Exim Bank chief financial officer explained that the commitment of Exim Bank in enhancing customer service through this unique partnership with Karambezi.

He stated: "This collaboration represents shared goals between Exim Bank and Karambezi Cafe to promote cashless transactions and spread holiday joy."

The partner signifies a shared vision between Exim Bank and Karambezi Cafe to promote cashless transactions and spread holiday joy.

Customers are encouraged to seize the opportunity, enjoying the convenience, security, and rewards offered by using Exim Cards for transactions at Karambezi.

EAC states urged to develop tools to enable development of MSMEs



By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) partner states and its secretariat have been commended for the commitment towards supporting the development and growth of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector over the past twenty-three years.

Burundi's Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Marie-Chantal Nijimbere (pictured) urged the Partner States to devise mechanisms to support inclusive and sustainable growth of MSMEs in the region.

Nijimbere said that such mechanisms include the establishment of current and transparent regulatory framework; piloting and scaling up of micro-credit and loans guarantee solutions and facilitating universal access to ICTs and other basic infrastructure to enable MSMEs close information and technological gaps.

Nijimbere was speaking when she officially closed the 23rd EAC MSMEs Trade Fair in Bujumbura, Burundi. The trade fair that opened its doors on 5th December, 2023 attracted exhibitors from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

The Minister stated that MSMEs

make a significant contribution to economic growth and sustainable development worldwide, noting that globally MSMEs represent about 90% of businesses, and more than 50% of employment worldwide, contributing up to 40% of national income in emerging economies.

"MSMEs have a central role to play in the achievement of our socio-economic development goals at both the region and continental level, including the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063," said the Minister.

"To facilitate the transformation of MSMEs in the region, we must therefore strive to address the challenges faced by MSMEs such as low productivity, poor competitiveness due to use of inadequate technology and equipment, high cost of utilities, unfavorable regulatory requirements, limited access to finance and markets, and weak managerial and entrepreneurial capacities," she added.

Annette Ssemuwemba, EAC deputy secretary general in charge of customs, trade and monetary affairs noted that 1,015 exhibitors showcased products ranging from woodwork; handicrafts; processed products including spices; textile; garments; leather; herbal medi-

cine and natural beauty products; footwear; processed food; furniture; machines - agro machinery, juice making machinery; and energy stoves.

"While our artisans from across the region have exhibited their innovative works, we take cognizance of the urgent need to eliminate barriers holding back MSMEs in intra-regional trade," she said.

"The EAC Secretariat reiterates its commitment to addressing these issues and will engage with Partner States to create a favorable and conducive regulatory and business environment for MSMEs participating in trade across the region," Ssemuwemba added.

Ssemuwemba called upon all artisans at the trade fair to remain resilient in their efforts to access the wider market offered by the seven EAC Partner States, while being continuously innovative.

"You must strive to grow and utilize the various initiatives at national and regional level to attain higher heights in your business, in terms of product quality, value-addition, packaging as well as marketing," she added.

The 23rd edition of the EAC MSMEs Trade Fair was convened under the theme: Connecting East African MSMEs to enhance Intra EAC Trade. The main objective of the Trade Fair is to contribute

towards the realisation of the region's development goals and aspirations by lending support to this budding sector of the economy, which needs public patronage and Government support to make it sustainable.

The trade fair also featured symposia aimed at enhancing awareness and building the capacity of MSMEs on intra-regional trade opportunities and the various trade provisions of the EAC.

During the symposia, the MSMEs noted the need to further develop Kiswahili as the trading language of the region. Additionally, the MSMEs called on the Partner States to fast track the implementation of a single currency, noting that a single currency would significantly enhance intra-regional trade, owing to the elimination of currency conversion.

In a bid to further enhance intra-regional trade, the delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) appealed to the Partner States that are yet to waive visa requirements for DRC citizens to do so to better facilitate the integration of DRC into the Community.

During the closing ceremony, it was officially announced that the Republic of South Sudan would host the 24th edition of the annual event, which is held on a rotational basis among the Partner States.

Stanbic donates 10m/- to Hanang mudslide victims

By Carlos Banda

STANBIC Bank has donated food items worth 10m/- to aid victims of the mudslide disaster in Hanang district, Manyara region.

Speaking after the handover of the items, bank's head of personal and private banking, Omari Mtiga, said the donation is in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's immediate action to help the people of Hanang after being hit by the mudslides.

"This donation today is to show our support to President Dr Samia and the quick actions she took to send aid to the people who have been heavily impacted by the disaster in the early morning hours of December 03, 2023 resulting into the deaths of 89 people and injuring many others," said Mtiga.

Mtiga said the food items handed over include flour, rice, beans, and cooking oil which collectively amount to 10m/-.

Hanang District Council executive Di-

rector, Francis Namaumbo, thanked the bank for its support where he assured the lender that the government will fully supervise the distribution of the food items reaching the victims as required.

"On behalf of the people of Hanang district, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Stanbic bank for the support it has shown to the government and the residents of Katesh town as efforts are still ongoing to restore the town back to normal. We also pledge to ensure this donation is properly handled and distributed to the surviving victims of this dreadful disaster," said DC Namaumbo.

The leaders of the bank also paid visit to areas where the horrific disaster caused the most damage in Katesh town and the lender also spoke to some of the victims including businessmen whose activities had come to an abrupt halt following the mudslides which wreaked buildings, roads and other important infrastructures in the area.

NBC staff, tourist stakeholders scale Mt. K'njaro to introduce banking service

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

EMPLOYEES of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and various tourism stakeholders in Kilimanjaro region have embarked on a historic journey to climb Mount Kilimanjaro with the aim of installing the bank's Point of Sale (POS) machine at the Africa's highest peak.

The initiative, in addition to bringing banking services closer to customers and tourists visiting the mountain, also aims to demonstrate the bank's technological expertise in providing its services to customers.

The farewell event for the team of employees and stakeholders expected to descend the mountain on December 21, took place on Saturday at the Marangu Gate, led by the bank's Director of Retail, Elibariki Masuke, together with the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) Assistant Commissioner - Conservation, Angela Nyaki

While handing over the machine to the team of mountaineers led by Dickson Busagaga, who is a media practitioner in Kilimanjaro region, Masuke said the efforts were part of the bank's new campaign "Tabasamu Tukupe Mashavu" which aims to provide customers with the opportunity to enjoy the end-of-year holidays with their loved ones, including relatives, friends, through simplified transactions via the bank.



Some employees of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) led by the Director of Retail of the bank, Elibariki Masuke (5th R) and various stakeholders in the tourism sector in Kilimanjaro region, led by the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) Assistant Commissioner - Conservation, Angela Nyaki (4th R), showing the bank's Point of Sale (POS) machine shortly before the employees of the bank and tourism stakeholders in the region embarked on a historical journey to climb Mount Kilimanjaro with the aim installing NBC Point of Sale (POS) machine at the peak of the world's highest mountain. The farewell ceremony for the team of mountaineers took place on Saturday at the Marangu gate area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

portunity to enjoy the end-of-year holidays with their loved ones, including relatives, friends, through simplified transactions via the bank.

"We are here to witness a new era in the banking service revolution through our campaign "Tabasamu

Tukupe Mashavu," and this time with unprecedented strength, the first-ever payment machine (POS Machine) on Mount Kilimanjaro."

"This journey is not just a physical feat but also a testament to the bank's commitment to innovation

and digital utilization that we offer to customers. The six stations towards the peak of this tallest mountain in Africa and the world represent the unique features of our POS machine: easy, fast, secure, smart, advanced technology, and most importantly, a

symbol of progress"

"Each station provides an opportunity for our team of employees and all stakeholders participating in this exercise to share the rich history of our beloved mountain, which we pride as our national treasure, and

the history of our greatness and heritage," he noted.

He added that while at the summit of the mountain, the team will officially unveil the lender's POS machine to begin providing transaction services to customers through various digital payment options such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, Amazon Pay, Samsung Pay, and any bank card.

Speaking about the bank's initiative, Assistant Commissioner Nyaki, while commending the bank, said that the introduction of the service on the mountain will facilitate access to financial services for various stakeholders visiting the mountain.

"NBC is not only bringing this machine to the highest peak in Africa but also in the world. I congratulate you for recognizing the importance of introducing this service globally through this famous mountain. This machine will help tourism stakeholders to carry out transactions up there... we are very grateful for this initiative," she said.

She also commended the media stakeholders in the region for continuously informing the public about the availability of reliable high speed network on Mount Kilimanjaro, a step which has attracted various stakeholders to introduce their services through the platform.

SAGCOT promotes sustainable commercial farming in its Kilombero cluster

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) through its Green Reference Group (GRG) met in Dar es Salaam to discuss challenges and opportunities that would farmers in Kilombero farmers to embrace sustainable commercial farming friendly for environmental conservation.

Speaking during the meeting that attracted different stakeholders from both public and private sectors over the weekend, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice-President's Office, Abdallah Mitawi said the participants had revisited past meeting recommendations and came up with improved version meant to improve socio-economic growth and development.

"As the world facing the crisis of climate change that experiencing some parts of world to seasonal rains. This has compelled SAGCOT through GRG to come up with sustainable

commercial farming suitable and friendly for conserving environment," Mitawi said.

He said agriculture contributes between ten and 14 per cent of carbon monoxide that resulting into climatic change whereas almost 100 per cent of people depend heavily on agriculture.

Gairo District Commissioner, Jabiri Makame who was among the two DCs who attended the meeting said 95 per cent wananchi in his district were practicing agriculture and that meeting was best platform for share experiences on how to do sustainable farming.

"In pushing forward the agenda of sustaining the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries with focus on conserving and protecting environment while working closely with SAGCOT," DC Makame explained, congratulating SAGCOT for good coordination.

SAGCOT for Kilombero Cluster in Morogoro, John Banga GRG was supervised by VPO and was working as the advisory body of SAGCOT at cluster and national levels with view to coordinating environmental issues in partnership.



Deputy Permanent Secretary (Union) Vice President Office, Abdallah Hassan Mitawi (C) speaks at the annual meeting of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) through its Green Reference Group (GRG) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Others are Gairo District Commissioner, Jabiri Makame (2nd R) and SAGCOT Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Kirenga (3rd R) and Mvomelo District Commissioner Judith Nguli (2nd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"Among the priorities signed in our Memorandum of Association (MoU) were modern livestock, prioritizing crops which will give economic opportunities to farmers especially farmers in Morogoro Region," Banga said.

He said the government's resolve to establish special programme dubbed 'Building a Better Tomorrow' for sectors of agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries would stimulate and increase innovation and production.

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World Bank lines up Sh23 billion funding for small firms in Kenya

NAIROBI

About 45,000 Kenyans are in line to benefit from new jobs in a Sh23 billion financing project for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The World Bank approved the Kenya Jobs and Economic Transformation Project (KJET) on Tuesday, which targets to increase private sector investments, access to markets and sustainable finance to create and improve jobs.

The project targets 6,800 women in the MSME value chain.

"With \$150 million (Sh23 billion) in financing, KJET will provide business development services aimed at strengthening viable value chains and connecting MSMEs to markets, in addition to investments in firms for the improvement of productive capacity and capabilities. In turn, these activities will

enhance firms' capacity and efficiency, translating to increased hiring and improved worker productivity," said the World Bank.

World Bank country director for Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda, Keith Hansen, said the project also supports the multilateral lender's mission of ending extreme poverty.

"It will focus on empowering the private sector, driving job creation, and catalysing green investments by private investors in member countries," he said.

The government said it was keen on the JET agenda because it aims to create more jobs through different strategies, including the Vision 2030, the fourth Medium-Term Plan (MTP4, 2023-2027), and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda.

The government and the World Bank hope the project



will mobilise at least Sh4 billion (\$27 million) in private capital to complement their Sh23 billion investment.

"Beyond being a recipient of business development services and technical support, the private sector is expected to invest capital into the blended finance Green Investment Fund as well as through a novel co-investment model financing MSMEs' productive capacity," said the World Bank in a statement.

World Bank senior financial sector specialist and KJET task team leader, Ahmed Rostom, said

KJET would offer interventions that would result in streamlined licensing processes; improved investment-related laws, regulations, and strategies; enhanced government capacity for investor outreach and government-to-business service delivery, all expected to support business and investment in Kenya.

"KJET will also focus on enhancing MSME cluster competitiveness through increased capabilities and productive capacity by extension sales, profits, and jobs at supported firms. It will also scale up green financing to improve SMEs

adoption of green technologies to strengthen resilience to climatic shocks," Rostom said.

The project will be under the State Department for MSME Development (MSME) and the State Department for Investment Promotion (Trade).

The World Bank observes that jobs in the country have been concentrated in sectors with low labour productivity, thus the need to trigger job creation within the MSME sector that contributes heavily to Kenya's economy.

Nigeria's inflation rate hits 28.2 pct in November -NBS

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S headline inflation rate increased to 28.2 per cent in November showing a 0.87 per cent points increase over the 27.33 per cent recorded in October, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says.

It stated in its Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Inflation Report for November released in Abuja on Friday that the November 2023 rate was 6.73 per cent higher than what was recorded in November 2022.

In November 2022, the headline inflation rate stood at 21.47 per cent.

It added that the increase in the headline index for November 2023 on a year-on-year basis and month-on-month basis was attributable to increases in items in the basket of goods and services at the divisional level.

Increases were observed in food and non-alcoholic beverages, housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, clothing and footwear, and transport.

There were increases also in furnishing, household equipment and maintenance, education, health, miscellaneous goods and services, restaurants and hotels, alcoholic beverage, tobacco and kola, recreation and culture, and communication, it stated.

The NBS stated also that on a month-on-month basis, headline inflation rate in November was 2.09 per cent, which was 0.35 per cent higher than the rate recorded in October at 1.73 per cent.

"This means that in November, the rate of increase in the average price level is more than the rate of increase in the average price level in October," it stated.

It added that the percentage change in the average CPI for the 12 months ending November 2023 over the average of the CPI for the previous corresponding 12-month period was 24.01 per cent.

"This indicates a 5.64 per cent increase compared to 18.37 per cent recorded in November 2022," it stated.

The report indicated that food inflation rate in November increased to 32.84 per cent on a year-on-year basis, which was 8.72 per cent higher compared to the rate recorded in November 2022 at 24.13 per cent.

"The rise in food inflation on a year-on-year basis is caused by increases in prices of oil and fats, bread, cereals, fish, potatoes, tubers, fruits, meat, vegetables, coffee, tea and cocoa," it stated.

It added that on a month-on-month basis, the food inflation rate in November was 2.42 per cent, which was a 0.51 per cent increase compared to the rate recorded in October 2023 at 1.91 per cent.

"The rise in food inflation on a month-on-month basis was caused by an increase in the average prices of bread and cereals, oil and fat, meat, coffee, tea and cocoa, potatoes and other tubers.

"All items, less farm produce and energy or core inflation, which excludes the prices of volatile agricultural produce and energy, stood at 22.38 per cent in November on a year-on-year basis.

"This increased by 4.39 per cent compared to 17.99 per cent recorded in November 2022.

"The exclusion of petrol is due to the deregulation of the commodity by removal of subsidy," the NBS stated.

How local start-up is leveraging tech to transform organic waste into fertiliser

KIGALI

IN March 2023, Cynthia Umutoiwabo participated in the third cohort of Jasiri Talent Investor (Simba), a programme designed to identify, select, and invest in aspiring entrepreneurs with the potential to establish high-impact businesses.

During the programme, she connected with two fellow entrepreneurs, Ghislain Dukuze from Rwanda and Dennis Muguta from Kenya, who shared a common goal of addressing challenges in their home countries.

Initially, their efforts were concentrated on comprehensive market research to gain insights into diverse industries—an exploration that led them to discover a mutual interest in the concept of a circular economy.

"Our research delved into the daily challenges faced by people, such as issues related to food insecurity and environmental impact," said Umutoiwabo. "At first, we considered the use of black soldier fly larvae (voracious

eaters of organic waste that are used to compost waste or convert waste into animal feed) for organic fertiliser, but we realised that it presented challenges for farmers."

The team decided to explore an alternative way to produce organic fertiliser, which eventually led them to embrace vermicomposting, which uses earthworms and microorganisms to turn leftover organic materials into valuable soil enhancers and plant nutrients.

Umutoiwabo said they were committed to addressing not only climate change but also food insecurity sustainably, recognising the interconnected nature of the challenges. The commitment inspired the team's name, Loopa, which eventually evolved into a start-up company.

"Loopa was derived from the concept of a circular economy, symbolising the loop of giving back to the soil and promoting sustainability in agriculture," she explained.

Currently the chief executive of

Loopa, Umutoiwabo said the team started implementing their solution after securing USD 10,000 through pitching to initiate their venture as part of Jasiri Talent Investor, a programme she said not only shaped their vision but also fostered their connections with advisors from various fields.

The team utilised the funds to establish a facility in Nyamata sector, Bugesera district to transform waste into fertiliser, with the production process kicking off in September 2023. Their operations involve working closely with the market, particularly in the maximum market where they sort and transport waste to their facility.

Umutoiwabo highlighted the team's diverse expertise, including chemists, circular economy specialists, and individuals with operational experience, which positions them well to tackle the multifaceted challenges they are addressing.

"We also collaborate with agronomists

and entomologists (scientists who study insects) to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the agricultural and ecological aspects of our work," she added.

Loopa's composting process involves sorting waste from the market, including vegetable and fruit leftovers without salt and oil, then mixing it with undisclosed manure, ensuring the exclusion of plastics and harmful substances.

The mixture is then shredded, sieved for composting to eliminate pathogens (microorganisms that cause or can cause disease), and fed to earthworms, which then result in two types of products: solid and liquid fertilisers.

Umutoiwabo highlighted the environmental aspect of their solution – using waste as a resource instead of letting it go to landfills.

"Our primary goal is to reduce dependence on inorganic fertilisers, which may enhance crop yields but harm the soil over time," she explained.

WORLD

Senior cardinal convicted
in Vatican corruption trial

VATICAN CITY

CARDINAL Angelo Becciu, the most senior Catholic Church official ever to stand trial before a Vatican criminal court, was convicted on Saturday of embezzlement and fraud and sentenced to five-and-a-half years in jail.

The Italian prelate's lawyer, Fabio Viglione, told reporters in the courtroom he would appeal, saying his client was innocent. Becciu, who lives in the Vatican, was expected to remain free for the time being.

In all, 10 defendants were accused of crimes including fraud, abuse of office and money laundering. All denied wrongdoing.

It took Court President Giuseppe Pignatone 25 minutes to read all the verdicts and sentences.

Becciu, like most of the other defendants, was convicted on some counts and acquitted of others. Only one, Becciu's former secretary, Father Mauro Carlino, was acquitted of all charges.

The trial, which exposed infighting and intrigue in the highest echelons of the Vatican, lasted for 86 sessions over two-and-a-half years.

It revolved mostly around the messy

purchase of a building in London by the Secretariat of State, the Vatican's key administrative and diplomatic department.

Becciu, then an archbishop, held the number two position there in 2013 when it began investing in a fund managed by Italian financier Raffaele Mincione, securing about 45 percent of the building at 60 Sloane Avenue, in an up-market district of the city.

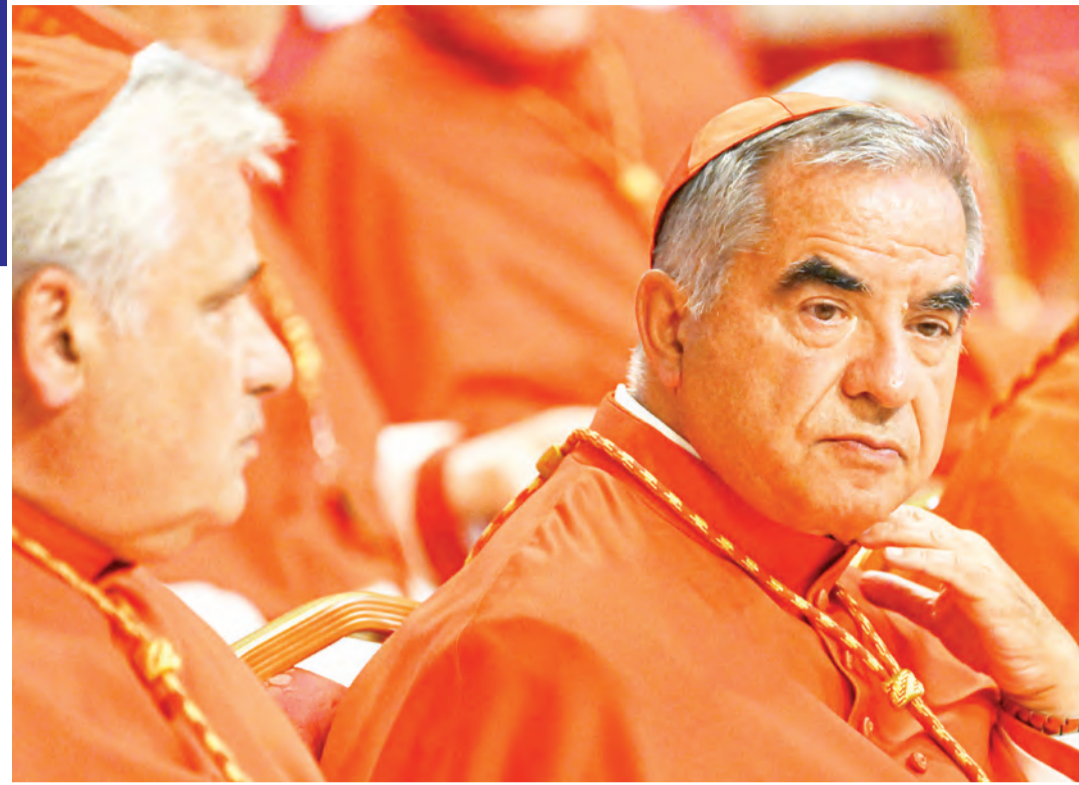
Mincione was found guilty of embezzlement and money laundering and given the same sentence as Becciu.

Irresponsible investment

The court said Becciu had been irresponsible and "highly speculative" to invest more than \$200 million with Mincione's fund between 2013-2014, noting this was about a third of the holdings of the Secretariat of State at the time.

In 2018, with Becciu in another Vatican job, the Secretariat of State felt it was being deceived by Mincione and turned to another financier, Gianluigi Torzi, for help in squeezing Mincione out and buying the rest of the building.

Torzi also fleeced the Vatican, according to prosecutors. He was found



Italian Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu (right) waits prior to the start of a consistory during which 20 new Cardinals are to be created by the Pope, on August 27, 2022 at St. Peter's Basilica in The Vatican. AFP

guilty of fraud and extortion and sentenced to six years.

The Vatican sold the building last year, taking an estimated loss of about 140 million euros (\$150 million).

Becciu, who was fired by Pope Francis from his next job in 2020 for alleged nepotism, but remains a cardinal, was also found guilty of embezzlement for funnelling money and contracts to companies or charities controlled by his brothers on their native island of Sardinia. Another accusation involved his hiring of Cecilia Marogna, a self-styled security analyst, also from Sardinia, as part of a secret project to help win freedom for a nun who had been kidnapped in Mali.

Marogna, 46, received 575,000 euros from the Secretariat of State in 2018-2019. The money was sent to a company she had set up in Slovenia and she received some in cash, prosecutors told the court.

Italian police said Marogna had spent much of the money on luxury clothing and health spas. Both she and Becciu were found guilty of aggravated fraud related to the transfer of money and Marogna was ordered to return the money to the Vatican.

Enrico Crasso, a banker who managed funds for the Secretariat of State, was convicted of money laundering and sentenced to seven

years. Fabrizio Tirabassi, who worked in the Secretariat, was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years. The court ordered Becciu, Mincione, Tirabassi and Crasso to repay a total of more than 100 million euros to the Vatican.

Nicola Squillacce, a lawyer who worked with both Crasso and Tirabassi, was given a suspended sentence of a year and 10 months.

Rene Bruehlhart, a Swiss lawyer and former president of the Vatican's Financial Intelligence Unit, and its director, Italian Tommaso Di Ruzza, were convicted of administrative omission and ordered to pay small fines.

Agencies

Netanyahu: Israel to handle Gaza's security after conflict

JERUSALEM / BEIRUT

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday evening that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will be responsible for security in the Gaza Strip after the conflict with Hamas is over.

Netanyahu made the remarks at a press conference in Tel Aviv in response to a question about his plan for Gaza when the conflict comes to an end.

"There will be demilitarization. The IDF will be responsible for security in the Gaza Strip because there is no other factor that will ensure the fight against terrorism, and I can tell you that there will be a civil governance that does not educate its children to destroy Israel," he stressed.

The Israeli prime minister also noted at the press conference that once Hamas is destroyed, his country will focus on its northern region, where almost 100,000 Israelis are currently displaced from their homes.

He added that there would be a diplomatic situation on the northern border or a different way to solve the situation.

There was also an inquiry about whether Netanyahu passed up an opportunity to send the head of Israel's Mossad to talks in Qatar on a new hostage deal a few days ago. In response, the prime minister said he won't "make the mistake of tell-



Smoke rises following an Israeli bombardment in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, on Saturday. AP

ing Israel's enemies about its considerations" and Israel is negotiating with the enemy via "blood, fire and pillars of smoke."

Meanwhile, a Hezbollah fighter was killed on Saturday during confrontations with the Israeli army in Lebanon's border areas, the Lebanese militant group said in a statement.

Hezbollah said that the group mourned one of its members, without providing further details.

The militant group said its fighters attacked several Israeli targets on Saturday, resulting in casualties. These targets included Israeli soldiers in the Ramim forest, as well as the settlements of Al-Manara and Al-Motella, and an infantry force near the Israeli military site of Ri-sha.

According to an anonymous Lebanese military source, the Israeli forces on Saturday carried out a series of air and artillery attacks on

border villages in southern Lebanon, destroying four houses and damaging another 25.

From Oct 8 to Dec 14, Hezbollah carried out 509 military operations against 58 Israeli positions and gatherings along the Lebanon-Israel borders, according to the militant group.

The Lebanon-Israel border witnessed increased tension since Oct 8 after Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets toward Israel in support of the Hamas attack on Israel the previous day, prompting the Israeli response by firing heavy artillery toward southeastern Lebanon.

The confrontations between Hezbollah and Israel have killed 155 on the Lebanese side, including 108 Hezbollah members, a Lebanese army soldier, one member of the Amal Movement, 16 members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and 29 civilians, including three journalists, according to Lebanese security sources.

Ceasefire urged

Separately, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), reiterated his call on Friday for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Tedros made the appeal at an annual press conference organized by the Association of Accredited Correspondents at the United Nations in Geneva.

The director-general hailed as "significant" the resolution adopted at the special session of the WHO Executive Board on the health situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, which called for immediate, sustained and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief in Gaza, including medical personnel.

The resolution also called on Tedros to continue reporting on the public health implications of the crisis, to assess the mental health impacts of the crisis, to increase technical and material assistance, and to strengthen the health agency's work with partners.

However, these tasks are almost impossible in the current circumstances, Tedros said. "The only real remedy is an immediate ceasefire," he said.

This year, there were over 1,200 documented attacks on health workers, patients, hospitals, clinics, and ambulances, across 19 countries, resulting in nearly 700 deaths and over 1,100 injuries, according to the head of WHO.

Tedros denounced attacks on health as a violation of international humanitarian law, saying health must never be a target.

More than 18,700 Palestinians have been killed amid the ongoing Gaza conflict since Oct 7, with 70 percent of them women and children, the health ministry in Gaza said on Thursday.

Xinhua

New EU sanctions against Russia to cause
more harm to EU – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW



THE EU's new package of anti-Russian sanctions, like the all previous ones, will inflict more damage on the European Union itself, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova (pictured) said, commenting on the recent EU summit.

"It goes as far as absurdity, when through some unscrupulous manipulations - when certain heads of state and government are not present at the table, - some legally questionable and obviously politicized decisions are made, which are as follows: on the start of pre-accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova, which not only fail to meet the EU's elementary criteria but directly run counter to them, as well as on another 'package' of unilateral restrictive measures against Russia, which, like all the previous ones, will cause bigger harm to the European Union itself," the diplomat said.

"This dictatorial behavior of Brussels reveals in all its magnitude that the member states are denied their democratic right to a dissenting opinion and the protection of their own interests," she added.

In addition, the diplomat pointed out that a heavy price for the EU's confrontational "policy and the consequences of its opportunistic decisions regarding Ukraine and Moldova will have to be paid by the population of European countries."

Zakharova added that it looks quite natural that against this backdrop, "the most responsible politicians in European countries are more and more frequently prioritizing national interests over some mantras of 'European solidarity,' which are out of touch with real needs."

Moreover, the spokeswoman pointed out that under the pressure of the United States' missteps, the European Union "continues to swiftly lose both political and economic weight around the world."

"The EU's resources, so much needed for its domestic growth, are not funneled into resolving multiple problems and asserting its own place in the emerging multipolar world order, but into serving the US interests, including into the enrichment of the US military-industrial complex," she said.

EU talks with Ukraine and Moldova

After the first day of the EU summit held in Brussels on December 14-15, European Council President Charles Michel said that the EU members had decided to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova, which may start in March 2024 or later.

The summit also granted Georgia the candidate status and pledged to get back in March to considering the start of accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina once the country achieved the "necessary degree of compliance with the membership criteria."

Agencies

PM Modi, Oman Sultan strongly condemn
terrorism 'in all its forms and manifestations'

New Delhi



PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Oman Sultan Haitham bin Tarik have condemned terrorism in "all its forms and manifestations."

The two leaders affirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation to combat terrorism.

PM Modi (pictured) and Haitham bin Tarik underscored the significance of fostering the universal values of peace, moderation, coexistence and tolerance, according to the joint statement released by India and Oman.

The joint statement released by India and Oman reads, "The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They agreed that there cannot be any justification for any act of terror for any reason whatsoever."

"They affirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation to combat terrorism and underscored the significance of fostering the universal values of peace, moderation, coexistence, and tolerance while highlighting the imperative of renouncing all types of violent extremism," it added.

Oman Sultan Haitham bin Tarik arrived in Delhi for his maiden State visit to India. During the visit, he held bilateral and delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction at the "excellent state" of bilateral relations.

ANI

Unique ethnic culture leads to booming rural tourism in China's Guangxi

THE Longji Rice Terraces in Dazhai village, Longji township, Longsheng county, Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, was decorated with rice paddies, presenting a lively view.

Since ancient times, Longsheng county has been known for its mountainous landscape - most of the region is highland while the rest is halved by water and fields.

The diligent people of the Yao ethnic group leveled slopes into layers of terraces. After the terraces were shaped, they channeled in water and plowed the fields for planting rice. This feat of precision farming birthed the spectacular scenery of terraced rice paddies winding from the foot of the mountains all the way to the peaks.

For generations, the villagers of Dazhai have toiled on the slopes, gradually transforming them into a magnificent terraced landscape resembling a ladder to the sky. With more than 1,200 people in over 290

households, the village is predominantly inhabited by the Yao ethnic group, accounting for 98 percent of the village's population.

Dazhai was once among the poorest villages in Longsheng county before it started developing tourism.

In recent years, the village has leveraged the scenic terraced landscapes and the unique cultural customs of the Red Yao ethnic group, a branch of the Yao ethnic group, turning the once impoverished village into a renowned tourist destination, said Yu Qiongong, Party head of Dazhai village.

According to him, Dazhai village was named among the Best Tourism Villages of 2022 by the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Early in the morning, Red Yao women would open the windows and hang their bright-colored clothes out on drying racks

and corridors. Soon, the walls of every house were transformed into a "sea" of vibrant red garments.

The Red Yao costumes feature a passionate red color, as well as harmonious tones like blue, black, cyan, and green that blend with the surroundings. These colors are skillfully combined to express the Red Yao people's longing for a better life.

In 2014, the traditional clothing of the Yao ethnic group in Longsheng county was listed as a national intangible cultural heritage of China.

The Red Yao people have a special affinity for the color red, and most of them have inherited the traditional craftsmanship of weaving, dyeing, and embroidery, which has been passed down to this day.

The traditional patterns of Yao ethnic clothing include geometric patterns, animal patterns, plant patterns, and landscape patterns. These diverse patterns not

only have aesthetic value but also serve as cultural symbols.

"We embroider whatever we see, such as insects and flowers. It is a way to record our lives," said Pan Jifeng, a national representative inheritor of the costume of the Yao ethnic group.

As the cultural charm of ethnic groups continues to unfold, ancient cultures are rejuvenated in the new era. The craftsmanship and vibrant colors of the traditional Yao costumes have ignited the tourism industry in Dazhai village.

Folk activities hosted there allow visitors to not only admire the breathtaking terraced landscapes but also experience the unique customs of the Yao ethnic group. Adorned in their splendid costumes, Red Yao women would sing joyful toasting songs and offer local sweet wine to tourists. Today, Dazhai village is bustling with tourists, with the laughter and joy full of

mountains.

Extensive research, collection, and documentation have been conducted on local folk songs, ballads, and customs. Dazhai village is like a vibrant museum of Yao culture.

In addition to drying red clothes, the village also has traditional activities such as making sticky rice cakes, performing bamboo pole dances, and combing long hair. Dazhai village, far away from the hustle and bustle of cities, fully immerses visitors in the Red Yao ancient culture.

The unique farming culture of Dazhai village also attracts tourists. The 12 farming techniques often used on the Longji Rice Terraces present the beautiful local farming culture and villagers' protection of the terraces, attracting many tourists to come to enjoy and experience.

"These 12 farming techniques were passed down by our ancestors who built

the terraced fields. If any one of them is missing, the terraced fields may be damaged. This is our traditional terraced field culture," said Yu, adding that developing tourism is an important way to promote the prosperity of the Yao culture in Dazhai village.

After years of development and innovation in local tourism, the villagers of Dazhai have turned into all-around farmers who not only do farm work but also engage in tourism businesses. As more and more tourists flock to the village, B&B and catering industries are thriving.

Currently, there are over 230 households in the village running distinctive B&B hotels. Besides, villagers are also operating farmhouse inns, selling handmade crafts, and performing ethnic dances, completely breaking free from the struggling days when they relied solely on agricultural work to make a living. *People's Daily*

India's G20 presidency diplomatic achievement of 2023: EAM Jaishankar

BENGALURU

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar yesterday said India's G20 presidency was its diplomatic achievement of the year.

"The G20 in many ways has been the diplomatic achievement of this year. Not just because we could get everybody to agree but on what we agreed on," the EAM said in his address at the Rotary Institute 2023 event in Bengaluru.

He said that through its G20 Presidency, India was able to get the most powerful countries of the world to show a new commitment to sustainable development and promoting green growth, ensuring international institutions like the World Bank and IMF would lend more prolifically.

He said the G20 is like the World Cup of diplomacy, where the biggest and strongest players come together. The most influential, powerful, and consequential countries of the world were gathered round the table.

"When we took the presidency, people did not have many expectations out of it. Through our G20, we bridged all the divides, found a common ground for countries which were otherwise arguing among themselves, who found it very difficult to reconcile. But, we were able to bridge it," the EAM said.

The 18th G20 Leaders' Summit was held in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. It saw the unanimous adoption of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which demonstrated the commitment of the G20 leaders to address global challenges in an inclusive, decisive and action-oriented manner.

India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022.

Meanwhile, EAM Jaishankar further said that what India has done in the past decade is actually the foundation of what lies ahead. "So, there is a direct connection between our achievements, capabilities, aspirations and dreams," he said.

He said that in the last 10 years, there have been some "challenges, some opportunities and some achievements."

"So in many ways, they represent all-round progress, they also tell us what lies ahead of us," he said.

The EAM also talked about the COVID-19 pandemic. He said: "It was called a once-in-a-century happening. I saw the rapidity of the Indian health system. As a society, as a nation, we were able to cope with it and meet the challenging capacities at a very rapid pace."

ANI



House Republicans authorize impeachment inquiry into Biden, escalating battle ahead of election year

WASHINGTON

THE Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to formally authorize an ongoing impeachment inquiry into Democratic President Joe Biden, escalating the battle between the White House and Republicans ahead of election year.

Analysts said that the political struggle between and within the two parties has become increasingly fierce, and in the past year, the United States has repeatedly seen unprecedented events.

As the election year approaches, the impeachment inquiry into Biden is bound to have a major impact on the election, and the political polarization in the country could become more prominent.

U.S. House Republicans on Wednesday voted, 221 against 212 along party lines, to authorize an impeachment inquiry into Biden, the latest sign of rampant partisanship in Congress. The White House and Democrats said Republicans had found no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden and that the vote was a "political stunt."

Biden issued a statement saying House Republicans were "focused on attacking" him with lies. Democrats also accused Republicans of acting to avenge the impeachment against former President Donald Trump.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, meanwhile, defended the vote, arguing that it is "not a political decision," noting that Republicans are committed to the "rule of law."

The formal authorization comes after months of investigations by House Republicans into the business dealings of members of the Biden family, in an attempt to find out whether the president improperly profited from his son's overseas business dealings.

So far, ethical concerns have been raised by Republicans, but no substantiated evidence has surfaced to demonstrate that Biden, in his current or past official capacities, engaged in the misuse of his position or accepted illicit payments.

House Republicans hope that the vote on an impeachment inquiry would give them better legal standing to enforce subpoenas and bring in witnesses to testify. Republicans had asked Biden's son, Hunter Biden, to testify behind closed doors, but he refused, offering to testify in a public hearing to ensure fairness.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the House of Representatives has the power to impeach federal officials, including the president and vice president.

An impeachment inquiry is usually conducted by House committees, and investigators draft and propose articles of impeachment after the investigation is completed.

If more than half of the members of the House vote in favor of at least one article of impeachment, the per-

son under investigation is impeached. The impeachment case then goes to the Senate for trial, and if more than two-thirds of the senators vote in favor of the articles of impeachment, the impeached person is convicted and removed from office, otherwise he will remain in office.

The U.S. Senate is narrowly controlled by the Democrats, thus Biden is unlikely to be convicted, even if impeached. However, with less than a year to go before the 2024 presidential election, the impeachment case against Biden could become a major point of contention between the two parties and have an impact on the election.

On the Republican side, the race has been dominated by Trump, who has actually been bolstered among his voting base by the four criminal indictments he faces, prompting several other candidates to drop out of the race.

Trump was impeached twice by the House - then controlled by Democrats - before being acquitted by the Senate. Trump has been calling for retaliation, urging his Republican allies in Congress to move quickly to impeach Biden.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that he expects the impeachment inquiry to become a factor in the 2024 presidential election. "Its primary value is to devalue the efforts to impeach Trump that failed and to create an atmosphere of 'everybody does it.'"

It debases the currency of this element of the U.S. Constitution," Ramsay said. "That makes it easier for some to vote for Trump, if they're not already there."

The impeachment inquiry vote is the latest evidence of heightened partisanship in U.S. politics. In the past year, the country has witnessed one political farce after another, with the two parties attacking each other on issues such as the debt ceiling and government funding.

Hunter Biden, who faces gun and tax-related charges, became the first child of a sitting president to be criminally indicted. Trump is facing multiple charges, becoming the first former president to be criminally indicted in U.S. history.

In U.S. Congress, chaos has become the new normal. In January, for the first time in 100 years, the speaker of the House of Representatives was not elected on the first vote.

Kevin McCarthy won the position in a dramatic 15-round floor fight, amid Republican Party infighting. Just nine months later, amid growing disagreement between moderates and conservatives, McCarthy suffered the "betrayal" of eight Republican colleagues on Oct. 3, making him the first sitting House speaker to be voted out of office in U.S. history. Xinhua

Rehabilitation centers in South Sudan restore hope for people with disabilities

JUBA

HUNDREDS of people with disabilities in South Sudan are successfully recovering from physical and social trauma, thanks to the physiotherapy treatments and provision of artificial limbs supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian organization based in Geneva.

The Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center cares for a majority of individuals with disabilities, many of whom are victims of gunshots, landmines or unexploded ordnances left behind by years of conflict.

Daniel Kuol, a 31-year-old man from Kolyonyang Payam in Jonglei state, thanked the ICRC for its help, saying he arrived at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center in November nursing a gunshot wound in his left leg.

In March 2022, Kuol was shot during a raid by armed Murle youth from the neighboring Greater Pibor Administrative Area who had targeted his village for cattle. Currently, he awaits the fitting of an artificial limb at the center, expressing hope for the future.

"I arrived here two weeks ago, awaiting my artificial limb. Once fitted, they will provide me with transportation fare to return to my hometown," Kuol said.

Supported by the ICRC, South Sudan has three physical rehabilitation centers for individuals with disabilities in Juba, Wau and Rumbek.

Kuol is among the in-patients



A physiotherapist helps Abraham Deng (R), a wounded soldier, to walk at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center in Juba, capital of South Sudan, on Dec. 12, 2023. Hundreds of people with disabilities in South Sudan have received physiotherapy treatments and the aid of artificial limbs from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Xinhua

from several states and administrative areas accommodated at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center, where they receive essential provisions.

Kuol encourages others in similar situations not to despair. He said that caretakers at the center advise and encourage them to start small businesses to earn a living.

Wenbul Dhill Kulang, a disabled South Sudan People's Defense Force soldier (SSPDF), said that he lost a limb due to a gun-

shot wound sustained during a 2004 conflict with the Sudan Armed Forces in the Kapoeta area of Eastern Equatoria state. Kulang awaits an artificial limb to return to his native home in Bentiu town, Unity state.

Abraham Deng, another war veteran who used to be a sergeant major in the SSPDF, expressed relief at receiving an artificial limb at the Juba Rehabilitation Reference Center. Deng lost a leg while fighting with the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) against the Sudan Armed Forces in 1994.

Emmanuel Lubari, director for disability in the South Sudanese Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, said the country is working with the ICRC to maintain the three physical rehabilitation centers. He called for physiotherapy, artificial limbs, orthotics, wheelchairs and psychosocial support for the local people who were injured in years of conflicts.

Lubari noted that there is a shortage of orthopedic technologists in South Sudan, saying that some students are currently studying in Cambodia with ICRC support and will return to provide services in the country.

From January to October this year, the three centers have attended to about 14,057 people. David Dak Chak, a psychologist collaborating with the ICRC at one of the centers, emphasized the crucial role of the international community in extending mental health and psychosocial support services.

"We offer individual, family and group counseling while ensuring confidentiality, dignity and non-discrimination," said Chak. Also, therapists engage patients in discussions on topics vital to their aspirations and encourage them to share experiences and coping mechanisms.

Furthermore, these centers encourage patients to pursue future success. "They understand that disability does not define one's worth," Chak added.

Xinhua

China-Vietnam friendship grows ever stronger with passage of time

By Kang Pu

Ho Chi Minh was one of the most familiar foreign leaders to the Chinese people. His close connection with China encapsulated an unforgettable chapter in China-Vietnam exchanges. Located in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, the former residence of Ho Chi Minh was the site where the late Vietnamese leader spent the longest time working and living.

On Nov. 13, 2017, Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee, reviewed the friendly exchanges between the older-generation leaders of the two countries and the friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples at the former residence of Ho Chi Minh.

In front of a stilt house where Ho Chi Minh once lived, Xi presented Trong a state gift - 19 issues of People's Daily about Vietnamese leaders' visits to China. The stilt house stands as a testament to the concerted efforts made by the top leaders of the CPC and the CPV to forge stronger bonds of friendship between the two nations in the new era.

A senior tourist visiting the former residence of Ho Chi Minh shared with People's Daily his knowledge of the friendship between Ho Chi Minh and older-generation Chinese leaders. He was quite familiar with the Jiefang trucks, Forever bikes and other goods and materials China once provided for Vietnam.

A friendship featuring "camaraderie plus brotherhood" has withstood the test of time. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Vietnam. Under the guidance of Xi and Trong, bilateral relationship between the two countries has been developing at a high level, and strategic cooperation comprehensively deepened.

Exchange and cooperation in various fields have continuously enhanced mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, especially among the younger generation.

Outside the stilt house, several young Vietnamese told People's Daily that the more they know about Chi-



Students try Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting during a cultural activity hosted by the Confucius Institute at Hanoi University, Dec. 8. (People's Daily/Zhang Yuanna)

na, the more they can feel the major achievements made by China. They said Chinese TV dramas and electronic products have sparked their interest in China, and many young Vietnamese are joining Chinese language courses and actively engaging with Chinese friends through platforms such as Confucius Institutes and China Cultural Centers.

The deepening understanding has propelled closer cooperation and communication. Recently, a brand-new news program in Vietnamese called "China and Vietnam Connection" was officially launched. The program, co-produced by Chinese and Vietnamese media outlets, is the first international cooperation program broadcast on Vietnam's national television.

The CPC and the CPV have hosted 17 theory seminars. Relevant institutions from both sides have also organized various exchange activities, such as a symposium on party building and national governance in the new

era and an international seminar on socialist development experience of China and Vietnam and its global influence. These activities shared experiences in party building and governance, and deepened the two sides' understanding of the laws of socialist construction.

The traditional friendship between China and Vietnam has been flourishing, and the public support for China-Vietnam friendship has also been cemented. This has created a favorable social basis and public sentiment for the development of bilateral relations.

It is believed that as both countries firmly support each other in pursuing a socialist path that suits their respective national conditions, they will further strengthen solidarity and friendship and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation.

The stilt house will continue to witness the wonderful stories of China-Vietnam friendship and the passing on of the friendship.

People's Daily

Permanent Committee for Human Rights holds event highlighting links between climate change, gender-based violence

DUBAI

THE Permanent Committee for Human Rights in the UAE, in cooperation and partnership with the General Women's Union and the UN Women Liaison Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council in Abu Dhabi, organized an event titled "Climate Change and Ways to Mitigate Gender-Based Violence" at the Women's Pavilion at COP28.

Jamal Al Musharakh, the UAE's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, delivered the opening speech and stressed that COP28 UAE placed the issue of women and gender equality in the context of climate action

as a top priority.

Furthermore, he added that the conference's allocation of a full day of the presidential programme to confront this issue underscored the criticality of elevating the role and participation of women in tackling climate change.

The conference presidency was also keen to enhance the skills of national cadres and support the presence of women in its various activities, adding that the UAE negotiating team included many young talented women specialized in climate diplomacy and international negotiations, which affirms Emirati women's active role in achieving UAE sustainability.

He maintained that the UAE is active

internationally in addressing climate change, and as a member of the Human Rights Council, and in partnership with the United Kingdom, submitted a draft resolution on girls' education that was adopted by the Council at its 54th session without a vote. The initiative was the first of its kind to focus on the impact of climate change on girls' education, examining the challenges they face, including violence.

The resolution emphasized the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence and harassment against girls at schools, including during crises and natural disasters. In addition, the UAE, as a non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council, is highly involved in

promoting issues of climate change and its impact on conflict areas.

At the Council's open sessions, the UAE consistently stresses the necessity on providing opportunities for greater communication with local representatives of affected communities, especially women and youth, as well as engaging with organizations to enable them to pioneer and lead climate initiatives and solutions.

From her side, Dr. Moza Al Shehhi, Director of the UN Women Liaison Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council in Abu Dhabi, focused on their role in leading the Sixteen Days of Activism against gender-based violence, which begins every year from November 25 to 10 December.

ANI



Former Ihefu SC head coach, Ugandan Moses Basena. PHOTO: COURTESY OF IHEFU SC

Premier League sides firing coaches practically after each round of play

By Correspondent John Kimbute

PUNDITS have of late been at pains to affirm that the number of head coaches of NBC Premier League sides that have so far been shown the door has risen to 13, which incidentally corresponds with 13 play days for all sides, those who have done all their matches up to now.

This is by no means an average figure for the turnout of coaches each season such that pundits are at pains to explain precisely what is happening, and what sort of claims or expectations haven't been met.

Each instance of coach departure has its characteristics, such as either resignation or dismissal, either way. There are cases of coaches departing due to greener pastures, with that situation just being gleaned from the tone adopted by the club the coach is leaving.

The club message would show no actual disagreements and without actual hints of discord having been noticed earlier. One such situation was the departure of the head coach of Dodoma Jiji FC when the club stood in fourth position in the table, at least for a moment, which is entirely satisfactory, if not astonishing, for a middle-ranking club, especially in terms of resources committed to it compared to a series of other sides.

There were several instances of open disagreement on some issues, especially among the bigger clubs that changed coaches, for instance, the departures of head coaches at Singida Fountain Gate FC (still known in the continental tournament, CAF Confederation Cup, as Singida Big Stars) and then with city giants, Simba SC. While as usual the coach departs based on a trend of results, it was arguable whether with Roberto Oliveira it was either a trend or an incident.

Some people are likely to believe by now that the incident was a blessing in disguise as the club side is now being strengthened.

By contrast, when former Young Africans SC head coach Nasreddine Nabi left, many saw in his departure an almost irreplaceable gap, but are likely to have been proved wrong by now, or if they are club adherents, have far less reason to be alarmed of late.

The key is the work done to obtain another coach, who has either a comparable CV or a better one in terms of his experience, transforming the side in noticeable ways at the early stages of the local premier league.

A flurry of high flung mood, a streak of confidence was emerging after the derby and to an extent in eliminations that the side could reach heights comparable to the second tier run.

All this was fairly misplaced but it resulted out of having noticed that the team had significant potential, which is now leading to demands that this potential be confirmed.

Instead of admitting that the club did not have the material compact to

be a hard hitter in the CAF Champions League instead of a Group Stage also-rans as is increasingly the case at present, the fan base is demanding that those dreams be realized.

It is not in the first place that the Jangwani Street side strolls into the quarterfinals like their next-street rivals, Simba SC, have done several times earlier but aren't so assured this year, but that they win a match or two at home.

The pundits' and fan base's calculation for proceeding to the next stage of the continental tournament has been the proverbial nine points at the Benjamin Mkapa arena, where at least two points have been dropped by either side in that location already.

That is why a flurry of signings is expected during the short registration window, a gesture that is likely to be reciprocated by other premier league sides eager to improve their firepower or rearguards.

They will be keen to follow who is staying and who is leaving at the city rivals, or who can be lured away by an offer.

So the departure of head coaches is a symptom of the dynamics at work in the premier league, where performing coaches are lured elsewhere, and frustrated clubs look for new coaches.

The trouble with classification is that the reasons aren't overly classified so greener pastures reason for departure is just guessed at from what club leaders say in informing the public of departure.

What is more vivid is where the club is dissatisfied with the coach, as in that context there will not just be a statement at the point of departure but a burgeoning situation earlier.

On the whole, the sort of dynamics that is visible is that clubs are trying to achieve more than they have factually invested, which in a sense is to shoot themselves in the foot with disappointment.

When a side loses a series of matches or has drawn in a repetitive way that means it is an average club or less than-average club, which means either of two things.

One is that the leadership and fan base would look at the level of investments that have been made in recruitment and be satisfied with the sort of achievement they see, which is not what is happening all over.

What is preferred is first to alter the technical bench to be in a position for better utilization of the players already recruited, which is followed by new demands from an appreciably more exposed technical bench.

When this is done twice or thrice it improves the club as sponsors are pushed to open up their chests more convincingly, as it is no longer an issue of their projects for the club, but maintaining the confidence and loyalty of the fan base.

Each Premier League side is slowly inching up its expectations, the coaches are directed to realize the

Kilimanjaro Water brand keen on hydrating Kili Marathon's runners

By Guardian Correspondent

KILIMANJARO Drinking Water, produced by Bonite Bottlers in Moshi, has been partnering with the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon for more than 13 years now out of the 22 years that the event has been in existence.

It has been an exciting journey as the two brands share the name of Mt Kilimanjaro, whose slopes make part of the route of the prestigious marathon that has become one of the biggest sporting events within the region.

The Bonite Bottlers Head of Sales and Marketing, Christopher Loiruk, says one of the things that has been inspiring them all this time is the fact that the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is an international event that gathers participants from in and out of Tanzania.

Loiruk notes: "This is important for our business as our water is consumed by both locals and tourists who visit our country."

"Kilimanjaro Marathon promotes a lot of tourism as the participants do not only run but they also tour various tourist attractions where their water of choice is always Kilimanjaro Drinking Water," he says.

He says they have been hydrating the runners for more than 13 years now and that it is always exciting to see the participants stopping by the water



Bonite Bottlers' Head of Sales and Marketing, Christopher Loiruk.

points to hydrate themselves with some Kilimanjaro Drinking Water and other Bonite Bottlers products.

"Runners need a lot of water as it helps them to restore the lost energy and air hence it is important for them to pass by all the allocated water points as these have been professionally spaced to ensure the participants are not dehydrated," he says.

He says they have all along fielded their staff and customers to participate in all categories and this year will be no exception as the participants have already started exercising to ensure they do much better this time.

"We have been allowing them to participate in other mara-

thon events to ensure they prepare well for the prestigious Kilimanjaro Marathon on February 25, 2024," he says, adding that they do provide them with training vests.

He says this year they will also enroll for the corporate challenge, which they have won a couple of times in the previous years.

"We hope to do well this year as preparations are in top gear," he says.

To the Kilimanjaro Water customers and stakeholders, he says they should look forward to their favourite water.

Loiruk salutes other sponsors including Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor), Tigo-Half Marathon, Gee Soseji - 5km Fun Run, water table sponsors Sim-

ba Cement and TPC Sugar, official partners - KiliMedair, Garda World Security, CMC Automobiles, Sal Salinero Hotel and official suppliers - Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

He says the organizers of Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and national coordinators Executive Solutions Ltd deserve a pat on the back for ensuring that the event gets bigger and bigger every year as it has been attracting a lot of participants and spectators, hence making Moshi busy during the Kili Marathon weekend.

According to Loiruk, businesspeople should not only use this opportunity to sell more but also ensure they observe the quality of their goods and services to attract more customers.

Kilimanjaro Marathon participants can register through either TigoPesa by dialing *150*01#, then pressing 5 LKS, then pressing 5 (Ticket) and following instructions to finalize registration or through the official website www.kilimanjaro-marathon.com.

This is applicable for all race categories including the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km-Full Marathon, Tigo-Kili Half Marathon, and the Gee Soseji-5km Fun Run.

This year's event is expected to take place at the Moshi Cooperative University Stadium on February 25, 2024, from 6:30 am when the 42km race will officially start.

Medeama SC arrives in Dar for key CAF CL rematch against Yanga

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

GHANA's Medeama SC was expected to arrive in Dar es Salaam yesterday for the rematch of the fourth round of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League against Yanga at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The Group D match has been slated to take place at the venue on Wednesday, with kick-off scheduled for 10:00 pm.

The two teams had earlier locked horns at the Baba Yara Stadium in Kumasi on December 8, chalking up a 1-1 draw.

Medeama SC took the lead via a spot kick converted by forward Jonathan Sowah in the 27th minute after Yanga's defender, Dickson Job, fouled him in the danger zone.

Yanga responded by equalizing through their star player, Ivorian Pacome Zouzoua, who scored in the 36th minute - his second goal in the premier continental competition.

Both teams are determined to secure victory, with Medeama SC, on the one hand, aiming to maintain an impressive performance in the tournament. Yanga, on the other hand, needs a home win to stay competitive in Group D.

Medeama SC currently sits third in Group D with four points, level with CR Belouizdad of Algeria which is positioned second.

The tournament's defending champion, Al Ahly, leads the group with five points, while Yanga is at the bottom of the

group with two points.

Each team still has a chance to advance to the quarterfinal stage if it performs well in the upcoming matches.

In the previous game, Medeama SC, Ghana Premier League defending champion, was without center-back, Nurudeen Abdulai (24), due to a shoulder injury he sustained in the 1-1 draw with Yanga at the Baba Yara Stadium in Kumasi.

Despite Abdulai's absence, a key figure in helping the team qualify for the Group Stage for the first time, head coach Evans Adotey expressed confidence in his team's ability to win the Wednesday fixture.

Notable players like goalkeeper Felix Kyei and striker Jonathan Sowah are expected to step

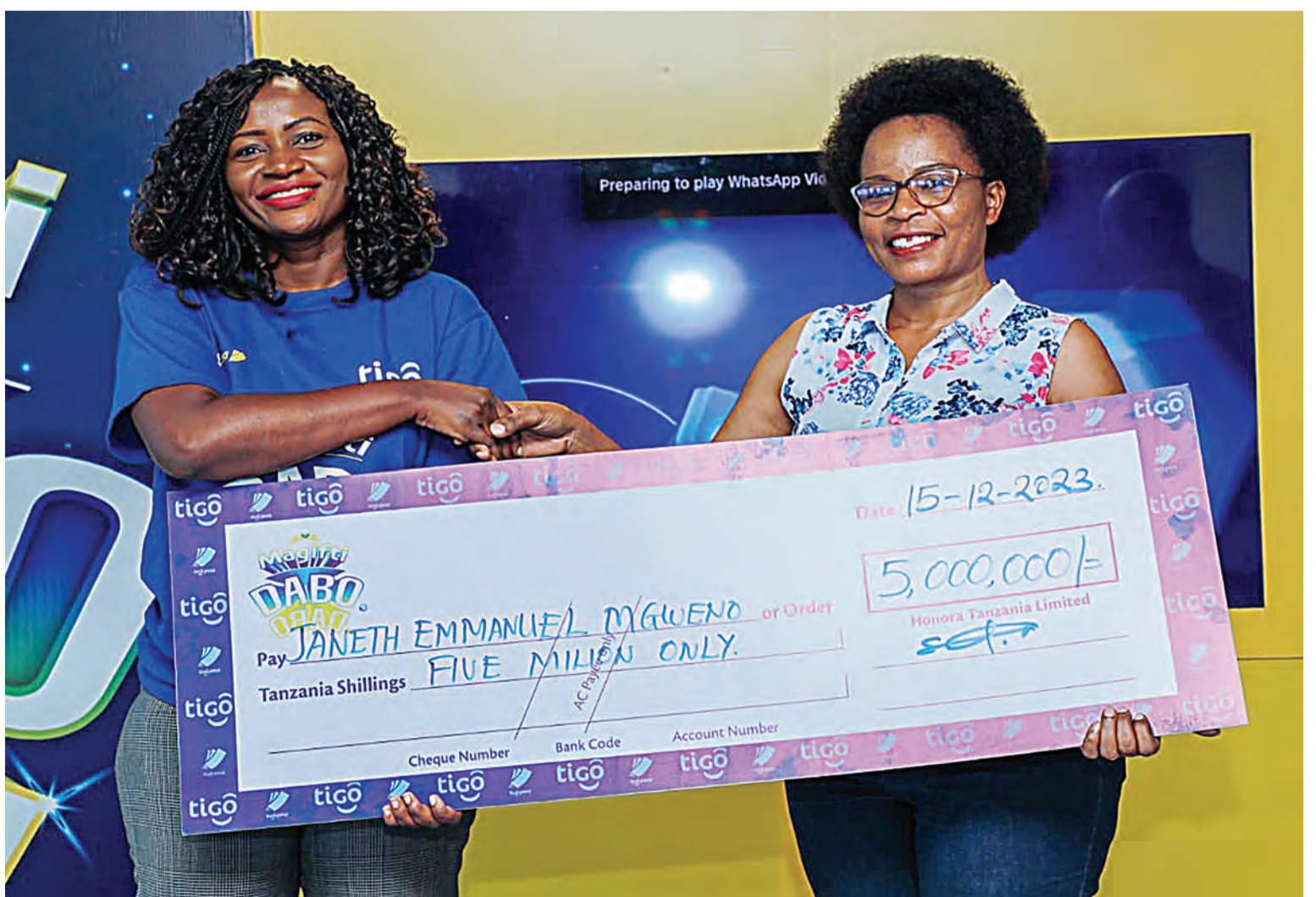
up.

The match between Medeama SC and Yanga promises to be an exciting encounter, with both teams determined to come out on top.

Medeama SC will be looking to build on the side's impressive performances in the competition so far, while Yanga will be hoping to turn fortunes around and secure a vital win.

Moroccan referee Rédouane Jiyed will handle the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League Matchday 4 tie between Yanga and Ghana's Medeama SC.

Compatriots Lahsen Azgaou (first assistant), Mostafa Akarkad (second assistant), and Karim Sabry (fourth official) will be his assistants for the clash.



Head of TigoPesa Special Customers at Tigo Tanzania, Mary Rutta (L), hands over a dummy check of 5m/- to Janeth Mgweno, the winner of the telecom company's campaign, known as 'Magift Dabo Dabo', in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Barca 'give away' points at Valencia, Atletico stumble

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Xavi Hernandez said his team "gave away two points" to Valencia in a tense 1-1 draw on Sunday in La Liga.

The champions moved third, a point clear of Atletico Madrid, but trail Real Madrid by four and surprise leaders Girona by six, having played one game more than all three sides.

Atletico fell 2-0 at Athletic Bilbao earlier Saturday but the Catalans could not take full advantage in an entertaining clash on the east coast.

Joao Felix sent Barcelona ahead in the second half after a slick team move, but Hugo Guillamon's fine strike pegged them back.

"We have to be much stronger in the opponent's box, the chances are so clear (and) we didn't win the game," Xavi told Movistar.

"I think we gave away two points, because the team had a very good game... we take away a point that leaves us very unsatisfied."

Barcelona have won just one of their last four league matches, including being ripped apart by a rampant Girona last weekend at home.

They were further shaken by a midweek Champions League defeat by Belgian side Royal Antwerp, which created further questions over Xavi's management even though the Catalans were already through to the last 16.

In the subsequent days, club figures, including president Joan Laporta, showed him support, ahead of what Spanish media billed a 'final' at Valencia's rowdy Mestalla stadium.

"Anything that wasn't three points was a tough blow for us," Barca midfielder Pedri told Movistar. "We did a lot of things right but we didn't get the goal -- I think our play was a lot better than in the Girona game, where we weren't good."

The Spain international said the team were backing Xavi.

"We're with the coach, these aren't good moments for any of us... we have to be united to turn it around."

As in Barca's defeat by Girona, the game flowed from end-to-end. Both goalkeepers were called into action before Felix sent Barca ahead early in the second half.

Frenkie de Jong played in Raphinha with a delightful pass and the Brazilian teed the ball up for the Portuguese forward to tap home.

Guillamon equalised in the 70th minute after Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo allowed a ball to bounce instead of clearing his lines.

The Spain midfielder found the top corner from the edge of the box to put Ruben Baraja's team level. Ferran Torres and Raphinha missed big chances in the final stages as Barca searched for a winner.

AFP

What caused Luton Town player Tom Lockyer to collapse?

By Matt Mathers

LUTON's Town's Premier League match with Bournemouth was abandoned after Hatter's captain Tom Lockyer collapsed on the pitch.

Medics raced onto the field to treat the defender after he fell to the ground in the 62nd minute of the top-flight clash.

The club has since said he suffered cardiac arrest. Mr Lockyer was responsive by the time he left the pitch and has been transferred to hospital, where he is in a "stable" condition, the club said in a statement.

He was due to undergo "further tests with his family at his bedside. We would like to thank everyone for their support, concern and loving messages for Locks," the statement added.

During the match, a stretcher was brought out and play was paused with players from both sides sent to their dressing rooms as the Hatters defender, who remained on the ground, was treated on the pitch after falling to the ground.

He was then removed from the field of play on a stretcher surrounded by the medical team, and there was a standing ovation from the crowd. The game was subsequently abandoned.

It is not the first time the 29-year-old has collapsed on the pitch. In May he was taken to hospital after collapsing during his side's play-off win against Coventry.

He suffered an atrial fibrillation - a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate. Symptoms include dizziness, shortness of breath and tiredness.

Lockyer later had heart surgery and revealed in June that he had been given the all-clear to play again.

"I've had the operation to fix it and it shouldn't happen again," he told the BBC. "There's not really any reason to say why that happened."

"I've been given the all-clear - it is what it is and I just want to draw a line under it now and move on. I've had my full heart checked and double checked with all the scans and tests they can do on a heart, and they've all come back positive."

THE INDEPENDENT

Luton game abandoned after player's cardiac arrest as Man City squander lead

LONDON

LUTON captain Tom Lockyer suffered a cardiac arrest that forced the abandonment of his team's Premier League match at Bournemouth on Saturday as Manchester City threw away a 2-0 lead against Crystal Palace.

Luton's game on the south coast was halted midway through the second half with the score at 1-1 as defender Lockyer received medical treatment before he was carried off to applause.

The Premier League confirmed the match had been abandoned and Luton later said the Wales international was in a stable condition in hospital.

"Our medical staff have confirmed that the Hatters captain suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch, but was responsive by the time he was taken off on the stretcher," the club said in a statement.

"He received further treatment inside the stadium, for which we once again thank the medical teams from both sides. Tom was transferred to hospital, where we can reassure supporters that he is stable and currently undergoing further tests, with his family at his bedside."

The 29-year-old had heart surgery after collapsing during Luton's Championship play-off final win against Coventry in late May.

He returned to action for the start of the new season and had made 15 appearances so far in all competitions before Saturday's match.



Tom Lockyer collapsed on the pitch as Bournemouth played Luton on Saturday. Agencies

The Wales national team posted on X, formerly known as Twitter: "Our thoughts are with Tom Lockyer."

City squandered hope in the 76th minute when Jeffrey Schlupp shrugged off the attentions of the City defence and crossed for Jean-Philippe Mateta to poke home.

And the home fans watched in horror when referee Paul Tierney pointed to the penalty spot after Phil Foden fouled Mateta. Michael Olise made no mistake, slotting home in the 95th minute to make it 2-2 and boos rang around the Etihad at the final whistle.

City, without injured top-scorer Erling Haaland, enjoyed nearly three-quarters of possession in the first half but had only Jack Grealish's goal to show for their dominance.

They seemed destined to move to within one point of Premier League leaders Liverpool, who face Manchester United

on Sunday, when Rico Lewis thumped the ball into the bottom left corner in the 54th minute.

But Palace scored against the run of play to give themselves hope in the 76th minute when Jeffrey Schlupp shrugged off the attentions of the City defence and crossed for Jean-Philippe Mateta to poke home.

And the home fans watched in horror when referee Paul Tierney pointed to the penalty spot after Phil Foden fouled Mateta. Michael Olise made no mistake, slotting home in the 95th minute to make it 2-2 and boos rang around the Etihad at the final whistle.

City, who now head to the Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia, have won just one of their past six Premier League games and risk falling off the pace.

"We gave away two points," Guardiola told the BBC. "We had a good performance. We controlled the transitions re-

ally well and made a lot of set pieces but Crystal Palace's second goal cannot happen at this level.

"We took bad decisions in the 18-yard box and we were punished." Hodgson said patience was the key for his side, who have not won in the Premier League since early November.

"They're going to have the ball a lot more than you and if you start trying to take chances and attack them too early, then they're going to cut through you," he said.

"As it happens, we got to 2-1 which gave us some hope I suppose and we then thought, we'll take a few chances now and we will have a go at it and luckily it paid off for us."

Michael Keane and Amadou Onana scored as Everton won their fourth straight league game, beating struggling Burnley 2-0 to lift themselves seven points clear of the relegation zone -- just a month after they were docked 10 points for

breaking financial rules.

Chelsea beat bottom club Sheffield United 2-0 to register just their third home league win of the season, thanks to goals from Cole Palmer and Nicolas Jackson.

Newcastle claimed all three points against 10-man Fulham at their St James' Park stronghold, with 17-year-old Lewis Miley among the scorers in a 3-0 win.

Meanwhile, Mauricio Pochettino claimed Chelsea's response to successive Premier League defeats showed they are in a "good way" as the Blues beat Sheffield United 2-0 on Saturday.

After losses to Manchester United and Everton turned the heat up on struggling Chelsea, Pochettino's side kept the critics at bay with a hard-fought success at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea were hardly in complete control against the Premier League's bottom club, but second half goals from Cole Palmer and Nicolas Jackson sealed a much-needed victory.

"I think we talked a lot during the week after Everton about needing drastic change," Pochettino said.

"It was important to confirm that we are in a good way. The team in the first half was frustrated because we couldn't find a way past the low block of Sheffield United."

Chelsea's first goal in the 54th minute was well worked between Palmer and Raheem Sterling, whose low cross was converted with a composed finish by the former Manchester

City forward.

Palmer turned creator seven minutes later as Jackson made it two, lifting the ball into the box for Sterling and Conor Gallagher to attack.

It was spilled by Blades goalkeeper Wes Foderingham and Palmer knocked it back to Jackson for 2-0.

Pochettino pointed to a change of position in the second half, swapping with Sterling to take up a more central role, as the key to the win.

"We didn't show the capacity to be flexible and it was easy for them to identify our position and to block us and make us put the ball in positions that were easy for them to stop," he said.

"The second half we were much better, we fixed things. The team started to find better possibilities to play, to link much better."

"Cole from the right, going into the space, started to link better with team-mates and be the player that we want to use - a playmaker."

Pochettino swatted aside questions about his decision to drop Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez.

Gallagher and Moises Caicedo featured in central midfield instead of the World Cup winner.

"You only can play 11," he said. "It's a big competition, sometimes you need one profile or another and you choose the players."

"The combination between Caicedo and Gallagher, using Cole like a number 10, that was the possibility for the best combination."

AFP

Wasteful Manchester City drop points again in latest title race twist

By Richard Jolly

Even as Manchester City's thoughts turned to world domination, their English crown may have slipped a little from their grasp. As Crystal Palace came from 2-0 down to draw, City were left with a lone win from six league games before the Fifa Club World Cup.

By the time they play again in the Premier League, they could be 12 points behind Liverpool. And if they have overcome sizeable deficits before, they could yet have cause to rue this Palace fightback.

An odd game was often one-sided, one-way traffic for large swathes and yet finished with the points shared. After 90 minutes, City had registered 75 per cent possession, 19 shots to three, nine on target to one. After injury-time, Palace had a point and the sense that, if the game had gone on a little longer, they were the likelier winners.

They only have one win from their last nine games but Roy Hodgson, so irascible after the late loss to Liverpool last week, could savour the drama at the end this time. As Phil Foden, with an almighty swipe, upended the excellent Jean-

Philippe Mateta, referee Paul Tierney pointed to the spot and Michael Olise rolled his penalty past Ederson.

The midfielder was a fitting scorer - Palace's brighter moments tended to involve him and the relentless Mateta - but City could rue an uncharacteristic carelessness. They have drawn their last three league games at the Etihad Stadium; indeed, home and away, they have drawn four times in six fixtures, losing a lead at least once in each.

They have not kept a clean sheet in that time and even as Pep Guardiola packs his side with central defenders, there is an error-prone element to the champions.

Ederson's ill-fated afternoon contained no saves but could have brought a first-half red card. The Brazilian was booked for sending Mateta flying just outside the box; aggrieved by the officiating against Liverpool, Hodgson looked incredulous. Yet the Frenchman possessed the ability to get back up and carry on running at City. He struck when he tapped in Jeffrey Schlupp's low cross.

And in a tale of two goalkeepers, Palace could ultimately end up

grateful for a Manchester United old boy. Dean Henderson made a belated first Premier League start, with Sam Johnstone injured, and excelled. A superb early parry from a stooping Julian Alvarez's header, a fine block from Josko Gvardiol and a flying save from Bernardo Silva were among the highlights of his performance.

Palace sought to shield him with as many players as possible. Hodgson has a famous fondness for the back four - he helped introduce the system in Sweden in the 1970s - but used five at the back here. Palace saw so little of the ball that Chris Richards completed one solitary pass in the first 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, for the first time since such records were compiled in the Premier League, every player on one side created at least one chance in the first half. That side, it scarcely needs saying, was City. Ruben Dias showed both his passing range and an audacity when shooting, almost finding the net from 25 yards.

He was involved in the breakthrough. Palace had all 11 players within 30 yards of their goal, and yet City still played through them with two perceptive passes: first, Ruben Dias to Phil Foden, then the Mancunian on the turn to Jack Grealish.

He sidefooted in a shot with the kind of assured finish he has provided

too infrequently until his recent scoring spree: it took a three-minute VAR check for offside to confirm it but, after just eight goals in his first 61 league games for City, he now has three in three for the first time in the Premier League. With Erling Haaland out, it seemed as though Grealish was taking on his mantle as the goalscorer.

For Rico Lewis, meanwhile, there was a different sort of landmark. The teenager had struck in the Champions League against Sevilla last season but he added a first Premier League goal, hooking in a shot after Rodri turned Grealish's pass into his path.

And yet City were to rue their profligacy.

They had a goal ruled out when the offside Rodri tried to apply the finishing touch to Alvarez's free kick. All 10 of their outfield starters had at least one shot; remarkably, the left-back Gvardiol had three on target.

And so there might be a temptation to chalk a draw up to Haaland's foot injury, to the absence of the specialist scorer. But to lose a 2-0 lead, to concede twice to an injury-hit Palace team with just nine goals in their previous 12 matches, pointed to other problems.

They may need to fix them in Saudi Arabia if they are to defend their Premier League title.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Tanzania set to host 2024 CHAN finals

SPORT

Luton game abandoned after player's cardiac arrest as Man City squander lead

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Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia.

by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya in September won the rights to host the 36th edition of the Africa Cup of Nations in 2027.

CAF president Patrice Motsepe announced the East Africa Pamoja Bid as the winner of the rights to host the premier African football bonanza after the CAF Executive Committee's meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

Motsepe said: "The future of African football has never been brighter... shortly an African nation will win the World Cup."

The CAF boss added: "The 2027 edition is going to be beautiful. The commitment and drive made by the three presidents of the countries shows how eager the region is to host this event."

The East African joint ticket was selected over competing bids from Botswana and Senegal in a vote among some 22 CAF Executive Committee members.

It will be the first time three countries have joined to host the AFCON finals – previously, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria and Ghana had jointly hosted the tournament.

This means that Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda have automatically qualified for the 2027 AFCON finals as hosts

Simba SC coach lauds players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Abelhak Benchikha has lauded his players' patience in the squad's 3-0 win over Kagera Sugar in the NBC Premier League clash that took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

The Msimbazi Street side won the squad's first game after taking part in five fixtures without a win to up momentum for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League match against Morocco's Wydad AC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday.

Saidi Ntibazonkiza, Sadio Kanoute, and substitute John Bocco scored for the Msimbazi Street squad at Uhuru Stadium on Friday afternoon.

Benchikha stated: "My players were very patient against Kagera Sugar who had a very good playing style as well as a good coach in Mecky Mexime who organized his players very well, especially in a defensive structure."

The coach noted: "I am happy with how my team played, we scored two goals from open play one via penalty."

"All goals mean the most especially picking three points, we are heading in the right direction and I think slowly we will have a solid team," the gaffer added.

It was the first league match on Tanzania soil for the Algerian coach who has cherished a sweet triumph.

Benchikha also had a message for Simba SC fans to show up in huge numbers at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday as he labeled the match as an encounter akin to a final for his squad.

"Fans should come to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday, we have a huge game and for us, we treat it like a final, and is something we should consider both technical bench players and fans who are twelfth players," Benchikha pointed out.

The Algerian disclosed: "We still have a few training sessions to prepare for our CAF Champions League Group B fixture and see how players recover and respond to our training sessions and see how we account for ourselves."

As it stands, Simba SC has picked 22 points from nine matches in the ongoing NBC Premier League, six points adrift of current leader Azam FC, now boasting 28 points after 12 ties.

Simba SC, in this case, returned to winning ways ahead of the club's Tuesday clash against Wydad AC, with all key players fit ahead of the match.

The Msimbazi Street squad's experienced shot stopper Aishi Manula is yet to get full fitness for competitive games.

“

Fans should come to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Tuesday, we have a huge game and for us, we treat it like a final, and is something we should consider both technical bench players and fans who are twelfth players

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed it has been handed the rights to host the African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament in 2024.

The TFF president, Wallace Karia, made the declaration during Saturday's Annual General Assembly, coordinated by the federation and took place in Iringa.

The TFF leader disclosed: "In addition, we have been handed the rights to host CHAN finals in September next year, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. For that reason, our zone will have one more slot intact."

"We plan to have one team in Kampala, one in Nairobi, one in Dar es Salaam, and one in Zanzibar as well, therefore, we will ask CAF to ensure the four teams are spread in different groups to avoid clashing among ourselves," Karia added.

It will be the second time

the East Africa region is hosting the CHAN finals. Rwanda hosted the continental showpiece's 2016 edition which involved 16 teams. However, the 2024 CHAN finals will involve 24 teams.

Tanzania has qualified for the CHAN finals twice, the last being the 2021

tournament in Cameroon. Uganda has six CHAN finals appearances while Kenya has never qualified.

The tournament will be used to prepare for the 2027 African Cup of Nations finals which Tanzania will co-host with Uganda and Kenya.

East Africa's 'Pamoja Bid'

CAF appoints Moroccan referee for Yanga versus Medeama SC rematch

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Confederation of African Football has appointed Moroccan referee Rédouane Jijed to officiate the 2023/24 CAF Champions League matchday 4 tie pitting Tanzania's Young Africans SC against Ghana's Medeama SC at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on December 20.

Compatriots Lahsen Azgaou (Assistant I), Mostafa Akarkad (Assistant II), and Karim Sabry (Fourth Official) will be his assistants for the Group D clash.

The confederation has also appointed Makur Majok Kariom Majok Mabil from South Sudan as the match commissioner while Alberto Daniel Razafitsitamy from Madagascar works as the referees assessor.

Uganda's Ali Mwebi is the General Coordinator with Siyabulela Andishe Gantsho from South Africa set for the role of a security officer.

Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, came from behind to draw 1-1 with Medeama SC in the reverse fixture which took place at the Baba Yara Sports Stadium in Kumasi on December 8, 2023.

Medeama SC confirmed the club's departure date for the coming fixture against Yanga, as the Ghanaian champion was set to depart yesterday for the game scheduled for Wednesday.

The first leg of the tie ended in a stalemate last week in Kumasi,



Yanga's center-back, Ibrahim Abdallah (R), keeps Medeama SC's goalkeeper Derrick Fordjour in check as the clubs took on each other in a 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D clash at Baba Yara Stadium in Kumasi on December 8. The tie ended in a 1-1 draw.

this means Medeama SC and Yanga will both be looking to secure a positive result to stay in contention for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Striker Jonathan Sowah scored for Medeama SC in the first leg, but Yanga, the NBC Premier League defending champion, proved to be tough opponents,

managing to snatch a crucial draw that kept the squad's hopes alive.

Yanga's Ivorian midfielder, Pacôme Zouzoua, grabbed an equalizer for the squad, having dispossessed a Medeama SC player in the middle of the pitch, dribbled into the penalty area and smashed in with his left foot.

After three games, Medeama SC is sitting third in Group D having collected four points, level with second-placed CR Belouizdad of Algeria.

Egyptian giant Al Ahly is leading the group with five points from three ties.

Yanga, which languishes at the bottom of the group's table, has so far managed to secure two points.

The coming match between Medeama SC and Yanga promises to be an exciting encounter, with both teams determined to come out on top.

Medeama SC will be looking to build on the squad's impressive performances in the competition so far, while Yanga will be hoping to turn fortunes around and secure a vital win.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 9:00

5Sports

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kall Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kall Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAAT(r)

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The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

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05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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