



## VIOLENCE



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## Ireland and UNFPA ink 3.4bn/- pact for census data peering

By Correspondent James Kandoya

IRELAND has signed two agreements with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for donating 1.4m euros (3.4bn/-) to support data analysis of the Population and Housing Census 2022 and reproductive health rights countrywide.

Irish resident ambassador, Mary O'Neill (pictured) said after the signing in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the census analysis will enable the government to understand the specific needs of women, men, girls, individuals and groups with special needs.

Funded projects were named as "Better Data for Sustainable Development," covering 2023 to 2024 pegged at euro 200,000 and "My Youth, My Power," taking one year (2022/2023) at euro 1.2m.

The results of the data analysis will enable better utilisation of resources for evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation, along with reporting on Tanzania's global and regional commitments.

This includes calibrating national policies and programmes like the National

# Wayne Lotter killing: 11 sentenced to death



The eleven people - nine Tanzanians and two citizens of Burundi - charged with the August 2017 Dar es Salaam killing of South African conservationist Wayne Lotter appear at the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before they were convicted and sentenced to death by hanging. Photo: Correspondent Jumanhe Juma

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Court yesterday sentenced to death eleven people convicted of participating in the premeditated murder of top elephant conservationist Wayne Lotter in August 2017.

Reading the judgement, Judge Leila Mgonja said that the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the 11 persons abetted the killing of the PAMS Foundation co-founder and executive director.

The foundation provides support for conservation and anti-poaching activities to communities and public authorities in Africa, including Tanzania. Court sources said that two of the convicts are Burundi nationals.

Lotter, then 51, was shot dead in the evening at Masaki suburb of Dar es Salaam while being driven from the airport to his hotel. His taxi was stopped by another vehicle where two men, one armed with a gun opened his car door and shot him.

The death row convicts are Rahma Mwinyi, Nduimana Ogiste (Burundian), Godfrey Salamba, Chambie Ally, Allan Mafue, Ismail Mohamed, Leonard



**because of your capital offense, this court hereby sentences you to death by hanging but appeal is open should you choose to do so**

Makoi, Ayoub Kiholi, Abuu Mkongie, Habonimana Nyandwi (Burundian) and Michael Kwavava.

Judge Mgonja said the prosecution fielded 32 witnesses and 43 exhibits pointing at the part each of the accused played in planning and carrying out the murder.

The criminals denied their victim his right to life which no one is allowed to end, she said, capping up that "because of your capital offense, this court hereby sentences you to death by hanging but appeal is open should you choose to do so."

Earlier, senior state attorney Yamiko Mlekano asked the court to grant permission for the disposal of some dangerous exhibits and forfeiture of those that are not hazardous.

Dangerous exhibits that need to be disposed of are a hand grenade, two guns, bullet cartridges and bullets, while those to be forfeited are two hatchback IST model cars and one multi-purpose Sienta vehicle, he stated.

Defence counsel Mluge Karoli raised no objection to the destruction of exhibits but prayed that one of the IST vehicles be returned to its owner who was found to have no case to answer in the ruling.

But the state attorney objected, arguing that although the car was borrowed, it was actually used in the commission of a crime. The court agreed and directed that all the vehicles be forfeited.

During the trial, the court heard that the 11 conspired and agreed to buy guns in Burundi and smuggle the same into Tanzania for the purpose of physically eliminating Lotter.

The prosecution told the court that



**The primary beneficiaries of the four-year project include over 24,000 youth and 82,000 pregnant women tailed for use of health infrastructure and training**

Plan of Action on violence against women and children, the envoy noted.

"Through support for multiple funds and projects, Ireland demonstrates its long standing commitment to partnership with the Tanzania government in pursuit of sustainable development," she stated.

She hailed UNFPA as a valuable partner, especially in joint efforts to empower women and girls to realize their full potential. That requires actually informing development decision making through population data analysis, she explained.

The data analysis will be a milestone for pursuing gender equality and women's empowerment and addressing gender based violence, she stated, noting that it also represents an opportunity for systematically exploring issues that were raised when the embassy hosted dialogues in the morning with stakeholders.

The latter included activists, artists, community members and decision makers on GBV, discussing its prevention and responses levelled to counter the ills up to

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## Maintenance now adds 145 MW to grid supply

By Getrude Mbago

A TOTAL of 134 megawatts supply has been added to the national grid and especially for the city of Dar es Salaam during the past week, the utility management has stated.

TANESCO director general Maharage Chande told journalists yesterday that Ubungo III gas plant had some technical problems and its maintenance has helped to bring 35 megawatts into the national grid.

At the same time, maintenance of Kidatu hydropower plant has also been completed and now produces 50MW and the Kinyerezi



**Wind power projects are also lined up in project evaluation for Kilimanjaro and Singida regions**

extension is yielding 60MW. At the end of December it will be producing 90mw, he stated.

He said that the power deficit has declined from 350MWW mid last month to 200MW, with the situation having improved due to major maintenance conducted in some generating plants and an increase in water flow to hydropower plants.

"In the past few weeks, the daily power deficit was between 300 megawatts and 350 but now the problem has dropped

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## 'Men in GBV pain don't report wives'

By Francis Kajubi

THE government has urged male victims of gender based violence to come out and report cases to enable clarity for policy formulation which so far excludes such cases.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima (pictured), the Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups minister said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the government is aware that many men fall victim to GBV inflicted by female partners but choose to keep quiet.

She made this observation when gracing



events for the 16 days of activism in line with the third forum on women and leadership organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).

The theme of events this year is 'Every life matters: Unite to end killings and violence against women and girls,' which the minister said the government needs reliable data of gender based violence against men to modify current policy stance.

"For instance, the preparation of National Plan of Action against Women and Children is at cabinet level and it does

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## Wayne Lotter killing: 11 sentenced to death

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between July 1 and August 16 in 2017, at different places in Arusha and Dar es Salaam, the 11 conspired and finally killed the conservationist at the junction of Chole and Haile Selassie roads in the commercial capital.

The celebrated South African wildlife conservationist's PAMS Foundation funded and supported

Tanzania's elite anti-poaching National and Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit (NTSCIU).

It was instrumental in the arrests of major ivory traffickers including the convicted Chinese Yang Feng Gan. The unit had enabled arrests of over 2,000 poachers especially in the two years from taking office of the fifth phase, with a conviction rate of 80 per cent according to official data.

## Maintenance now adds 145 MW to grid supply

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from 200 megawatts to 215 megawatts per day," he said.

Water flow in most hydropower plants is yet to stabilise despite the rains that have pounded in some regions, with the key water flows to power plants being rains in Iringa, Njombe, Morogoro and Dodoma regions. The rain situation is still not good and hydropower plants are still largely dry, he declared.

Power generation shortfalls will remain until 2025 with strong short-term and long term strategies being carried out during the period, especially expected completion of the Julius Nyerere hydropower plant (JNHPP) now said to be 87 percent in construction.

TANESCO is also working on strategies to increase sources of power which include gas fired plants, wind and solar power projects where private firms have a major role to play.

Next week the corporate entity expects to unveil its energy mix plans meant to rapidly close the power supply gap to virtually end rationing, he said.

TANESCO is at present evaluating a solar power project in Kishapu district of Shinyanga Region, expected to generate up to 100MW upon completion.

Wind power projects are also lined up in project evaluation for Kilimanjaro and Singida regions, he added.

## 'Men in GBV pain don't report wives'

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not cover men because there is no sufficient data to support their sufferings," she said adding,

"I call upon activists and organizations working in this area to sensitize men on the benefits of breaking the silence so that they come out and report," she said.

To end violence against children, parents need to break the silence with their children by encouraging them to share information about abusive acts from adults, she stated.

Parents need to devote enough time to having amicable chatting with their children on challenges they may be facing, be it at school or in the streets.

Stakeholders and activists need to come up with programmes for alternative activities in communities where a section of the women benefit from proceeds during rituals involving female genital mutilation.

Some activists say it is a core source of income, urging that they are given other benefits so that they can quit from the brutal job, a position echoed by the minister.

Campaigns to end FGM won't bear fruits if the key perpetrators are not empowered to engage in

alternative economic activities and earn a living, she stated.

The government is doing all it can by policy reforms to bridge the gender equality gap, with the government promoting women in decision making positions, she said.

TGNP executive director Lilian Liundi said that the network's mission in this year's celebration is to encourage public and the private sector investment to increase participation of women in leadership to end gender based violence.

She described needed investment as not just financing but with reforms in laws, policies and regulations for gender equality in socioeconomic activities, political space and leadership.

TGNP board chairperson Gemma Akilimali said that this year's 16 days of activism brought together 250 women in Dar es Salaam and over 100 following discussions at online platforms.

The first women and leadership forum was held in 2019, with 400 participants, with the 2021 event fielding 100 participants gathered and 358 following at online platforms, she added.

## Ireland, UNFPA ink 3.4bn/- pact for census data peering

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now.

UNFPA country representative Mark Schreiner said that the two projects will be implemented by UNFPA in collaboration with the government and the relevant public institutions.

"Better data for sustainable development" focuses on strengthening national capacity to conduct analysis of the census, to support utilization of population data for evidence based planning, he said.

The project will also strengthen the capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBC) to further analyse the data on issues of gender and socioeconomic status, he elaborated.

"My Youth, My Power" targets local population cohorts in five districts in Kigoma Region, focusing

on empowering those left behind like adolescents, other young people and women to exercise their sexual and reproductive health rights as well as achieving their potentials.

The project was designed upon an earlier project (2018-2022) in the region, focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights, carried out in districts with significant vulnerable populations, he stated.

The primary beneficiaries of the four-year project include over 24,000 youth and 82,000 pregnant women tailed for use of health infrastructure and training, he pointed out.

Outreach efforts by hundreds of health workers and peer educators targeting the two sections of the community and those living in refugee camps are also included, he added



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi signs a condolence book at the Chinese Consulate General in Zanzibar yesterday in connection with Wednesday's death of former Chinese president Jiang Zemin. Left is the Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar, Zhang Zhisheng. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Tazara announces suspension of interstate train passenger service following accident

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) yesterday announced a temporary suspension of interstate passenger services due to a freight train accident at the Lumumwe-Mpanga section in Tanzania.

A statement released by the authority said the accident involved a freight train, following the failure

of a locomotive.

"We regret to announce the suspension of cross-border passenger services between Zambia and Tanzania due to an accident which occurred on November 30th, 2022 at 01:00am," reads the statement.

It said the section between Lumumwe-Mpanga station where the accident occurred has been temporarily closed as rescue

operations continues, and that whilst affected area is closed, cross-border passenger trains remain suspended.

In the meantime, passenger services in Tanzania shall only be available between Dar es Salaam and Mlimba, whilst in Zambia the services shall only be available between New Kapiri-Mposhi and Nakonde.

It said the authority is working

around the clock to ensure that normal train services are restored as quickly as possible.

The Tanzania-Zambia railway line was constructed as a turnkey project between 1970 and 1975 through an interest-free loan from China, with commercial operations starting in July 1976. It covers 1,860 km from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to New Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia.



Home Affairs deputy minister Jumanne Sagini (C) has a word with Inspector General of Police Camilius Wambura (R) shortly after opening the force's 16th Workers' Council meeting in Dodoma city yesterday. Left is the Police Commissioner for Administration and Human Resources Management, Susan Kaganda. Photo: Tanzania Police Force

## UN seeks record \$51.5bn aid 'lifeline' for 2023

GENEVA

THE United Nations (UN) estimates that 339 million people worldwide will need some form of emergency assistance next year.

The United Nations and its partners have launched an appeal for a record \$51.5bn in aid money for 2023, with tens of millions of additional people expected to need humanitarian assistance.

The UN Global Humanitarian Overview estimates that an extra 65 million people will need help next year, bringing the total to 339 million in 68 countries.

That represents more than 4 percent of the people on the planet or about the population of the United States.

"It's a phenomenal number and it's a depressing number," UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths told reporters in Geneva on Thursday, adding that it meant "next year is going to be the biggest humanitarian programme" the world has ever seen.

"Humanitarian needs are shockingly high, as this year's extreme events are spilling into 2023," Griffiths said, citing the war in Ukraine and drought in the Horn of Africa.

"For people on the brink, this appeal is a lifeline."

More than 100 million people have been driven from their homes as conflict and climate change heightens a displacement crisis.

The overlapping crises have already left the world dealing with the "largest global food crisis in modern history", the UN warned.

It pointed out that at least 222 million people across 53 countries were expected to face acute food shortages by the end of this year, with 45 million of them facing the risk of starvation.

"Five countries already are experiencing what we call famine-like conditions, in which we can confidently, unhappily, say that people are dying as a result," Griffiths said.

Those countries - Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Somalia and South Sudan - have seen portions of their populations face "catastrophic hunger" this year, but have not yet

seen countrywide famines declared.

Meanwhile, nine months of war between Russia and Ukraine have disrupted food exports and about 45 million people in 37 countries are currently facing starvation, the report said.

This year's appeal represents a 25 percent increase compared with last year.

But donor funding is already under strain with the multiple crises. The UN faces the biggest funding gap ever, with its appeals funded only about 53 percent in 2022, based on data through to mid-November.

"Humanitarian organisations are therefore forced to decide who to target with the funds available," a UN statement said.



Pupils of Dar es Salaam's Mivumoni Primary School brandish placards bearing messages condemning sexual corruption and gender-based violence shortly after attending a sensitisation seminar conducted at the school on Thursday by WAJIKI, a community-based organisation. Photo: Correspondent Pilly Kigome

## Z'bar records higher trade volume in Oct than in Sept

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

BAKARI Khamis Kondo, head of Zanzibar's Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), has said that more trade involving both exports and imports was conducted in October this year than the previous month, with the government earning a total of 61.1bn/-

Speaking yesterday at the monthly merchandise trade statistics media briefing, Kondo said that the ratio between exports and imports increased from 24.8 percent in September to 28.7 percent in October.

He said that the goods exported in October this year valued 24.6bn/- being an increase of 33.7 percent compared to the value of goods exported in September 2022.

Kondo noted that foods and meat contributed 96.8 percent of the total value of exports from Zanzibar.

He said the export of goods to the five leading countries in the month

of October this year reached 96.1 percent of the value of all exported goods while Indonesia led the way with goods worth 19,537.8m/-, equivalent to 79.3 percent followed by Singapore, China, Kenya and Vietnam.

The official noted that goods imported in October 2022 were valued 85.7bn/- an increase of 0.6 percent.

The value of consumer goods decreased by 10.7 percent compared to October 2021 and by 7.8 percent compared to September 2022.

An economic expert with the Bank of Tanzania, Dr Ulrick Mumburi, said the central bank plans to ensure that foreign currencies are available at all times to allow buyers and importers to get them whenever in need.

He said since Zanzibar has been doing well in exporting and importation of goods from various countries, the bank's responsibility is to continue providing support to further boost economic growth.

*He said since Zanzibar has been doing well in exporting and importation of goods from various countries, the bank's responsibility is to continue providing support to further boost economic growth.*

## Police warns FGM perpetrators, threatens to take stern measures

By Guardian Reporter

THE Police Force has warned communities who have been promoting and practicing female genital mutilation (FGM) that their days are numbered as it is well prepared to act upon the incidents which have been affecting potential of children and young girls in the country.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, SACP David Misime, spokesperson of the Police Force said the many societies have been using festive season to implement the illegal acts.

"We have found that some communities have been waiting for end of year festive season to create special cards, disseminate them to people attracting them to attend the FGM events which is illegal and violates human

rights," SACP Misime said.

He cited an example of Rorya District in Mara Region where an old man has been practicing the acts by preparing invitation cards and the Force has started arresting all people who engage with the inhuman acts. "We have started to arrest the culprits and bring them before legal bodies, we urge local government authorities, starting from street, village and ward

level to put strong strategies and supervise them to fight FGM and all related acts," he said.

He also wanted the leaders to report to the police force whenever they come across the incidents or receive information on the acts of violence in their areas.

Meanwhile, Misime warned those engaging in conning and fraud incidents to collect funds from people illegally saying that the Police Force will act accordingly upon anyone who will be found perpetrating the acts.

SACP Misime further said that the Police Force has started taking stern measures and strengthening patrol in roads so as to fight those who violate road safety laws and cause unnecessary accidents.

## Dr Mwinyi launches Presidential Delivery Bureau

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday launched a new institution—the Presidential Delivery Bureau (PDB) to speed up implementation of his promises to Isles residents.

Speaking at the launch of the bureau at the Zanzibar State House, Dr Mwinyi said the focus will now be on four sectors namely, infrastructures, tourism, blue economy and social services.

The President underscored the need to set priorities to achieve success and targets. He mentioned the need for careful planning and regular monitoring to be able to solve emerging problems within the community.

He said that there are already some employees working with the PDB whereas they are managing implementation of government activities as per the set government vision.

"The main responsibility of the PDB is to ensure timely implementation of the priorities I mentioned earlier. The institution will be pushing for its implementation; its activities will not contravene with the responsibilities of specific ministries," he remarked.

He said the institution will help in identifying barriers as well as challenges that hinders implementation of projects in the specific sectors.

"As we strive to build a Zanzibar we want; we must change from our normal operating ways to a modern world ways. Civil servants must change their working behaviour to ensure all the projects are implemented accordingly," he added.

Dr Mwinyi insisted on civil servants to adhere to ethics to provide better services to the people. He said with sustainable tourism and blue economy

activities, communities are likely to enjoy a better life with improved social services.

He said success can be measures with increased job opportunities, better social services such as water, electricity and health facilities.

UNDP Tanzania Resident Representative, Christian Musisi commended the Zanzibar government for establishing the unit that will help in reaching the goal of providing services to the people at a high speed and efficiency.

He said UNDP believes that PDB will be a bridge connecting the government, private sector and the public.

He said the PDB will be an important tool in implementing national goals including sustainable development goals, adding UNDP will continue to work closely with the government in solving challenges and creating opportunities that will bring rapid development to the people of Zanzibar.



CCM Ideology and Publicity secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka (L) "sells" Abdul Yussuf Maalim as the party's candidate for Zanzibar's Amani parliamentary seat, as campaigns got under way on Thursday. The campaigns come in the wake of the October 13 death of the constituency's legislator, Mussa Hassan Mussa. Photo: Fahad Siraj of CCM

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2. The properties can be viewed three days before the auction date.  
3. All costs including transport, accommodation and transfer of ownership shall be on the account of the buyer.  
4. The property shall be sold on condition of where is and how is basis.

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- A firm will be selected under the quality and cost-based Selection Method (QCBS) and procedures describe in the tender document.
- A complete set of Tendering Documents in English and an additional set may be obtained by interested Tenderers on the PASS Trust's website. (<https://www.pass.or.tz/tenders>)
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## AfCFTA implementation will enhance industrialisation in Africa - Z'bar govt

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR government has said that implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will enhance industrialisation in Africa, strengthen continental value chains and value addition.

Speaking during the second day of the Zanzibar Trade and Investment Forum, Minister for Trade and Industrial Development in the Isles, Omar Shaaban said Africans will benefit from the natural resources with the implementation of AfCFTA.

The forum put forth proposals to bolster trade and financial ties between Zanzibar and Africa in the context of the AfCFTA.

Minister Omar commended Afreximbank for coming up with pioneering services and products to assist companies to trade across African borders.

Officiating at the closing ceremony, East African Business Council (EABC) chief executive officer, John Bosco Kalisa said: "In 2021 the EAC Gross Domestic Product bounced back at 6.3 percent but is projected to slow at 5.1 percent in 2022 due to global shocks such as the Russia-Ukraine crisis."

He explained that despite the global shocks, the EAC bloc is still the most integrated and fastest-growing regional economic bloc in Africa as the continent's GDP is projected at 3.6 percent in 2022.

Kalisa emphasized the paramount importance to improve industrial productive capacity and infrastructure connectivity, eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers, and easing access to capital & trade finance to increase intra-Africa trade. He noted that Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania have been chosen to champion intra-Africa trade under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative.

Kalisa also lauded Afreximbank for being a truly pan-African bank.

He advised businesses to utilize tools and solutions offered by Afreximbank to facilitate trade such as the Pan African Payment Settlement System, Trade Intelligence Solutions, Project related Financing, Fund for Export Development in Africa and Africa

Due Diligence Platform (MANSA) and take part in the Intra-Africa Trade Fair slated in November 2023 in Cote D'Ivoire.

Speaking during the panel session on "Creating the Conditions for Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for Private Sector," Toufiq SalimTurky, executive chairman Vigor stressed on the need to empower and integrate SMEs to trade opportunities in the blue economy and services sectors.

Lizanne Case, Senior Manager, Trade and Information, Afreximbank said Afreximbank trader intelligence disseminates practical information on African supply chains to ease access to information.

She said Africa is the next growth frontier.

Daud Mohamed from Zanzibar Chambers of Commerce said African companies should focus on di products and market differentiation to boost export competitiveness. He also emphasized the need to enhance access to business and trade information for SMEs.

Kudakwashe Matereke, Regional Chief Operating Officer, Eastern Africa, Afreximbank, Moto Lugobi, Economist, Central Bank of Tanzania (BOT), Dr Estella Ngo'ma Hassan, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, People's Bank of Zanzibar shared insights on strategies to enhance financing for Africa's Recovery in light of Global External Shocks.

The forum also held a panel session on Food Security, Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness and presented a case study on investing in real estate in Zanzibar focusing on Fumba Town.

The Zanzibar Trade and Investment Forum convened 300 delegates composed of officials from the ministries and Investment Promotion Agencies, International Investors and Business leaders.

The Zanzibar Trade and Investment Forum was organised by African Export-Import Bank in collaboration with the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIIPA), East Africa Business Council (EABC) and the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC).



This is an aerial view of a section of the national capital, Dodoma city, as captured yesterday by our Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph. It points to, among other things, rapid growth including the mushrooming of high-rise buildings housing government and other institutions as well as individuals' residences and businesses.

## Over 443,000 under-five children in Singida to be vaccinated against polio

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of 443,230 children under the age of five in Singida Region will be vaccinated against polio, the dangerous, disabling and life-threatening disease.

Speaking yesterday during the launch of the vaccination exercise, Singida Region's Vaccination Coordinator, Habibu Mwinory said they have been providing the jobs in phases whereas in this fourth phase they will vaccinate 443,230 children.

He said the exercise will run until December this year.

Mwinory said that to ensure the jobs are administered successfully, 478,000 doses have been

distributed in all seven district councils of Singida.

He said that on the first day of the campaign, 126,875 children were vaccinated equivalent to 114 percent, which is above the region's set target of vaccinating 110,807.5 children per day.

"May I call upon parents and guardians to make sure they bring their children for the vaccine and provide cooperation to health care service providers. The good cooperation between parents and health care workers would result in a successful campaign, thus achieving our goal of protecting children from polio," he added.

Singida Regional Commissioner, Peter Serukamba urged district

commissioners to properly supervise the exercise for the region to achieve the goal by 100 percent.

He said District Executive Directors should put in place strategies plan to ensure that children who lacked various vaccines are given them to avoid the outbreak of all vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio.

"Singida residents should fully participate in this campaign because failure to vaccinate a child puts him/her at a risk of suffering from the disabling disease," he said, adding the vaccine will be provided at all the health care facilities.

He added that while administering

polio vaccines, children aged between 5 and 14 years will also be provided with the drugs to prevent them from schistosomiasis.

He said the exercise will also concern children of that age who are not in school in all primary schools and the Singida Region has set a target of educating 444,925 children.

Tanzania has been Polio-free since 2015 due to the strong immunization programme in the country. In fact Tanzania has not detected a Polio virus case since 1996. However in February 17, 2022 there was an informed case of a wild Polio identified in a three year old girl who lives in Lilongwe district, Malawi.

## SADC ministers discuss political, security situation in the region

WINDHOEK

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) continues to strive towards greater democratic principles, to ensure the rule of law and good governance, an official said in Windhoek.

This is according to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and Chair of the SADC ministerial committee of the organ, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, at the first in-person Ministerial Meeting of the Organ since Namibia took up the position of Chair.

"Namibia as Chair, led the SADC electoral observer missions to Angola and Lesotho respectively, to observe adherence to the SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections. The elections in the respective countries were indeed peaceful, free, and fair, and reflected the will of the people," she said.

The ministerial committee also converged to discuss the political and security situation in the region.

"Africa can only be stronger if we remain united. In this regard, in August 2022, the SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government "expressed its dissatisfaction against the continent being targeted for unilateral and punitive measures through the 'Countering Maligned Russian Activities in Africa Bill' that was adopted by the United States House of Representatives," she said. The Summit reaffirmed its principled position of Non-Alignment to any conflicts outside the Continent", and proposed that this matter be discussed at the African Union, to formulate an African Common Position against interference on the African Continent by foreign powers, she added.

Meanwhile, Nandi-Ndaitwah noted that recent attacks in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have left hundreds dead

and thousands displaced.

"These security threats by rebel forces continue to be of great concern to our region. These security challenges threaten our common aspirations for regional integration and further threaten to close the economic space for development and incentives for industries to grow and create sustainable jobs, in particular for women and youth," she said.

In the spirit of collective security, Nandi-Ndaitwah said the Force Intervention Brigade, under the command of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), has been neutralizing negative forces in the eastern part of the DRC. "We commend them for their steadfastness. We, however, note the tremendous challenges our troops (from Malawi, South Africa, and Tanzania) are facing, which requires the region to redouble its efforts to ensure stability in the DRC," she said, adding that SADC will continue to remain seized with ensuring peace and stability.

The chair also said the meeting will also be provided an update on the security update in the Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique, where the region has deployed a military mission to neutralize the terrorist activities that have plagued that part of Mozambique. "The region is in the process of transitioning to Scenario 5, a multidimensional mission, with police, correctional services, and civilian components, to ensure a holistic approach to supporting the people of Mozambique to recover from the terrible attacks over the last 5 years," she said.

In a speech at the meeting, Acting Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security cooperation at the SADC Secretariat Kealeboga Moruti said regarding the consolidation of democracy and good governance, the region continues to register successes.



This commuter bus, which plies Dar es Salaam's Mloganzila-Makumbusho route, skidded off the ITV-Mwenge bus stop section of Bagamoyo Road yesterday and ended this way. Photo: John Badi

## New cassava and sweet potato processing factory in Mkinga to give jobs to 400 locals

By Correspondent, George Sembony,

Mkinga

A recently opened new cassava and sweet potato processing factory in Manza Bay village, Mkinga District, Tanga Region is expected to create 400 direct and indirect jobs.

The factory, constructed by World Vision Tanzania (WVT) at a cost of 150.17m/- with financial support from a Japanese donor-Yamazaki Love Loaf is managed by a 40-member women club-WAUMA. The factory was launched by the Mkinga legislator, Dunstan Kitandula.

Representing WVT Director, Makarius Charles said the facility will benefit people in Mkinga

District as it will employ 400 people. He said the products to be produced will also benefit the residents including children.

Charles said the factory has been built as part of the organisation's policy of helping the community and more specifically to control post-harvest losses which according to data from the Ministry of Agriculture it is between 29 and 53 percent.

"Reducing post-harvest losses will boost household earnings and support the organisation's focus on improving children health," he added.

He noted that the plant is one of the many projects that WVT is implementing in the district aiming to economically empower the villagers to ultimately eradicate

poverty among households.

"WVT has been implementing a number of projects in the country for over 40 years. The projects implemented worth over 10bn/- in total and has set a target of reaching 3.2 million children in 18 regions across the country by the end of 2025," he stated.

WVT has been working with communities in Mkinga District for 12 years and has reached 36,860 children and over 40,000 adults.

Mkinga legislator, Dunstan Kitandula commended the organisation for the support saying the launched factory would largely reduce post-harvest losses. He said the loss was fuelling poverty among the villagers.

He pleaded with the Small Industries Development

Organisation (SIDO) which was engaged in the plant's installation, to continue monitoring its operation and ensure regular maintenance so that it lasts longer.

The MP also urged SIDO to assist villagers so that they produce quality products that can compete at markets.

Kitandula asked the district council to provide loan to the women group to boost their capital. He said the loans should be from funds dedicated for provision of loans to special groups-women, youth and people with disabilities.

Earlier, the Group's Secretary, Mwanakombo Mohammed said the group faces a number of challenges including lack of capital to expand their business.

Mkinga District Acting Executive Director, Elizabeth Dickson said that 28 groups including WAUMA received credit from the district in the 2021/22 financial year. He said the district disbursed 247m/- to the various groups.



Former National Assembly Speaker Anne Makinda (R), Chancellor of Dar es Salaam's Hubert Kairuki Memorial University, pictured at the university's fourth convocation held in the city yesterday presenting an appreciation award to National Institute for Medical Research director general Prof Yunus Mgaya. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Over 1,000 households in Mufindi gain from World Vision's animal gift project

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

MORE than 1,000 households in two wards of Nyololo and Maduma in Mufindi District in Iringa Region are benefiting from the \$700,000 worth animal gift project implemented by World Vision Tanzania (WVT).

The two-year initiative primarily intends to assist beneficiary households to escape from the shackles of poverty through free provision of dairy cows, pigs as well as crossbred chicken.

Speaking to the Guardian yesterday in Dodoma city, Leonard Benjamin, Project Officer for the Nyololo Animal Gift Project said the robust initiative provides dairy cows to enable beneficiary households to improve their livelihood through milk production.

"It is the special poverty elimination tailor-made project under the financial auspices from USA, and being its first phase, the project has so far benefited 150 households in the intended wards," he noted.

With the pigs, he said it is anticipated that the beneficiary households will stand a chance to cheat poverty through engaging into major pig keeping project and later on selling the popular

meat, thus generating a good income.

He said the project is partnering with the Dodoma-based Tusumuke Youth Entrepreneurs Group (TYEG), and the development has already seen distribution of a total of 500 local chicks to at least 12 households in Nyololo village.

Chairperson of the Tusumuke group, Christopher Dioniz, said during the process, each of the beneficiary households received at least 40 local chicks, saying the chicks are those between one day and three months old.

"The type of local chicks we're providing are called 'MwendoKasi', the highly productive chicks in terms of eggs production and meat (market weight)," he said.

Dioniz, who is a poultry industry consultant and service provider said they are optimistic that the beneficiary households will bravely use the birds to elevate their economic gains.

"The provided chickens are also resistant to diseases with capacity to start producing eggs after four months and at a capacity of 260 eggs in a year," he said.

He said apart from proving the chicken, the initiative also imparts beneficiaries with

necessary knowledge on how to take good care of the hatchlings to assure the project fetches needed end-results.

In another development, Mafinga district council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TYEG for implementation of a poverty reduction project through provision of crossbred chicken cocks.

In its trial stage, the programme has already seen TYEG providing a total of 22 cocks to at least 22 households.

"The focus is to enable the households to improve the performance of their poultry by adopting crossbred chicken," Dioniz stated, noting that one of the crossbred cock is sold at around 25,000/-.

Despite the increasing demand for chicken meat (white meat) from across the country, it has been unveiled that most of the poultry farmers were failing to handle their projects professionally due to high prices in obtaining modern cages, especially those from China.

He said the group markets the chicken poultry cages at a relative price of 450,000/- compared to imported cages that are sold at 750,000/-.

## Agricultural training institutes hail execution of CISTI project

By Getrude Mbagu

GARDEN attendants, tutors and students from various agriculture institutes in the country have hailed the execution of the Curriculum Implementation Support for Training Institutes (CISTI) project as it has helped stimulate organic farming in the colleges and surrounding communities.

The project which commenced in 2020 and expected to be completed later this year, has benefited 29 agricultural training institutes in the country. It has facilitated review and approval of six new training modules for agriculture production on certificate and diploma levels which also saw organic farming being added as a course.

The initiative is implemented collaboratively by the government and the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT).

Juma Debe, a garden attendant at the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI) Katrin in Ifakara town, Morogoro Region said the project hasn't only ended reviewing curriculum to incorporate organic farming but also broadened the understanding of staff, students and farmers on the importance of organic farming.

"I am one of the beneficiaries of the implementation of the project because I attended training on organic farming in Morogoro four times, and now I have broader understanding of its importance and I am practicing it here at the college and my home," Debe said recently when a team from SAT visited the college.

Moses Chavala, tutor at MATI-Ilonga in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region hailed the government and SAT for coming up with the project as apart from helping reduce much of artificial fertilisers and chemicals in farms, it will also help restore soil fertility in many parts of the country. "For many years, students were learning agriculture in general but they were not getting deep knowledge on organic farming as it was seen as an outdated kind, but it is not true, the farming is currently much paying as many customers globally prefer organic produced products," he said.

Thanky Mathew, a student at MATI-

Ilonga said apart from being taught deeply on organic farming the subject also has a component of climate change which is currently very important.

"Climate change is currently negatively impacting various key areas including agriculture, so as students we need to know how we can overcome the impacts while practicing well farming projects," she said.

Yohannes Msigwa, admission officer at the National Sugar Institute (NSI) based in Kilombero District, Morogoro Region said that the project has transformed their mindsets and many students as well as staff now admire organic farming more than the modern one as they have witnessed themselves in the school's garden.

"The staff here were the first ones to taste the vegetables which are free from chemicals, from there the garden attendants increased efforts and expanded their plots to produce more products so as to cater the demand in the college as well as serve other customers in the street," he explained.

Antuse Massawe, programme manager from SAT said the project purpose was to support public and private training institutions to produce graduates who are in line with the need of the country through successfully integrating and implementing organic agriculture, gender, environmental management, cooperatives and communication skills through the new training curriculum for agriculture on certificate and diploma levels.

With support by Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) and coordinated by the government, the project has helped integrate several areas such as organic agriculture, gender inclusive, environmental management, cooperatives and communication skills that is based on the new training curriculum for agriculture at certificate and diploma levels.

In the past, the vegetable production yield was very poor and sometimes total loss caused by pests and diseases; high usage of synthetic pesticides to control pests and diseases increasing the cost of production and long term effects to workers and consumers," he said.

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## Stakeholders organise conference to discuss issues related to GBV

By Guardian Correspondent

AS the world celebrates the 16 days against gender based violence (GBV), a private company—EKIMA Consultants has organised a conference that will bring together stakeholders to discuss issues related to GBV and its indicators.

The conference themed 'Start Again' is expected to be held on December 9th this year in Dar es Salaam for purposes of educating and empowering women. It is expected that after the conference women will have more ability to contribute to the country's development.

Speaking at a press conference recently, organiser of the conference and Director of EKIMA Consultants, Marion Elias said their goal is to empower women to grow economically and save them from vicious circle of gender based violence.

She said they have targeted employed and self-employed women aged between 25 and 65 years for purposes of building their capacity, thus being able to grow economically and improve the welfare of the families.

"We want women to live in our theme—'start again' because they are capable of doing great things. We want those struggling to improve their businesses to do so and record super high profit," he said, adding that most of the businesses owned by women died in 2020 following the outbreak of COVID-19.

She said topics that will be presented at the conference will focus on mental health, well-being, financial and economic empowerment, self-care, and women's health. She said the topics will be presented by professionals from the health sector, financial institutions and private companies.

"One of the challenges facing

women is economic violence and lack of financial management we aim to help them solve these challenges because they weaken their economic growth, including savings plans," she said, adding women need to have access to financial services such as banking and credit to be able to grow their businesses.

The global theme for this year's 16 Days of activism against GBV which runs from 25th November to December 10th 2022 is 'Unite! Activism End Violence against Women and Girls' while locally the theme is 'Every Life Matters: End Femicide and Violence against Women and Children' which emphasize on actions to eradicate all forms of GBV to save the lives of women and children.

The Tanzania Demographic Health Survey—TDHS 2015-2016 shows that sexual violence is frequently committed by persons with whom the woman has a close personal relationship.

40 percent of women who experienced sexual violence reported current or former boyfriends as perpetrators and nearly one-third (31percent) reported friends/acquaintances as perpetrators and 7 percent reported strangers as perpetrators.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index study (SIGI 2022) indicates that most of reported offences include rape, defilement, incest, sodomy, indecent assault, abduction, and bigamy.

It states that about 55 percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence. In the last 12 months, statistics shows that about 16 percent of women have experienced psychological violence, physical violence (15 percent), economic violence (9 percent) and sexual violence (7 percent).

## SADC inaugurates regional business platform in bid to address tourism barriers

By Guardian Reporter

TOURISM apex associations from Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states have launched the 'Tourism Business Platform' (TBP) that will address tourism barriers and advance sustainable development of the regional tourism industry.

Speaking at the launch of the platform recently, Domingos Gove, SADC Director for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) commended the tourism business leaders for their role and dedication in the establishment of the platform.

He emphasized the importance of private sector involvement in driving regional integration, and in the implementation of the SADC Tourism Programme 2020-2030.

He said the regional tourism business sector is encouraged to join and invest in the platform as their contribution is crucial to its success.

Peter Varndell, Executive Secretary at the SADC Business Council, said: "The formation of this partnership reflects our commitment to promote private sector interests and create an enabling and competitive business environment. I encourage regional tourism industry players to actively engage on this platform and advance SADC's economic relationship with Africa for the benefit of all our citizens."

Representatives from the SADC 16 member states—Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, were part of the consultative process to establish the structure.

The platform will provide the tourism private sector in the SADC region an opportunity to foster a collective and coordinated

approach towards tourism development through influencing regional tourism policy direction, strengthening policy integration and regional collaboration, and increasing regional marketing and investment.

It will focus on accelerating the implementation of the SADC universal system, harmonization of air access policies and removal of travel barriers to stimulate tourist movement, the promotion and marketing of the region as a single tourism destination and facilitating the improvement of immigration and border services and infrastructure.

To facilitate the work of the platform and get it off to a good start, an interim committee comprising a chairperson and two vice-chairs was set up and mandated to drive the process forward.

Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa, CEO of Tourism Business Council South Africa, was elected as Interim Chair and Paul Matamisa, CEO of Tourism Business Council of Zimbabwe and Kenneth Kapitako, Vice-President of Federation of Namibian Tourism Associations were elected as Vice-Chairs.

"Today marks an important milestone for tourism in our SADC region and I look forward to working diligently with my peers from all 16 SADC Member States towards the full establishment of the platform and its sub-committees that will be dealing with matters regarding policy, regional tourism policy, regional tourism development, tourism marketing and visitor experience," said Tshivhengwa.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), a sustainable tourism sector can support livelihoods and create opportunities for millions of people around the globe in the post-COVID-19 world, contributing towards the UN's global sustainability agenda.



Singida regional commissioner Peter Serukamba (2nd-R) carries Abdurraqeab Mbwana at Singida municipality's Sokoine Hospital yesterday ready to have the child vaccinated against polio. It was at the launch of the fourth phase of a countrywide campaign. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

## WHO urges global community to equalise the HIV responses

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has called upon global leaders and citizens to boldly recognise and address the inequalities that are holding back progress in attaining the global goal to end AIDS by 2030.

WHO joined global partners and communities in commemorating World AIDS Day 2022 under the theme 'Equalize', a message highlighting the need to ensure essential HIV services reach those who are most at risk and in need, particularly children living with HIV, key populations to HIV and their partners.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said: "With global solidarity and bold leadership, we can make

sure everyone receives the care they need. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to re-affirm and refocus on our shared commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030."

Dr Meg Doherty, WHO Director of HIV, Hepatitis and STI programmes said: "People must not be denied HIV services no matter who they are or where they live, if we are to achieve health for all. In order to end AIDS, we need to end new infections among children, end lack of treatment access to them, and end structural barriers and stigma and discrimination towards key populations in every country as soon as possible."

HIV remains a major public health issue that affects millions of people worldwide. But our response is at risk of falling behind.

Of the 38 million people living with HIV, 5.9 million people who know they have HIV are not receiving treatment. A further 4 million people living with HIV have not yet been diagnosed.

About 76 percent are receiving antiretroviral treatment that help them lead normal and healthy lives, only 52 percent of children living with HIV were accessing this treatment globally in 2021.

70 percent of new HIV infections are among people who are marginalized and often criminalized.

While transmission has declined overall in Africa, there has been no significant decline among men who have sex with men - a key population group - in the past 10 years.

Available WHO data show that

among people confirmed to have mpox, a high number, 52 percent are people living with HIV.

Global data reported to WHO suggest that people living with mpox with untreated HIV appear to be at risk for more severe disease than people without HIV.

The current response to mpox shows that transmission can move quickly in sexual networks and within marginalized populations. But it can also be prevented with community-led responses and open attitudes to address stigma, and health and well-being can be improved and lives can be saved.

This World AIDS Day, WHO recommends a renewed focus to implement WHO's 2022 guidance to reach the HIV and related health needs of key populations and children.

With only eight years left before the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a global health threat, WHO calls for global solidarity and bold leadership from all sectors to ensure we get back on track to ending AIDS and, with that, end new syndemics, such as the recent mpox global outbreak.



KCB Bank finance manager Goodluck Alphonse (2nd-R) receives a trophy from Jamal Kassim Ali, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office, after the bank's emerged runner-up in the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) awards for the Best Presented Financial Statements for 2021. This was at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Left is NBAA board chairperson Prof Silvia Temu. The awards are meant to step up transparency, professional integrity and accountability in both private and public entities. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## EU reiterates its willingness to enhance cooperation with Africa in energy, food

ANKARA

THE European Union (EU) on Monday reaffirmed its willingness to enhance cooperation with Africa in a number of fields, including energy, food and migration.

A joint statement issued by the EU and the African Union following the

11th Commission-to-Commission meeting between them which was co-chaired by European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and African Union Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat noted that the ongoing war in Ukraine had further adversely impacted the economies of Europe

and Africa.

Global food and energy security are exacerbated by current conflicts and tensions, it added.

"Africa and Europe are bound by geography and a common destiny. Through sustainable investments worth at least €150 billion (\$155.3 billion), the Global Gateway Africa-

Europe Investment Package is the EU's positive and substantially offer, which will help strengthen the continent's resilience," said von der Leyen.

Mahamat, for his part, said: "We value our strategic partnership with the European Union and its active support to Agenda 2063. The destinies of our two continents are interlinked and we want to continue building a partnership of equals for the benefit of sustainable development for all."

## China all ready to start buying honey produced in Tanzania, govt says

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

CHINA has expressed its commitment and readiness to start procuring honey produced in Tanzania, the government has said.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Eliamani Sedoyeka revealed this here on the sidelines of a special forum organised by the Beekeeping Value Chain (BEVAC) support project.

It was aimed to discuss various issues pertaining to the performance of the beekeeping and honey production sector, including trade obstacles that disrupt the smooth trading of honey business within and outside the country.

"We conducted fruitful talks with China and they agreed to start buying all bees-honey from Tanzania. We're now working round the clock to set a good environment in order to ensure the sector is handled more professionally so as to enable us to produce and process the bees-honey which will comply with the needed international standards," he said.

He further expressed that the ministry was now working to determine the extent to which the country will be able to export the sweet and viscous substance to China.

"As of now, Tanzania is estimated to have the capacity of producing at least 138,000 tonnes of honey and 9,200 tonnes of beeswax per year. However, currently, the country has an actual capacity of producing 31,179 tonnes of honey and 1,865 tonnes of beeswax in a year, which is equivalent to 22 percent. And the economic sector employs at least 2 million beekeepers," he noted.

And the PS informed that relevant statistics shows that a total of 1,558 tonnes of honey produced in the country (equivalent to 5 percent) and 1,678 tons of beeswax (equivalent to 90 percent) is being exported to various outside countries.

"The countries where bees honey and beeswax is often exported include Germany, France, Belgium and Netherlands. Others are Oman, USA, Japan, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Congo DRC, Somali and neighbouring Kenya," he divulged.

Dwelling over the performance of the beekeeping sector in the country, Sedoyeka informed that beekeeping is vastly being done locally with 1,506,345 of available beehives (equivalent to 90 percent)

are produced locally (made by logs and tree bark) whereby only 23,650 of beehives (equivalent to 10 percent) are modern-made.

"This situation gives a clear picture that the country's beekeeping sector is facing a shortage of needed technologies, ranging from production and harvesting of honey, as well as in packaging, the challenge which denies the county a prestigious economic opportunity to benefit from lucrative overseas markets," he observed.

In order to help contain the numerous challenges troubling the side, he said the parent ministry in cooperation with the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and other like minded institutions was working closely to train and distributing to the beekeepers key facilities, including modern beehives and honey processing equipment.

"We are imparting them with the necessary technologies needed to be applied in the whole process of honey production, including in effective additional value," he stated.

He added the ministry has continued to use and strengthen information systems in collecting data on beekeepers, traders, types of hives and other equipment used with the aim of evaluating the development of the sector as well as planning and implementing effective plans that will help solve various challenges facing the sector.

"Among those systems are the Ministry's database system (MNRT Portal) and the honey traceability system," he added.

Earlier, Forestry and Beekeeping director in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Deusdedith Bwoyo said Tanzania stands 14th country for beekeeping in the world and 2nd in Africa.

He hailed the Beekeeping Value Chain (BEVAC) support project for organising the beekeeping stakeholders meeting, saying the event plays a meaningful role to help open a new successive chapter for the metamorphosis of the socioeconomic sector in the country.

The two-day meeting that attracted key players in the country's beekeeping sector value chain, was tailored to provide a useful platform to deliberate and address numerous setbacks upsetting the sector with an eye to bring more output from the sector which is up to a total of \$61.4million worth of honey and beeswax produced annually.

## Boosting intra-African agri-food trade will reap rewards for continent - FAO

By Special Correspondent

THE Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has been ratified by 43 African Union member countries, eight of which have started trading under AfCFTA preferential arrangements.

Africa is a net importer of agricultural products, with import bills estimated at \$56 billion, up by \$10 billion in just two years since 2020.

The comments were made at a webinar organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Africa and FAO Markets and Trade Division, to bring stakeholders together to plot the course for increasing intra-African trade.

It was the first in a series of webinars on African trade in the coming months. It comes after FAO and the African Union published a guide for countries on Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa said: "Excessive dependence by many countries on imports of basic commodities such as food and strategic agricultural inputs has exacerbated vulnerabilities due to the impacts of the multiple overlapping shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the responses by some countries to

restrict trade."

Poonam Mohun, Head of Non-Tariff Measures Division at the AfCFTA Secretariat said: "We are trying to build capacity and bring that value-added to our continent so that we become more self-reliant on food, to have that food security at home."

She added that many levels of intervention are needed: government and private sector policies to increase agricultural production and manufacturing levels, increasing value addition through processing, and removing trade barriers so that trade flows smoothly.

John Bee, Executive Board Member of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists Sub-Saharan Africa Section, highlighted the need to implement mutual recognition of product registration.

He said the move will allow products within economic communities to be recognised across borders. He said although the mechanisms are in place in most of Africa's economic communities, they are not enforced effectively.

Bee highlighted the need to improve the region's lab testing capacity to enable improved food quality standards.

Director of the FAO Markets and Trade Division, Boubaker Ben Bellhassen highlighted the essential nature of agri-food trade and FAO's commitment to the implementation and success of the AfCFTA.



Newly elected Dar es Salaam regional CCM chairman Abbas Mtemvu (R, foreground) exchanges greetings with other officials of the ruling party shortly after arriving at the party's regional offices on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## EABC, GIZ kick off regional training of trainers on AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) and the GIZ-Support to East African Market-Driven and People-Centred Integration Programme-II have kicked off the Regional Training of Trainers on African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and Trade in Goods Protocol.

In his remarks, EABC chief executive officer, John Bosco Kalisa which was read on his behalf by the council's Trade and Policy Advisor Adrian Naju said: "The EABC-GIZ Regional Workshop on Training of Trainers workshop aims to develop a pool of EAC private sector's Trainers on AfCFTA who will be imparted with skills and knowledge on interpreting the AfCFTA Agreement in order to conduct national level sensitization training for businesses in their respective countries."

Statistics show, in 2021 intra-Africa goods exports reached USD 82.2 billion, and EAC exports of goods to Africa stood at USD 7.9

billion composing 42 percent share of EAC total exports of goods to the world (USD 18.7 billion). Top EAC exports to Africa included precious stones, coffee, tea, cement, animal fats, mineral oils & iron and steel.

He said that the training will enhance awareness of AfCFTA Trade in Goods Protocol and its annexes (especially Rules of Origin, Tariff Concession and Non-Tariff Barriers) and implications to businesses in the EAC bloc.

In his opening remarks, Max Middeke, deputy programme manager, GIZ Support to East African Integration said the initiative is aimed to enhance effective EAC private sector participation in the EAC and AfCFTA integration processes.

He elaborated that the Regional Training of Trainers workshop is one of the capacity interventions rolled out to enable the private sector to take advantage of the opportunities availed by AfCFTA in a bid to boost EAC's exports to Africa.

Geoffrey Osoro, trade advisor

with EAC Secretariat said the training of trainers will complement the EAC Secretariat's initiatives of sensitization of EAC stakeholders on AfCFTA as it will enable wider private stakeholders who EAC Secretariat could be able.

He added that as part of sensitization of AfCFTA to various stakeholders the Secretariat is planning to develop a simple guide of the agreements and its annexes as well as translate the Annexes in simple language to enable wider stakeholders understand the Agreements.

"We need to urge private stakeholders, especially from South Sudan, to advocate for rectifying the AfCFTA Agreement so all of the EAC Partner States can move together" Osoro said.

He noted that the private sector players are the main implementers of the AfCFTA Agreement while governments facilitate trade and investment by creating a conducive business environment. The implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement will reduce tariffs

and non-tariff barriers which is set to boost EAC's exports to the continent.

East Africa as a bloc has great potential to export vegetables, tea, rice, coffee, sugar, textile products, soap, sesame seeds, edible oils, tubers and milk to the continent.

"The Training of Trainers workshop convened 20 representatives from business membership organisations from EAC Partner States who will be awarded certificates of competence as Trainers on AfCFTA Agreement."

To make the creation of awareness on AfCFTA sustainable business membership organisations have been urged to mainstream the campaigns in their work plan so that in collaboration with EABC they can launch national sensitisation workshops early next year. The business membership organisations which are participating in the training of trainers are national apex bodies, manufacturers and sector associations of leather, pharmaceuticals and fruits and vegetables.



This is what our correspondent witnessed at the scene of a crash involving the truck (R) and four other vehicles near the Nyakato Sokoni road traffic lights in Mwanza city on Thursday. Three people died and 18 were injured in the incident. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## It is crucial to handle toxic chemicals with utmost care

A media roundtable on the implementation of the national action plan on sustainable production and use was held in Dar es Salaam some years ago.

Experts serving as resource persons - or facilitators - led other participants in deliberating on environmentally safe ways of getting rid of toxic chemicals and other materials.

Many had their focus on fake electronic and plastic-based goods, most of them imported, and how those items or products were usually disposed of.

Going by the way the exchange of ideas, views and experiences went, it was clear that many of our people now precious little about how to safely deal with problems associated with the use of goods with inherent potential to cause havoc on the environment.

It was evident that some commonly see ordering the returning of the suspicious goods to their countries of origin as a much better option than burning or burying them because, in any case, most such items never really break down and rot and will remain a health hazard for very long.

The agencies represented at the roundtable included the Cleaner Production Centre, Fair Competition Commission, Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority and Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

All these were largely in agreement with the Environment Directorate in the Vice President's Office that it was important to produce and consume goods and services that responded to the people's basic needs and led to a better life while cutting on the use of toxic materials and the emission of toxic waste and other pollutants.

One reservation, though, was why there was much greater interest in diagnosing the problems than in recommending solutions even as the disposal of hazardous waste has been

at the centre of quite a few long legal battles.

According to one environmentalist, appropriate handling of the issue would be a much less daunting challenge if people cared to remember that every household contributed to the accumulation and disposal of hazardous waste in the form of things like cleansers, paints, batteries and motor oil.

The environmentalist noted that each person had a number of options available to him or her for reducing dependency on toxic and other hazardous materials using less and ensuring careful disposal.

It is noted that many labels on containers have precise precautionary information on contents and ways to handle, store, use, recycle, reuse and safely dispose of toxic waste.

Experts say it is a NO-NO-NO to dump or burn any hazardous material on the ground to bury them or to dispose of them "down the sink" unless one is sure it can safely be disposed into the sewer system.

Yet, how often do we care to use latex gloves when handling waste or to wrap empty containers in several layers of newspaper before disposing of them alongside household refuse as a way of preventing environmental contamination and reactive potential?

We commonly flush pesticides, herbicides, oil paints, paint cleaners, oil and transmission fluids, etc., etc., into the water system while adding vehicle batteries to household garbage, while this is another NO-NO-NO!

Wise purchase, use, storage and disposal of chemicals can appreciably reduce the negative environmental impact of these items. This is time-tested expert advice. But when shall we all religiously heed it, if at all? We surely need to have the ability and willingness to do so.

## Climate change testing of bridges, buildings has raised bar rather high

IT'S hard to say how many of us routinely or regularly think of roads, bridges and large buildings as susceptible to the impact of climate change - like, say, expectations on crop yields, livestock rearing or hydropower generation.

Yet, that is what we are hearing from acknowledged experts issuing whole lists of infrastructural projects that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of global warming.

This gruesome note was aired at a recent meeting in Arusha city where more than 500 engineers from Tanzania and other eastern African countries discussed the effects of climate change.

This was an aspect of what is known as material engineering, as everyone knows that heating and cooling have effects on materials - if not their sustainability, then at least their longevity.

Climate change, and for that matter global warming as a particular strand in the issue, has a direct bearing on engineering designing.

Delegates at the meeting said that earth warming had started to take a toll on high-rise buildings, roads, bridges and communication pillars and towers, suggesting that drastic steps be taken to check the problem.

The European Union delegation admitted that climate change touches on what engineers do, especially in the planning and execution of large projects. The answers weren't all that vivid, but the point appears to have focused on quality - the need to build doubly resilient structures.

It was reported at the meeting that there are new technologies in place that ensure that engineering works endure negative weather elements like flooding, earth tremors, extreme temperatures and hailstorms.

Most of the respective construction

materials have always been there, like alloys - for instance, with steel itself a result of the reinforcing of iron with carbon. What this suggests is that the scope of using such materials in various forms could change.

Issues of policy and regional integration in view of the rising challenges within the engineering sphere were also raised.

For instance, there is the idea that the Institute of Engineers present in the East African Community partner states work together on the solutions instead of having each nation trying to go it alone.

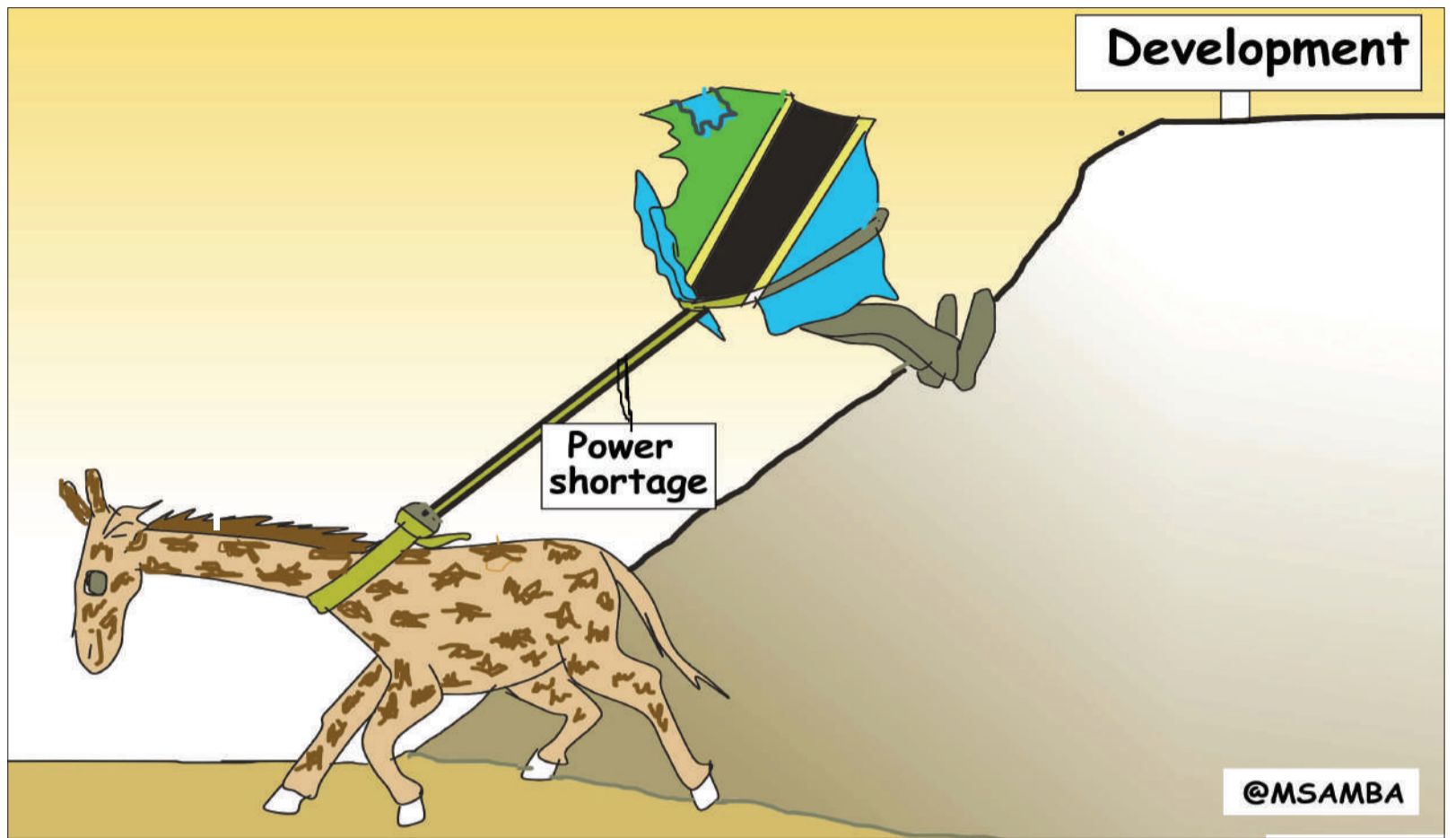
Chances are that each state will still create regulations it deems fit, this in tandem with conventions on international standards, for instance. That would allow some leg room for adapted use of rules, and within that framework EAC states or professional bodies can harmonise.

One delegate made the point in an observation that each country in Africa has its own standards of quality assurance, implying that many construction projects fall below the required international benchmarks.

As a matter of fact, such benchmarks are well known in Africa as well, but enforcement is wanting, one explanation being the existence of government structures where political loyalty prevails over everything else - with the relevant organs often "strategically" electing to fall short of pointing out such weaknesses.

Now, with climate change making quality uppermost, weak regulations or inability to enforce them will be more costly in future than has been the case up to now. But, to be fair, the issue of quality has been improving over time - with the use of concrete spreading, an improvement over the old all-weather road setting.

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## Women anchor global fishing, but get a raw deal

By Nosmot Gbadamosi

GUNJUR Beach lies an hour's drive from the Gambian capital, Banjul, along a stretch of wide open road and dirt tracks with few motor vehicles.

In this West African coastal village, small-scale fishing is the bedrock of life. There are fishers, haulers, net menders, boat builders, fish driers. And all are men.

To get a fuller picture of who contributes to this fishery, you have to walk past the landing sites, right to the back of the beach.

Here, you'll find the women, singing as they slice, dice and prepare freshly caught fish, which will later be sold or smoked on large grills loaded with firewood. Young children play in the sand and some women have babies swaddled to their backs.

Gunjur is emblematic of the often hidden nature of women's work in the fishing industry more globally. Some 45 million people of the 113 million who work in small-scale and subsistence fishing are women, according to the latest assessment by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Policy design, however, doesn't properly consider women. The FAO assessment found that the majority of countries failed to collect gender-specific data that properly reflected women's roles in official statistics - and that women were largely unaccounted for in government schemes to help out the sector, such as social security benefits.

There are, of course, many roles in the fishing industry. FAO notes that more men than women are recorded as fishers.

As for gleaning - catching seafood in shallow coastal waters, often by hand - women carry out more of this activity than men, FAO found in another report. In aquaculture, women are estimated to account for 70 per cent of the total workforce.

"The fact that they are not the fishers, or the fish that they catch is not counted because it goes directly into feeding the family or the fish are sold to neighbours... are just some of the things that make the role of women almost invisible."

This is according to Dr Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood, a lecturer in sustainable development at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

A 2021 study examined how gender influenced roles in the small-scale lake fisheries of Malawi. Jobs that could be "done by anyone" were often assigned to women - namely, carrying and processing fish.

Women were considered not to have the strength or know-how to fill more visible roles such as

captaining a boat or being part of a commercial fishing fleet.

In Nigeria, women not only sell the fish but are involved in net-mending and provisioning for fishing trips. The lecturer says this work often goes unrecognised, and the result is that women are often overlooked when it comes to policy decisions that would ultimately benefit them.

In Asia, as in Africa, subsidies for fishers are normally passed on through boat registrations. Yet nearly all the boats are owned by men.

"People who do not own boats do not become members of fishing associations," says Okafor-Yarwood, adding: "So it is very important that women are also considered as fishers and included in these associations, and also in discussions with the government on fisheries management."

In Indonesia, it is commonly understood that women are prohibited from going out on boats to fish. Yet some women have been fishing for decades. The fish they catch are mixed with those landed by their husbands or other "official" male fishers - and the men claim the benefits.

USAID has been trying to tackle this by helping women to formally register as fishers.

"Women are not really considered 'real' fishers," says Kyoko Kusakabe, a gender and development studies professor at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, adding: "We consider that a problem."

Asia and Africa are particularly blessed with mangrove forests. These havens for small marine species are critical to around 893,000 small-scale fishers in Indonesia alone. In Bangladesh and Nigeria, an estimated 82 per cent to 89 per cent of fishers work predominantly in and around mangroves.

These coastal trees also absorb and store carbon dioxide in their roots and branches. In fact, they can store up to ten times more carbon per hectare than terrestrial forests.

Globally, mangroves are being cleared at a rate of 1-2 per cent a year to make way for fish farms, rice, rubber and oil palm plantations, and other forms of agriculture. More than 21,000 hectares of mangroves have been lost per year over the last decade.

At dawn in The Gambia, women regularly head out in small boats then wade through the mangroves of the Gambia River on the hunt for oysters to sell in markets and to feed their families with. In this country, the oyster trade is entirely run by women. Yet women get scant recognition for their stewardship role.

"The women are the ones who protect the mangroves. They have a

lot of knowledge about mangroves and so we are missing out on all this important information, and the catch in that area, by not really considering women in this context and then also trying to protect their activities," says Kusakabe.

There are other areas too where accounting for women could lead to more sustainable fishing management. For example, in Tanzania, the octopus fishery was dominated by women until it began to be commercialised and men took over.

Women attributed the decline in their catch to men diving in deeper waters that had historically provided a refuge for the species. If women had been considered, octopus catching in deeper waters could have been better managed by government authorities.

Back in Gunjur, women have increasingly been sidelined since a fishmeal factory opened up in 2016. Men were selling bonga, the cheapest fish available, directly to the fishmeal factory, bypassing the women who usually supply the country's markets and households.

The factory paid higher fees for the catch and ground it up to be shipped and fed to farmed animals abroad. Women did not have the buying power to compete with the factory and, as a result, the amount of fish available to local markets fell and the price rose.

There are also instances where sustainable fishing policies can be detrimental to the activities of women, and lawmakers need to consider how women can be brought on board or cushioned from such impacts.

In El Salvador, community leaders imposed a ban on estuary fishing because of depleted breeding grounds. This mainly affected women, whose activities were limited to the coastline and estuaries.

"Where women are missing out, and where they actually dominate, is the post-harvest sector," says Kafayat Fakoya, a senior lecturer in the fisheries department of Lagos State University, adding: "Most of the policies have concentrated on enhancing the viability of the harvest sector."

Fakoya was involved in an FAO report looking at the contributions of those overlooked in conventional data on small-scale fishing.

"There is far less research on women's activities. Most is done on what is related to 'real fishing,'" echoes Kusakabe, adding: "We have a lot of gaps in terms of looking at fishing from a gender perspective."

Cristina Pita is a specialist in small-scale fisheries and principal researcher in sustainable markets at the International Institute for Environment and Development.

She believes that the invisibility of

women working within the industry results in under-representation in fisheries organisations and other decision-making bodies.

"Ultimately, these inequities increase the vulnerability of women to shocks and stressors, such as climate impacts, natural disasters, the Covid-19 pandemic, overfishing," she notes.

In Ghana, women not only work in the fish-processing sector but some are also involved in the micro credit industry that lends money to fishers so that they can buy provisions for their trips.

Last year, when Ghana closed fishing for a month because of Covid-19, the authorities made efforts to supply rice and oil to boat owners and their crew. Women in the value chain were not considered.

Ghana enforced the same fishing ban this year, but there was an outcry. As a result, both men and women were helped to subsidise their income through food handouts.

Fishing experts emphasize that women's contribution to the fishing sector needs to be better researched and documented. "If people are not talking about it, then governments will not necessarily be thinking about women when making these policies," says Okafor-Yarwood.

Governments are not blameless. Okafor-Yarwood says there are more women working throughout the fishing value chain than current numbers show. But to form a comprehensive view "would mean bad news for policymakers because it would mean more people that you are not catering for." It is in the interests of government not to get the full picture, she notes.

In Mexico, many women working in the small-scale fishing sector were also unable to access Covid-19 stimulus packages provided by their government. Official tallies estimate that only 8 per cent of fishers in the country are women, but experts suggest that this is a significant underestimate.

Women mend their husband's fishing equipment, paint buoys, process catch for billing, handle marketing and sales, as outlined by the Walton Family Foundation. Yet government policies only cater for their husbands.

Women have had to find alternative ways of coping with a sharp drop in their income, including offering door-to-door seafood sales.

A study by Community and Biodiversity, a Mexican civil society organisation, concluded thus: "The change in family dynamics owing to (the Covid-19) lockdown has also affected women's health and overall community wellbeing. Increases in violence against women within families have been reported."



# It is good to discipline children but physical abuse is wrong, intolerable

By Telesphor Magobe

**L**AST week, we observed International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and briefly looked at what the 16-day campaign of Activism to End violence against women and girls entails.

We have clues about the plight of women and girls from childhood to adulthood and then to old age throughout the world. In my opinion, the most awful form of violence we can subject women and girls to is to strip them of their dignity. This can be done through rape, defilement or other forms of sexual abuse.

So, each year starting from November 25 to December 10, we participate in activism to end any form of violence against women and girls.

It is an occasion to ensure both men and women and boys and girls are equally respected and treated for what they are and to refrain from inflicting physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering on any of them, including coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private (whatever the case may be).

Today, I invite you to look briefly at the rights of a child. The Law of the Child Act (R.E 2019),



which is the principal legislation in all matters concerning children, defines a child as any person aged below 18 years [Section 4(1)]. In the legal context, a person aged above 18 years is not a child.

Before we proceed, I would like to share this experience. One day I was walking down the street and came across a shop in which the shopkeeper was instructing his two sons (probably aged below 7 years) to recite the verses of scriptures. He had a cane with him and whichever child pronounced differently from what his father had read in the book got some canes.



So, both children had tears rolling down their cheeks and I felt sorry for them. I told the shopkeeper that no child would understand anything when instructed in the way he was doing. But he replied that I should mind my own business. He added that the two

children were his and not mine.

"If you go to a person's territory you have to respect what is happening in it because it is not yours," he told me.

"Life is not always lived like that. When people interact, there is cross-fertilisation of learning and understanding of things. If every person only sticks to what he or she knows, understands and does, life becomes miserable to others," doesn't it? I asked him. After we talked for a while I left, but for sure he was not persuaded by my concern.

This is just one example. There are many more examples to show how we treat children simply because they are children, thinking that we are justified in doing so because they are our children. We often interpret wrongly "Spare the rod and spoil the child" to mean "If you don't cane your child you will spoil it." But is that what it means? If by it we mean correction, is correction limited only to caning?

How many children are canned because they forgot to do what they were told? Of course, when an adult forgets what we told him or her we will remind him, but when a child forgets we will most probably cane it as if forgetting is making a mistake. By the way, who doesn't forget?

We think that inflicting suffering on a child will correct it and forget that

what we do to a child will remain in it and most probably when the child becomes an adult he or she too will do the same (pass it on) to his or her children, thus making it a chain of violence.

On the other hand, if we properly instruct a child to behave in a certain way, it will also do the same when it becomes an adult. Could it be that we need another campaign to properly instruct children so that they grow up behaving differently from what we have been programming in their mind from generation to generation, but haven't succeeded?

Most of us made mistakes when we were children and were canned because our parents believed if they 'spared the rod' they would 'spoil us' and wanted us to be good children. Yet, all over the world we humans have turned into monsters the way we treat each other! Isn't it time we changed our negative programming of our children's upbringing?

Section 13 of the Law of the Child Act provides for protection from torture and degrading treatment. Subsection (1) states: "A person shall not subject a child to torture, or other cruel, inhuman punishment or degrading treatment, including any cultural practice which dehumanises or is injurious to the physical and

mental well-being of a child."

Furthermore, subsection (2) states: "No correction of a child is justifiable which is unreasonable in kind or in degree according to the age, physical and mental condition of the child and no correction is justifiable if the child is by reason of tender age or otherwise incapable of understanding the purpose of the correction." Do we understand this and if we do, do we practise it?

Section 14 provides for a penalty for contravention. Subsection (1) states: "A person who contravenes any provision of this Part, commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both."

So, it is not enough to think that just because the child is yours, then you are justified in doing whatever you like with it. What every person should do is to treat his or her child or even a child who is not his or hers well so that when it becomes an adult he too will treat his or her children well.

Today's proverb: "Wedlock is like a place besieged - those within wish to get out, those without wish to get in."

**The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com**

# This planet is drying up - and these are the consequences

MADRID

**D**rought is one of the 'most destructive' natural disasters in terms of the loss of life, arising from impacts, such as wide-scale crop failure, wildfires and water stress.

In other words, droughts are one of the "most feared natural phenomena in the world;" they devastate farmland, destroy livelihoods and cause untold suffering, as reported by the world's top specialised bodies: the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

They occur when an area experiences a shortage of water supply due to a lack of rainfall or lack of surface or groundwater. And they can last for weeks, months or years.

Exacerbated by land degradation and climate change, droughts are increasing in frequency and severity, up 29% since 2000, with 55 million people affected every year.

By 2050, droughts may affect an estimated three-quarters of the world's population. This means that agricultural production will have to increase by 60% to meet the global food demand in 2050.

This means that about 71% of the world's irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to

competition and conflicts among water users, adds the Convention.

## Most of the world already impacted

The alert is loud and strong and it comes from a number of the world's most knowledgeable organisations.

To begin with, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 29 November 2022 reported that most of the globe was drier than normal in 2021, with "cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and our daily lives."

## Water

Between 2001 and 2018, UN-Water reported that a staggering 74% of all-natural disasters were water-related.

Currently, over 3.6 billion people have inadequate access to water at least one month per year and this is expected to increase to more than five billion by 2050.

Moreover, areas that were unusually dry included South America's Rio de la Plata area, where a persistent drought has affected the region since 2019, according to WMO's The State of Global Water Resources report.

## Drying rivers, lakes

In Africa, major rivers such as the Niger, Volta, Nile and Congo had below-average water flow in 2021.

The same trend was observed in rivers in parts of Russia, West Siberia and



**By 2050, droughts may affect an estimated three-quarters of the world's population. Credit: Miriet Abrego / IPS**

in Central Asia.

On the other hand, there were above-normal river volumes in some North American basins, the North Amazon and South Africa, as well as in China's Amur river basin, and northern India.

## Cascading effects

The impacts of climate change are often felt through water - more intense and frequent droughts, more extreme flooding, more erratic seasonal rainfall and accelerated melting of glaciers - with cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and all aspects of our daily lives, said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

"Changes to Cryosphere water resources affect food security, human health, ecosystem integrity and maintenance, and lead to significant impacts on economic and social development", said WMO, sometimes causing river flooding and flash floods due to glacier lake outbursts.

The cryosphere - namely glaciers, snow cover, ice caps and, where present, permafrost - is the world's biggest natural reser-

voir of freshwater.

## Soils

Being water -or rather the lack of it- a major cause-effect of the fast-growing deterioration of natural resources, and the consequent damage to the world's food production, the theme of World Soil Day 2022, marked 5 December, is "Soils: Where food begins."

## According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

95% of our food comes from soils.

18 naturally occurring chemical elements are essential to plants. Soils supply 15.

Agricultural production will have to increase by 60% to meet the global food demand in 2050.

33% of soils are degraded.

## Dangerously poisoned

In addition to the life of humans, animals, and plants, one of the sectors that most depend on water-crops is now highly endangered.

Indeed, since the 1950s, re-

minds the United Nations, innovations like synthetic fertilisers, chemical pesticides and high-yield cereals have helped humanity dramatically increase the amount of food it grows.

"But those inventions would be moot without agriculture's most precious commodity: fresh water. And it, say researchers, is now under threat."

Moreover, pollution, climate change and over-abstraction are beginning to compromise the lakes, rivers, and aquifers that underpin farming globally, reports the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

## Salinised and plastified

Such is the case, among many others, of the growing salinisation and 'plastification' of the world's soils.

In fact, currently, it is estimated that there are more than 833 million hectares of salt-affected soils around the globe (8.7% of the planet). This implies the loss of soil's capacity to grow food and also increasing impacts on water and the ability to filter pollution.

Soil salinisation and sodification are major soil degradation processes threatening ecosystems and are recognised as being among the most important problems at a global level for agricultural production, food security and sustainability in arid and semi-arid regions, said the UN on occasion of the 2021 World Soil Day.

## Wastewater

Among the major causes that this international body highlights is that in some arid areas, there has been an increase in the amount of wastewater used to grow crops.

"The problem can be exacerbated by flooding, which can in-

undate sewage systems or stores of fertiliser, polluting both surface water and groundwater." Fertiliser runoff can cause algal blooms in lakes.

Meanwhile, the amount of freshwater per capita has fallen by 20% over the last two decades and nearly 60% of irrigated cropland is water-stressed.

The implications of those shortages are far-reaching: irrigated agriculture contributes 40% of total food produced worldwide.

## Soils are highly living organisms

"Did you know that there are more living organisms in a tablespoon of soil than people on Earth?"

Soil is a world made up of organisms, minerals, and organic components that provide food for humans and animals through plant growth, explains this year's World Soils Day.

Agricultural systems lose nutrients with each harvest, and if soils are not managed sustainably, fertility is progressively lost, and soils will produce nutrient-deficient plants.

Soil nutrient loss is a major soil degradation process threatening nutrition. It is recognised as being among the most critical problems at a global level for food security and sustainability all around the globe.

## 'Hidden' hunger

Over the last 70 years, the level of vitamins and nutrients in food has drastically decreased, and it is estimated that 2 billion people worldwide suffer from a lack of micronutrients, known as hidden hunger because it is difficult to detect.

"Soil degradation induces some soils to be nutrient depleted, losing their capacity to support crops, while others have such a high nutrient concentration that represents a toxic environment to plants and animals, pollutes the environment and causes climate change."

# India's extensive railways often conduit for child trafficking



Children working and travelling on India's vast rail network need to be educated about the perils of trafficking. Credit: Umar Manzoor Shah/IPS

Karnataka, India

Deepti Rani (13) lives with her mother in a dilapidated dwelling near a railway track in India's southern state of Karnataka. The mother-daughter duo sells paperbacks on trains for a living.

Four months ago, a man in his mid-fifties visited them. Masquerading as a businessman hailing from India's capital, Delhi, he first expressed dismay over the family's dismal conditions. Then he offered help. The man asked Deepti if she wanted to accompany him to Delhi, where he could find her a decent job as a sales clerk or a housemaid. He also told Deepti's mother that if allowed to go to Delhi, her daughter would be able to earn no less than 15 to 20 000 rupees a month—about 200-300 USD.

The money, Deepti's mother, reasoned, would be enough to lift the family out of abject poverty and deprivation, enough to plan Deepti's wedding and bid farewell to the arduous job of selling paperbacks on moving trains.

On the scheduled day, when the man was about to take Deepti, a labourer whose family lives adjacent to her hut informed the police about the possible case of trafficking. The la-

bourer had become suspicious after observing the agent's frequent visits to the mother-daughter.

When police reached the spot and detained the agent, it was discovered during questioning that he was planning to sell the little girl to a brothel in Delhi.

Ramesh, a 14-year-old boy from the same state, shared a similar predicament. He narrates how a man, probably in his late 40s, offered his parents a handsome sum of money so that he could be adopted and taken good care of.

"My parents, who work as labourers, readily agreed. I was set to go with a man - who we had met a few days before. I was told that I would get a good education, a good life, and loving parents. I wondered how an unknown man could offer us such things at such a fast pace. I told my parents that I smelled something suspicious," Ramesh recalls.

The next day, as the man arrived to take the boy, the locals, including Ramesh's parents, questioned him. "We called the government helpline number, and the team arrived after some 20 minutes. When interrogated, the man spilt the beans. He was about to sell the boy in some Middle East country and get a huge sum for himself. We could have lost our child

forever," says Ramesh's father.

According to government data, every eight minutes, a child vanishes in India.

As many as 11,000 of the 44,000 youngsters reported missing each year are still missing. In many cases, children and their low-income parents who are promised "greener pastures" in urban houses of the wealthy wind up being grossly underpaid, mistreated, and occasionally sexually molested.

Human trafficking is forbidden in India as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution, but it is nonetheless an organised crime. Human trafficking is a covert crime that is typically not reported to the police, and experts believe that it requires significant policy changes to stop it and help victims recover.

Activists and members associated with the Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society (BDSSS) run various child protection programs for children from poor backgrounds.

One such program is 'Childline 1098 Collab'. A dedicated helpline has been established to help out children in need. The helpline number is widely circulated across the city so that if anyone comes across any violation of child rights, they can dial the number.

A rescue team will be dispatched and provide immediate help to the victim.

Fr Peter Asheervadappa, the director of a social service called Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society, provides emergency relief and rescue services for children at high risk. Children and other citizens can dial toll-free 1098, and the team reaches within 60 minutes to rescue the children.

"The cases handled are of varied nature: Sexual abuse, physical abuse, child labour, marriages, and any other abuse that affects children's well-being," Asheervadappa told IPS.

He adds that India's railway network, one of the largest in the world, is made up of 7,321 stations, 123,542 kilometres of track, and 9,143 daily trains, carrying over 23 million people.

"The vast network, crucial to the country's survival, is frequently used for trafficking children. For this reason, our organisation, and others like it, have argued that key train stops require specialised programs and attention. Such transit hubs serve as important outreach locations for finding and helping children when they are most in need," he said.

But not only have the trafficking cases emerged at these locations.

There are child marriages, too, that concern the activists.

Rashmi, a 13-year-old, was nearly sold to a middle-aged businessman from a nearby city. In return, the wealthy man would take good care of the poverty-stricken family and attend to their daily needs. All they had to do was to give them their daughter. They agreed. "Everyone wants a good life, but that doesn't mean you barter your child's life for that greed. It is immoral, unethical, and illegal," says an activist Abhinav Prasad\* associated with the Child Protection Program.

He says many people in India are on the lookout for child brides. They often galvanise their efforts in slums and areas where poor people live. It is there that they find people in need, and they take advantage of their desperation for money.

While Rashmi was about to tie the nuptial knot with a man almost four times her age (50), some neighbours called the child rescue group and informed them. The team rushed to the spot and called in the police to stop the ceremony from happening.

"Child marriages are rampant in India, but we must do our bit. It is by virtue of these small efforts that we can stop the menace from spreading its dreadful wings and consuming our children," said Prasad.

## 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

# How mobile technologies are reducing gender inequities in agrifood system

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

**P**RECISION agriculture technology and digital services are rapidly changing food systems around the world.

Mobile phones allow once-isolated communities to connect to new information networks and markets. Such technologies can have large benefits in countries where agriculture employs the bulk of the workforce and access to finance is still limited.

Women are key players in the production of food and the direction of agrifood businesses, yet are often marginalized in decision-making.

They stand to gain significantly from the equalizing capabilities of mobile platforms, provided that digital entrepreneurs and organizations seriously consider gender as they design programs and innovations.

Tanzania presents a compelling case for how

mobile programs can improve women's financial and decision-making power, reinforcing their roles in food systems.

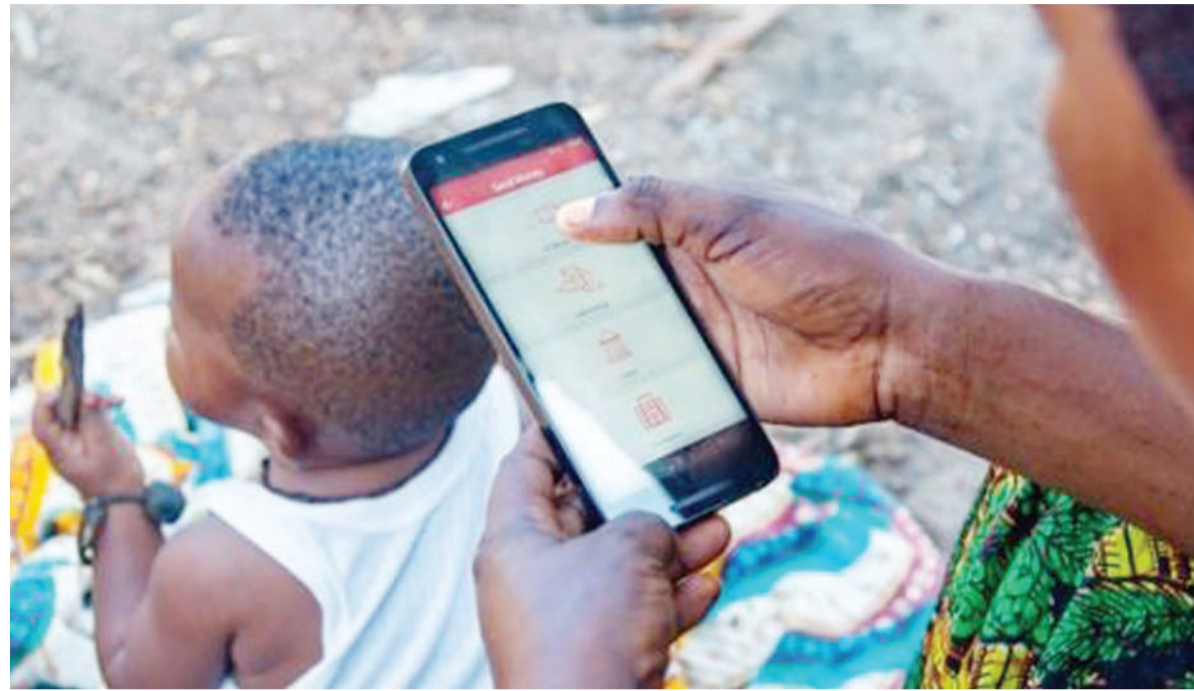
As of September 2019, the country had 43.7 million mobile phone subscriptions among a population of 59 million, a 4.7 percent increase from the previous year.

Some 29 million people had internet access in June 2022, according to data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA). Mobile money users comprise a similar rising share of the country's population.

One such program is M-Pawa, a banking product introduced in 2014 by the Commercial Bank of Africa (Tanzania) (CBAT) and Vodacom via its M-Pesa mobile money service, which allows eligible users to save money, earn interest, and eventually obtain micro loans through their phones.

This opportunity for personal savings and microcredit removes significant barriers to entry for unbanked individuals, households, and enterprises.

Telecom companies in Africa have successfully partnered with non-profits to train farmers on market awareness and business management. Such mobile tools are already facilitating pro-



ductivity gains and financial empowerment to women in Tanzania. But women start out at a considerable disadvantage.

Although they play a major role in the agricultural sector, women smallholders usually produce lower crop yields than men.

A joint 2015 report from

UN Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank found that the gender gap in productivity—which can range from 4 and 25 percent depending on country and crop—stems from women's limited access to agricultural information

and technology. The productivity gap is estimated to cost the government \$105 million annually. Mobile technologies can also benefit women at many points throughout food value chains. Women business owners must often cope with restricted access to market informa-

tion, inadequate capital, gender discrimination, and lack of formal business training.

Research on mobile application design in Tanzania has suggested that co-creation and co-design of services by the end-user is essential to app engagement and utility.

The case of Tanzania demonstrates the potential for mobile technology to expand women's roles in agrifood systems, provided policymakers and tech advocates deliver the necessary infrastructure and design inclusive products.

The feasibility and scalability of these app-based products in the face of various market and coordination failures offer the possibility of cost-effective, expansive solutions.

Programs focused on gender equality and women in agriculture should seek to introduce women, especially from low income backgrounds, to technology as a tool in

agribusiness and financial management. Stakeholders should remain conscious of the barriers to women's financial inclusion, both on the demand (bargaining power, time and resource constraints, digital literacy, societal norms) and supply side (not all credit suppliers, particularly formal financial institutions, are interested in servicing smallholders and businesses).

Investors should look to scale up tools that allow community- or cooperative-based savings groups to migrate to digital platforms so that women farmers and entrepreneurs can own mobile wallets and access credit individually.

However, incentives and marketing activities should be aimed at companies that have implemented mobile savings, credit, insurance, and informational products but are not sufficiently targeting women.

## Climate change, pollution blamed for high rate of fish deaths in L. Victoria

NAIROBI

RECURRING episodes of low oxygen levels are inflicting massive losses to aquaculture practitioners on Lake Victoria, as thousands of tilapia and Nile perch have died.

The lake, which borders Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, has seen fish die-offs due to low oxygen for the past two years, with scientists linking the phenomenon to climate change and unregulated development along the lake.

In October and November 2022, fish farms in Kenya's part of the lake reported huge losses as a result of low oxygen levels.

"Hundreds of fish had died and others were floating on water, their mouths wide open," local fish farmer Silvanus Juma said.

Juma said he lost more than 500 fish in a single day, and fellow fish farmer George Ochieng said he had lost more than 10,000 fish.

"We have never experienced such an occurrence in this area. We appeal to the responsible bodies to help us find answers," Ochieng said.

There has been no official statement from Kenya's Department of Fisheries on the extent of the fish deaths on Lake Victoria or the value of the losses.

But experts including those from the Kenya Marine Research Institute have attributed the latest mass deaths in Lake Victoria to upwelling, a phenomenon where deep water makes its way to the surface due to temperature variations.

"We found out that the lake has recently been experiencing extreme cold and warm temperatures due to effects of climate change," Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) Director of Freshwater Systems Christopher Aura said. Aura cited instances where water temperatures rose to 28 degrees Celsius, triggering the decomposition of algae and water hyacinth, a process that consumes oxygen stored in the bottom of the lake.

"When the deoxygenated water gets into the cages with minimal water circulation, the fish experience shock, leading to death," Aura said.

KMFRI introduced a floating fish cage technology program to the area in 2013 to increase fish production, with a secondary aim of conserving the lake's



declining wild fish stocks.

KMFRI estimates Lake Victoria's theoretical carrying capacity at 25,427 cages, but the lake currently has 6,000 cages in operation, covering 62,132 square meters, with an estimated output of 10,000 metric tonnes of Nile perch and tilapia. But those farms have struggled due to deoxygenation.

"In any lake, there is always what we call stratification. There is normally a layer of cold water underneath warm water that is lighter. The colder water in most circumstances does not have enough oxygen because of pollution," KMFRI CEO James

Njiru asserted.

He said due to pollution, algal blooms have sprouted up, consuming huge amounts of oxygen the tilapia and Nile perch rely onto survive.

"The fish that is dying most is the Nile perch, because it is not used to living in areas with low oxygen," Njiru said.

In 2021, Uganda reported tens of thousands of Nile perch had washed ashore dead and were emitting an offensive odor as they decomposed.

"The occurrence has been attributed to a drop in oxygen levels as Nile perch is a species of fish known to be

sensitive to low oxygen levels," Uganda's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) said at the time.

The authority said with flooding and rising water levels at the time, large masses of weeds were submerged and sunk into the lake bed and began sucking up oxygen.

NEMA also said strong winds around the Lake Victoria basin have at times "heightened lake overturn, a phenomenon that causes water from the bottom of the lake that is low in oxygen to come up and mix with upper layers, where fish live; leading to a reduction in oxygen."

## 'False positive on HIV test confuses many'

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

MUHAME Mung'anzagara (40), lived anxious life for 10 years believing that she was HIV positive, for all those years she kept her health-status as a confidential and personal issue without knowing that she was given false-positive HIV results until she underwent compulsory HIV testing after conceiving.

A false positive HIV test happens when a person who doesn't have HIV receives a positive result after being tested for the virus. When a person is not infected with HIV but receives a positive test result, which is considered a false positive.

Mung'anzagara is amongst a small number of people who are believed to have HIV-positive results, such results are given out if a single test that is likely to give out a 'false-positive result' once fails to detect antibodies or antigen in a person.

"I couldn't have the guts to tell anyone about my health status, I was afraid of being stigmatized and isolated by the people including my beloved ones, even my blood relatives. I changed my lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, quit taking alcohol and kept reading HIV/Aids related stories, and magazines and listening to concerned radio programs to learn more about how people living with HIV live," she narrated.

She explained that in 2005 when she visited Angaza Pavilion at Sabasaba International Fair Trade and went for voluntary testing for HIV/Aids and a few minutes later she was presented with the results.

"Health expert who attended to me, came from behind the big curtain, and whispered to me 'you have positive HIV results' without waiting for my response, he gave that paper with a telephone number on it and then asked me to find the person who was working at the voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) to enroll and initiate antiretroviral (ARV). I rejected his idea, I was confused and quitted the place," she stated.

She added: "I suddenly had a fever, and from there I was not settled both emotionally and socially. I started misusing some of my assets knowing that I would die soon, I disguised my boyfriend, created scenarios and eventually we broke up, my mission worked, but I was thinking of having a child despite that condition."

According to Mung'anzagara, she experienced nothing strange on her body, no serious illness and in 2015 she decided to have a love affair with one of her co-worker and conceived.

During her first month of pregnancy, she had no option than going to the hospital for an effective Prevention of Mother-Child Transmission (PMCT) program.

"I went to one of the public health centers purposely for the PMCT program. I tested three times with different results, firstly was ambiguity, then HIV positive result...the results didn't jeopardize me at all, because I knew I was positive. Before taking me for the last test, one nurse took me to another room for counseling. Then I agreed to do another test, the nurse used a different HIV test kit, and the results came out negative! It was unbelievable, I couldn't hold back tears," she narrated.

One of the nurses who attended the lady advised her to go for an ELISA test at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), claiming that the test can detect some hidden problems in the body, which couldn't be diagnosed by other normal test-kits. There are many people who get HIV-positive results, while in actual sense they are not.

An official from the Ministry of Health (who preferred anonymity) said that a diagnosis of HIV is never made on the basis of a single test result. HIV testing must involve two testing kits: Standard Diagnostic Bioline (SD BIOLNE HIV test) and Uni-Gold HIV Rapid Test.

A person who tested for HIV by using Standard Diagnostic Bioline (SD BIOLNE HIV test) and received positive or reactive HIV testing results must be confirmed by another testing kit which is the Uni-Gold HIV Rapid Test. The SD BIOLNE HIV test is highly sensitive to assay for the differential and qualitative detection of all isotopes; it can bring inaccurate test results.

Tanzania is marking 39 years since the first HIV/Aids patient was identified in the country, and join people globally to mark 41 International HIV/Aids day.

Despite the numbers, Tanzania has done well to control the HIV epidemic over the last decade. Scaling-up access to antiretroviral treatment has helped Tanzania minimise the impact of the epidemic.

Overall, the epidemic has remained steady because of ongoing new infections, population growth and increased access to treatment.

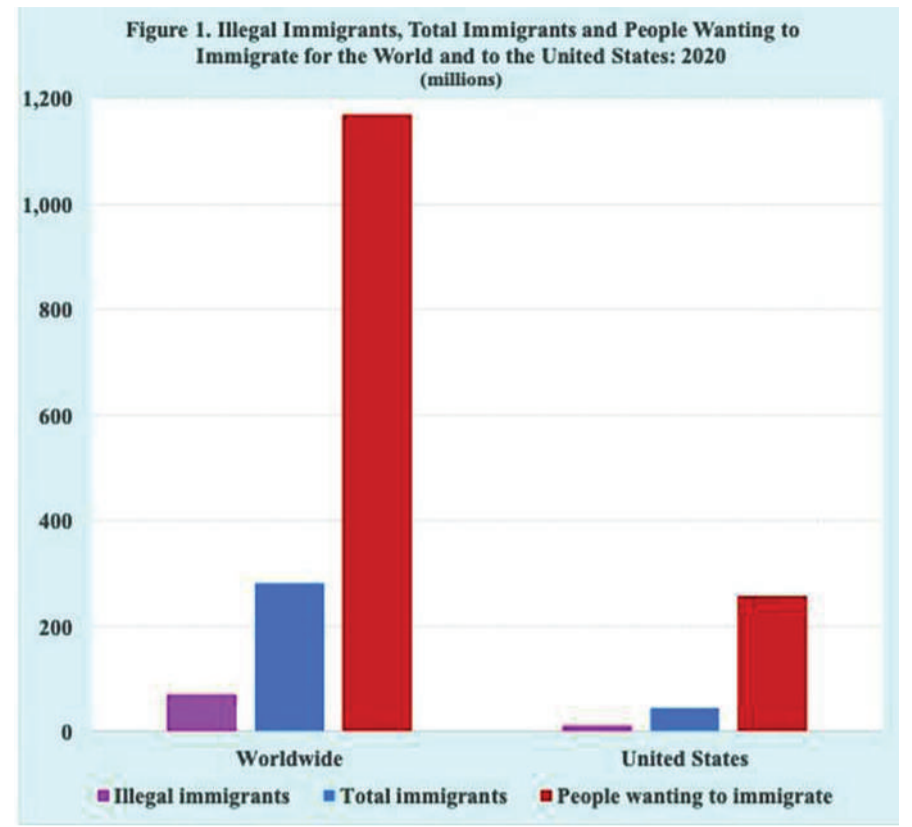
The World Health Organisation (WHO) report shows 38.4 million people globally were living with HIV in 2021. 1.5 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2021. 650,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2021.

According to WHO, no single test can provide a full HIV-positive diagnosis; confirmatory testing is required, conducted by a qualified and trained health or community worker at a community centre or clinic. HIV infection can be detected with great accuracy using WHO-prequalified tests within a nationally approved testing strategy and algorithm.

# Illegal immigration: A mounting global crisis



Credit: UN-OHCR.



Source: United Nations and Gallup Polls.

**PORTLAND, US**

Illegal immigration has evolved into a mounting crisis for a growing number of countries worldwide and governments appear to be at a loss on how to deal with the crisis.

Migrant destination countries are facing record high numbers of unlawful border crossings and unauthorized arrivals at their shores, thousands of visa overstayers, and millions of men, women and children residing unlawfully within their countries.

In many of those countries illegal migration is viewed as a threat to national sovereignty. It is seen as undermining cultural integrity. Illegal migration is also creating financial drains on public funds.

Some officials as well as much of the public in those countries have described the continuing illegal immigration to their borders and shores as an "invasion", a "battle situation" and a "security threat". And some have called on their governments to "send'em straight back".

In addition, illegal immigration is also undermining the rule of law, threatening regional cooperation, challenging law enforcement agencies, eroding public support for legal migration, altering political equilibrium and adding to nativism and xenophobia. In addition, the public's concerns about immigration are reflected in the growing influence of far-right political parties in such countries as Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and the United States.

Multinational migrant-smuggling networks are also contributing to the mounting illegal immigration crisis as well as generating substantial profits for criminal organizations. Those networks exploit migrants seeking to leave their countries, offering various services, including transportation, accommodations and critical information.

Government programs and plans to counter migrant smuggling networks have achieved limited success. Also, international attempts to address illegal immigration, such as the Global Compact on International Migration of 2018, have not diminished illegal immigration nor the activities of smuggling networks.

A major factor behind the rise of illegal immigration is the large and growing supply of men, women and children in sending countries who want to migrate to another country and by any means possible, including illegal immigration. The number of people in the world wanting to migrate is estimated at nearly 1.2 billion.

The billion plus people wanting to migrate represents about 15 percent of the world's population. That number of people wanting to migrate is also more than four times the size of the estimated total number of immigrants worldwide in 2020, which was 281 million

and plans to counter migrant smuggling networks have achieved limited success. Also, international attempts to address illegal immigration, such as the Global Compact on International Migration of 2018, have not diminished illegal immigration nor the activities of smuggling networks.

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Those potent forces are resulting in large and increasing numbers of men, women and even unaccompanied children arriving at borders and landing on shores of destination countries without authorization.

Unauthorized migrants, as well as visa overstayers, seek to settle in those destination countries by any means available and are not prepared to return to their countries of origin.

Most of the large and growing numbers of unauthorized migrants now residing unlawfully within countries are not likely to be repatriated.

Finally, it is also clear that neither governments nor international agencies have yet been able to come up with effective policies and programs to address the mounting global illegal immigration crisis.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 393 00--

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: CAB, INN, MOB  
 4 LETTERS: SAVE, EDEN, ROAR, VEER, RIDE, TENS ALOE (7 WORDS)  
 5 LETTERS: RAIDS, NIGER, NOVEL, SOBER ORIBI (5 WORDS)  
 6 LETTERS: ARDENT, REASON, RIDERS, BRAZIL PLEASE (5 WORDS)  
 7 LETTERS: MINERAL  
 8 LETTERS: CAMBODIA  
 10 LETTERS: SWEET BRIAR

**WORD-FIT**

S	U	G	A	R	C	A	N	E	S
S	K	I	N	A	D	O	B	E	
S	N	O	I	S	E	A			
F	O	R	E	V	E	R	K		
T	O	E	S		S	H	A	R	P
S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E	E	
P	O	O	L		L		A		
Y	B	E	A	C	O	N	D		

**CROSSWORD**

L	V	E	T	R	A	D	E	
G	R	O	W	S	M	A	R	T
H	W	A	S	T	E	A		
P	R		R	A	D	D		
C	H	A	N	C	E	O		
A			E			A		
A	S	I	A	T	R	E	A	T
L	G					E		
A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N	E
A	G	I	O			C		
A	T	W	E	N	T	Y		

**CLUES: Across**

- Deepest lake in Tanzania
- dough made from maize flour and used to make tortillas, tamales
- a picture in the mind
- marks left on the skin
- a mischievous child
- the ability to appear effortlessly suspended while performing movements during a jump
- as soon as possible (abbrev)
- gas used to control riots
- a week
- call given by a court officer to command silence and attention
- the choice sth must be done

**Down:**

- minutes, hours, days
- a headland
- sweet potatoes
- Rwanda's President
- a commonly used British system of bidding designed to enable partners with weaker hands to find suitable contracts
- eirenic
- a master key
- evaluate
- Grasshopper in Kiswahili
- Turkish footballer
- plant seeds
- acquire as clear profit

By Magezi: 0755429240 telixmagezi@gmail.com

# RADIO One

## RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One**

## BUSINESS



FILE PHOTO: World Bank President David Malpass holds a news conference at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC.

## Poor countries owe WB \$62bn on bilateral debt

WASHINGTON

The world's poorest countries now owe \$62 billion in annual debt service to official bilateral creditors, an increase of 35% over the past year, World Bank President David Malpass said on Thursday, warning that the increased burden is increasing the risk of defaults.

Malpass told the Reuters NEXT conference in New York that two thirds of this debt burden is now owed to China, providing some details of the development lender's annual debt statistics report due next week.

"I'm worried about a disorderly default process where there's not a system to really address" debts for poorer countries, Malpass said.

Malpass also said he was concerned about a buildup of debt in advanced economies such as the United States, because this is drawing more capital away from developing countries.

"And so as the interest rates go up, the debt service goes up for the advanced economies, and that requires a big amount of capital from the world."

Malpass said that he would join a meeting in China next week with heads of other international institutions and Chinese authorities to discuss the country's approach to debt relief for

poorer countries, COVID-19 policies, property sector turmoil and other economic issues.

"China's one of the big creditors, so... it's very important that China engage on this issue and think about where it sees the world going and be responsive to work with what needs to be done to achieve sustainability for the countries."

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva also will participate in the meeting, which will focus heavily on debt treatments. Among the participants will be officials from China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, two of the country's major bilateral lenders.

Georgieva separately told Reuters Next that changes to the G20 Common Framework on debt restructuring were needed to speed up debt treatments, freeze debt service payments once a country requested help, and open the process to middle-income countries like Sri Lanka.

"We are concerned that there is a risk for confidence in debt resolution to be eroded at a time when the level of debt is very high," Georgieva said.

"We don't see at this point ... a risk of a systemic debt crisis," she said, adding that countries in debt distress were not large enough to trigger a crisis that would threaten financial stability.

## Tanga Cement Group cuts loss before tax by 30 pct

By Guardian Reporter

**T**anga Cement Group has cut its loss before tax by 30 percent to 1.6bn during the quarter ending September this year from 2.4bn/- recorded during the second quarter ended in June.

The Group's unaudited statement shows the improvement resulted into increased finance income, foreign exchange and fair value gains amid increased interest expenses.

Finance income increased to 1.09bn/- during the third quarter of this year from 48mn/- recorded during the second quarter while foreign exchange and fair value gains went up to 1.9bn/- from 520mn/- respectively.

The group operating profit slightly increased also to 1.1bn/- from 969mn/- respectively due to reduced administration expenses ad cost of sale.

Therefore, the company board chairman Lawrence Masha said in a statement that company did not declare interim dividends to shareholders in quarter 3 of 2022 and remains prudent with available cash resources to remain sustainable through the global economic recovery post Covid-19 and the drastic fuel price increases currently affecting the local economy.

"The board has decided to continue committing available cash generated to the operational commitments and will evaluate the financial performance throughout the remainder of the 2022 financial year when considering the final dividend declaration," Masha said.

Shareholders are also referred to the initial announcement regarding the proposed acquisition



Tanga Cement Group chairman Lawrence Masha

by Scancem International DA of 68.33% of the shares in Tanga Cement PLC from Afrisam Mauritius Investment Holdings Limited on 27 October 2021 and the most recent announcement by TCPLC issued on 7 October 2022.

The chairman noted that due to seasonality in the cement industry, the third quarter of 2022 showed a promising improvement over the second quarter.

"Despite various marketing and operational challenges such as frequent power outages, the Group has performed well on its key financial indicators during the third quarter as described in the Financial and Operational Overview section below," he said.

"We affirm our commitment to all stakeholders through our high-quality cement and clinker,

and our contribution towards the sustainable growth and development of Tanzania, a demonstration of our brand - "Strength Within".

The chairman also said the company has deployed the highest standards of health and safety protocols across all its operations and continues to enforce safety at the workplace to protect our employees and contractors.

"The Group remains optimistic of the positive impact of the ongoing infrastructure development projects under the Government's Development Vision 2025 programme and expects the projects to continue gaining momentum throughout the remainder of 2022. Tanga Cement has the capacity to meet a meaningful share of the cement demand in

the country and remains committed to local production of superior cement products," he affirmed.

According to the statement the Group's sales revenue decreased by 1 percent to 57.96bn/- from the 58.23bn/- achieved in Q2 ending 30 June 2022.

The decline is attributed to lower production output and sales due to an inadequate power supply with frequent power dips and power rationing. However, despite of the decline in sales, the Group continued to perform well for the quarter.

The Group's gross profit increased by 1 percent to 11.31bn/- from 11.23bn/- achieved in Q2. This increase is attributed to cost-saving initiatives adopted by management and increased operational efficiency.



## 'Oil prices could fall without further OPEC+ cut'

LONDON

OPEC+ is widely expected to stick to its latest target of reducing oil production by 2 million bpd from November until the end of 2023. Given production restraints on some members of the alliance, the actual cut the group is expected to deliver is closer to between 1 million and 1.1 million bpd.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies led by Russia, a group known as OPEC+, has switched its planned in-person meeting in Vienna on Dec. 4 to a virtual one, which sources in the group say signals the like-

lihood of it leaving policy unchanged.

The group agreed in early October to cut its oil production target by 2 million bpd from November until the end of 2023. Given production restraints on some members of the alliance, the actual cut the group is expected to deliver is closer to between 1 million and 1.1 million bpd.

OPEC+, sources told Reuters, now wants to assess the impact of a looming Russian oil-price cap on the market and get a clearer picture of the oil demand outlook in China, the world's top crude importer, where an easing of

stringent COVID-19 restrictions is expected after unprecedented demonstrations.

Some analysts, however, are not ruling out a surprise, and warn that with the current oversupply in the market, OPEC+ risks a collapse in the oil price if it doesn't curb its output targets further at the meeting. "A further cut in production cannot ... be ruled out," PVM Oil analyst Stephen Brennock said. "Failure to do so risks sparking another selling frenzy," he added, without saying how low he thought prices could go.

Brent crude prices,

which hit a 14-year high above \$139 a barrel after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, were trading around \$88 a barrel on Thursday, staging a modest recovery from near one-year lows close to \$80 a barrel hit earlier in the week. China's economy squeezing COVID-19 restrictions and the European Union's failure to agree a level at which to cap Russian oil prices have been weighing on the market, with analysts at ING pointing to the recent weakness as a reason why further supply cuts "cannot be ruled out".

Amrita Sen, co-founder

of consultancy Energy Aspects, told bank Jefferies that she did not expect OPEC+ to change tack yet.

Energy Aspects expects OPEC+ to return some barrels to the market after the second quarter of next year in order to balance supply and demand.

UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said that while a lack of clarity on Russian supplies may prompt OPEC+ to rollover its current quotas, weaker Chinese demand and the potential for new releases from the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) may prompt the group to cut further.

## Airtel Kenya eating into giant Safaricom voice market share

NAIROBI

Safaricom's dominance of the voice market plunged to a two-year low while that of Airtel rose to a record high, highlighting the increasing competition between these telcos.

Data from the Communications Authority (CA) shows that Safaricom's dominance of the market fell to 64.2 percent in the three months ended September, a 1.9 percentage points drop from a similar period ended June.

Airtel grew its share to a record high of 33.7 percent, a rise of 1.6 percentage points from the three months ended June as the telco rode on lower tariffs to eat into Safaricom's dominance.

The last time Safaricom's share of voice was lower than the latest figure was 62.1 percent in June 2020.

The drop in Safaricom's market share saw talk-time across all the mobile networks fall to 18.9 billion minutes from 19.2 billion minutes in the three months ended June as callers shifted to cheaper internet calls.

"The decline is attributed to the increased preference and uptake of

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) services (especially in urban areas where fast Internet connections are readily available)," the CA says in the latest report.

VoIP platforms enable calls through internet and include WhatsApp, Skype, Zoom and Facebook Messenger.

The CA data shows that customers spent 12.14 billion minutes on Safaricom's network in the period under review, a 4.36 percent drop from 12.69 billion minutes in the three months ended June.

Airtel callers spent 6.36 billion minutes, a 3.8 percent rise from 6.13 billion minutes in the three months ended June while callers on Telkom Kenya talked for 370.57 million minutes from 341.4 million in June.

Safaricom's dominance has been falling from 70.4 percent in December last year to 67.8 percent in March.

The CA also attributed the drop in Safaricom's dominance to the cheaper calling rates offered by its rivals.

Safaricom, Airtel and Telkom opted for an out-of-court settlement on the charges for interconnecting mobile calls in August, cutting the fees to Sh0.58 per minute from Sh0.99.

# GMO jitters hit Kenya horticulture exports to Europe

VNAIROBI

European buyers of Kenya's horticultural produce are raising concern over the country's lifting of the ban on genetically modified organisms (GMO), forcing exporters to carry out extra certification to confirm that the products have not been enhanced by the technology.

Fresh Produce Consortium of Kenya Chief Executive Officer Okisegere Ojepat says the queries they are facing from customers are on whether what they are exporting is still GMO-free.

GMO is yet to be fully adopted by the European Union and there have been concerns before from the continent when Kenya wanted to introduce biotechnology flowers to the market.

"We are being questioned to confirm whether



GMO jitters hit Kenya's horticulture exports to Europe. PHOTO | POOL

er what we are selling to our European customers is GMO or non-GMO and we are required to show proof through additional certification," said Mr Ojepat.

Mr Ojepat said though GMO is a good technology for boosting food production, politics surrounding it since the lifting of the ban have caused confusion all over.

The European Union still accounts for the largest ratio of Kenyan horticultural exports taking in 45 per cent of the sales majorly comprising cut flowers, French beans, snow peas and

Asian vegetables.

"There is no clarity so far from the government on what is going on and this is causing confusion. We need clarity from the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) to give comfort to the country and the world just to ensure that our trading partners are aware of Kenya's position," said Mr Ojepat.

He said the country has not been known to be a GMO State and now with the lifting of the ban, there is a need to show certification that in all shipments for export, there are no GMO traces.

"What customers are insisting on now is a declaration that what we are exporting is not GMO and by all means, it should not have traces of GMO," he said.

The court last week stopped the importation and distribution of GMO products in the country after activists challenged the move by the government.

The Cabinet had last month lifted a decade-old ban on GMO products to allow the importation and growth of biotechnology products in the country.

Kenya has already earmarked

a million acres to be put under GMO crops in the next planting season.

Last year, NBA stopped planting GMO flowers after it emerged that allowing its cultivation would hit the country's exports to Europe, Kenya's main market for horticulture produce.

The government sees the adoption of GMO technology as a means of addressing high food prices that are currently the result of drought and poor crop yields.

## Global central banks brace for 'Greenflation'

BANGKOK

Climate change and the energy transition are becoming top of mind for central bank policymakers as they grapple with volatile energy prices and the effects of more frequent extreme weather events.

The shift to green energy may be "inflationary and even slightly stagflationary," Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said Friday, speaking virtually on a panel at a central bank conference in Bangkok. "I stress might, we don't know yet."

"Looking through" green transition-induced inflation "would be a seductive monetary policy but it's probably the risky one," he said Friday. "So we will have to react, but not to overreact."

Climate-related shocks – either on the demand or supply-side – may also stoke inflation, the World Bank's M. Ayhan Kose said on the same panel. Central banks might have to "reassess" monetary policy frameworks, inflation targets or both.

Policymakers are exploring avenues to manage risks associated with climate change and the price impacts of a transition to greener energy. Earlier this year, European Central Bank Executive Board member Isabel Schnabel said inflation forecasts may need to be revised upward as EU countries try to reduce CO2 emissions.

The risks to emerging-market economies are greater, Kose said on Friday, highlighting the need to provide resources to lower-income nations. "There is tension between emerging markets and developed markets on climate finance," he said. "We need to be honest about the essence of the challenge we face, and that is financing."

# S. Africa trails emerging-market peers over Ramaphosa scandal

JOHANNESBURG

Five years ago, Cyril Ramaphosa's ascent to power fueled a euphoric rally in South Africa's assets that coined a new word: Ramaphoria. On Thursday, a financial scandal threatened to end it all in a rout.

The nation's currency posted its worst one-day loss since May while the government's borrowing costs surged the most since 2015, as the president considers resigning over potential breaches of the constitution related to the theft of \$580,000 stashed at a game farm he owns.

Options traders bet on the wildest currency volatility in two years, and the cost to hedge against a sovereign default jumped the most in the same period.

The reversal marks a stark contrast to the market reaction between November 2017 and February 2018 when Ramaphosa emerged as the replacement for the scandal-ridden tenure of Jacob Zuma. His reform agenda and clean image helped fuel a

27% rally in the rand in that period.

Money managers now say he failed to deliver the policy changes required to ignite growth in the country, considered a bellwether for emerging markets. Rampant unemployment at about 33% and a continued mess in the electricity sector have lowered markets' confidence in him, with the latest political crisis pushing them over the edge.

"The market dreads political instability and often prefers to go with the devil they know than the devil they don't," said Cristian Maggio, the head of portfolio and ESG Strategy at TD Securities in London. "But Ramaphosa's reform agenda has been underwhelming to say the least. Doubts will remain as to whether another candidate can kick-start that process, but we surely know that Ramaphosa is unlikely to deliver what is needed."

The leadership crisis sent the rand as much as 4.2% lower to 17.9596 per dollar, at one point

set for the biggest one-day loss since November 2016. The currency trimmed some of those losses to end the session down 2.6% to a three-week low at 17.6574.

The rand held losses as government spokesman Vincent Mgwanya said in a televised briefing a response by the president is "imminent" without giving timing details for the address.

"The probability of Ramaphosa lasting another full term looks very low to me now," said Kieran Curtis, director of investment at abrdn in London.

South Africa's currency is no stranger to routs triggered by political drama. It dropped as much as 5.2% on Dec. 9, 2015, when President Zuma fired the then Finance Minister Nhlanelo Nene and replaced him with a little-known lawmaker. The rand plunged 9.2% in five days through April 3, 2017, as Zuma dumped another finance minister, Pravin Gordhan.

Thursday's losses in South Africa came amid gains in global



stocks, bonds and currencies after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled the central bank may slow the pace of monetary tightening and a Chinese official in charge of pandemic controls indicated strict rules may be relaxed.

In South Africa, though, the latest scandal will likely continue to weigh

on markets, with traders looking ahead to a meeting of the ANC's top leaders expected on Friday.

"A reprieve, let alone a rebound, is unlikely until uncertainty about the future of Mr. Ramaphosa and the ANC's leadership lifts," Jason Tuvey, a senior EM economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a note.

# Saudi central bank steps up efforts to ease liquidity crunch

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's central bank has stepped up the use of a mechanism to pump money into the financial system as it looks to tackle a liquidity crunch that has helped push borrowing costs for lenders to the highest in decades, according to people familiar with the matter.

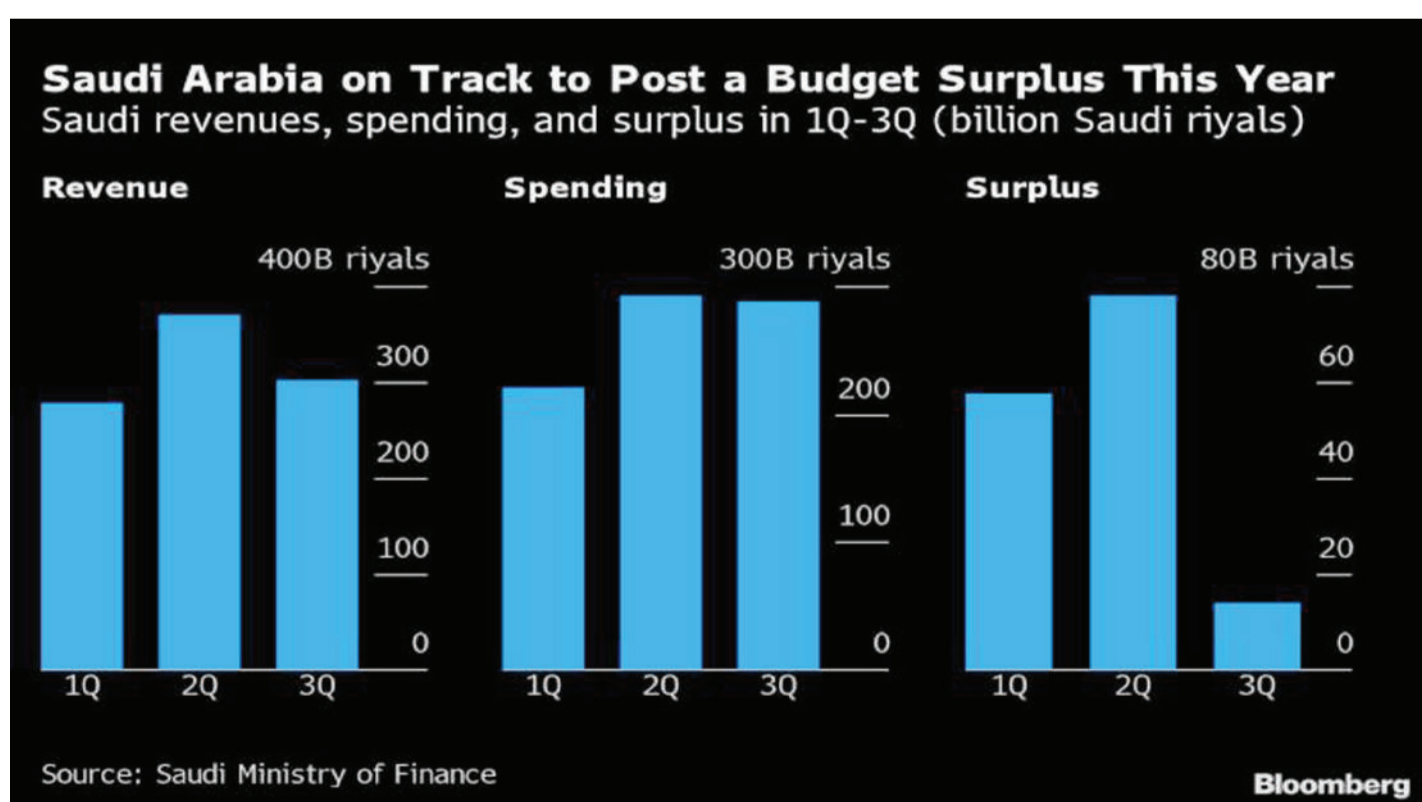
The latest intervention is relying on open market operations, the people said, transactions that allow the central bank to provide or drain short-term liquidity in exchange for securities from lenders.

Unusually for a period of high oil prices, Saudi banks are facing a shortage of liquidity. A rapid rise in lending that's not been matched by deposit growth has left banks clamoring for funding. Meanwhile, an expected influx of government deposits from soaring crude receipts has not materialized and a previous central bank liquidity injection provided only temporary relief.

The monetary authority has stepped up its use of open market operations over the past few weeks to tackle the issue, the people said, asking not be named because the information is private. The effort by SAMA, as the central bank is known, helped stabilize the interest rate banks charge one another for loans, though it remains near a record high.

SAMA didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Policymakers are trying a new tack months after bank liquidity came under unprecedented pressure as an expansion of credit outpaced deposit growth and Saudi



Arabia largely matched four successive 75 basis-point rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve to maintain its currency peg against the dollar.

Bloomberg Intelligence says: "Small bouts of cash injections by the central bank are only a band-aid fix to structural liquidity issues faced by banks. SAMA should not be seen as the main source of funding, its policy should encourage banks to rely

on more sustainable sources of financing like tapping into capital markets and securitizing mortgages."

Around June, the Saudi central bank placed about 50 billion riyals (\$13 billion) as deposits with commercial lenders, Bloomberg reported at the time. The injection of funds at a discount to the three-month Saudi Interbank Offered Rate, or Saibor, eased liquidity conditions through the summer

before they started to tighten again.

The funding stress intensified in October, with the three-month Saibor peaking at a record of just under 6%. It's since dropped by nearly half a point even as Saudi Arabia followed the Fed again in November and raised its policy rates by 75 basis points. The rate fell to 5.37% on Thursday, the lowest since Oct. 23.

"Higher policy rates are partly to blame

for the higher Saibor rates but a domestic liquidity squeeze is adding to the pressures," said Farouk Soussa, an economist at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. "Banks are competing strongly for market share through aggressive loan-book expansion which is happening at a rate that far exceeds deposit growth."

Saudi authorities are trying to assert control over the cost of money for banks because the liquidity crunch threatens to undermine their ability to fund the kingdom's construction pipeline estimated at over \$400 billion over the next five years, according to MEED data, part of an economic makeover to diversify away from oil.

Fitch Ratings warned this month that lending growth risks decelerating next year if the central bank doesn't step in with further liquidity support. Higher interbank rates can also ricochet across the economy by boosting the cost of borrowing for consumers and businesses.

Pressure in the kingdom's banking system has been building by a degree unmatched except during periods when oil prices were crashing or global crises like the credit crunch of 2008-2009.

This year, by contrast, Saudi Arabia is on track to run its first budget surplus in about a decade after seeing revenues soar on the back of a rally in oil prices above \$100 and higher production.

Earlier this year, the government said it would hold billions of dollars worth of windfall revenue in a current account until the end of the year and only then decide how to distribute it.



## WORLD

## 'Racism must be confronted after controversy'

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Thursday that the country had made progress in tackling racism but that it was "never done" and must still be confronted, following a controversy involving Prince William's godmother.

On Wednesday, a member of the British royal family's household left her role after making "unacceptable and deeply regrettable" comments about

race and nationality to a woman at a grand reception at Buckingham Palace, a spokesperson said.

Ngozi Fulani, who was born in Britain and works for a domestic abuse support group, wrote on Twitter that the royal aide had repeatedly asked her: "What part of Africa are you from?" when she attended an event hosted by King Charles's wife Camilla, the queen consort, on Tuesday.

British media identified the royal aide



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak waves as he poses outside to door to 10 Downing Street in central London, on Oct 25, 2022. AFP

as Lady Susan Hussey, the 83-year-old godmother of King Charles's son and heir Prince William.

Speaking to Sky News, Sunak declined to comment on the incident directly but said he had experienced racism growing up in Britain.

"The racism I experienced as a kid and a young person I don't think would happen today because our

country's made incredible progress in tackling racism," he said.

"But the job is never done and that's why whenever we see it we must confront it and it's right that we continually learn the lessons and move to a better future."

William and his wife Kate are currently in Boston.

Agencies

## World food prices ease further in November, says FAO

PARIS

THE United Nations food agency's world price index fell marginally in November, marking an eighth straight monthly fall since a record high in March after the conflict in Ukraine started.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 135.7 points last month, down from 135.9 for October, the agency said on Friday.

The October figure was unchanged from the FAO's previous estimate.

Lower readings for cereals, meat and dairy products in November offset higher prices for vegetable oils and sugar, the FAO said.

Last month's agreement to prolong a UN-backed grain export channel from Ukraine for another 120 days has tempered worries about disruption to massive Black Sea trade.

The slight decrease in No-

vember meant that the FAO food index is now only 0.3 percent above its level a year earlier, the agency said.

The indicator, however, remains at historically high levels after reaching a 10-year peak in 2021 owing to harvest setbacks and brisk demand.

The FAO warned last month that expected record food import costs in 2022 would lead the poorest countries to cut back on shipped volumes.

In separate cereal supply and demand estimates, the FAO lowered its forecast for global cereal production in 2022 to 2.756 billion tonnes from 2.764 billion estimated last month.

The forecast was 2 percent below the estimated output for 2021 and would mark a three-year low, the FAO said.

The downward revision to the global cereal crop projection mainly reflected weak maize (corn) prospects in Ukraine, with the conflict making post-harvest operations prohibitively expensive, it said.



Yemenis displaced by the conflict, receive food aid and supplies to meet their basic needs, at a camp in Hays district in the war-ravaged western province of Hodeida on Aug 31, 2022. AFP

Projected world cereal stocks by the end of the 2022/23 season were revised down by 1.1 million tonnes to 839 million tonnes, 2.2 percent below the previous season and the lowest level for three years.

The 2022/23 global cereal stock-to-use ra-

tio, often used as a supply indicator, would drop to its lowest since 2013/14, but at a forecast 29.3 percent it would still represent a relatively comfortable level, the FAO added.

Agencies

## 'Early flu season, COVID-19, RSV causes for concern in Europe'

COPENHAGEN / LOS ANGELES

EUROPEAN health leaders on Thursday voiced their concern over a potential surge in respiratory virus infections across the region this winter, and called for better protection of the population, especially the most vulnerable.

As concerns over the spread of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) increase and COVID-19 remains a threat, the 2022-2023 influenza (flu) season has gotten off to an early start in the European region, according to a joint statement issued by European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge and Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Andrea Ammon.

"The World Health Organization Europe region is currently experiencing increasing

circulation of influenza and RSV. Together with COVID-19, these viruses are expected to have a high impact on our health services and populations this winter," the statement said.

It highlighted the current influenza viruses (A and B), which are rising in circulation in different parts of the region, among all age groups. Those aged 55 years and older are particularly vulnerable. They have accounted for almost half of all reported influenza hospital admissions since Oct.

Another cause for concern is the spike in RSV, a common respiratory virus that causes bronchitis or pneumonia and can be fatal, particularly in infants and the elderly. RSV cases have "also been on the rise since Oct, with some 20 countries and areas experiencing intensified RSV activity."

While case rates, hospital and intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and death rates



are all currently low compared to the previous 12 months, there are concerns that "this situation could change as new variants emerge, and the disease continues to strain healthcare resources."

"With the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the circulation and health impact of other respiratory pathogens, it is challenging to predict how the new winter

period will develop," the statement said.

The leaders also recommend that clinicians consider early antiviral treatments and prophylaxis for influenza, RSV and COVID-19 for those at risk of severe disease in order to prevent severe outcomes and reduce the burden on healthcare systems.

"We cannot say it enough: vaccination saves lives. It de-

creases the chances of being infected and reduces the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and seasonal influenza," the document said.

United States

COVID-19 cases in Los Angeles County, the most populous county in the United States, have surged to highest levels since summer wave, local media reported on Thursday, citing official data.

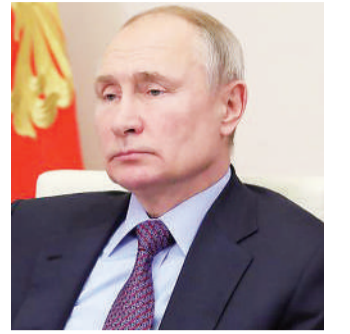
COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates have risen dramatically through the last half of Nov in Los Angeles County, reported the Los Angeles Times, the biggest newspaper on US West Coast.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Los Angeles County was reporting 11.9 new coronavirus-positive patients every week for every 100,000 residents. That's a 38 percent increase from last week's rate of 8.6, according to the report.

## Putin's credibility rating above 78%, pollster reveals

MOSCOW

THE level of trust towards President Vladimir Putin among Russians over the past week has inched back by 0.6 percentage points to 78.1%, the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VTsIOM) said yesterday.



"When asked about trust towards Putin, 78.1% of the respondents answered in the affirmative (0.6 percentage point down over the past week), while the level of approval of the president's activities was at 74.1% (down 0.9 percentage point per week), the pollster said.

The Russian government's performance is approved by 48% (down 1.1 percentage points), and that of Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin by 51.6% (down 1.2 percentage points). That said, 61.2% said they trusted Mishustin (down 0.8 percentage points).

The respondents also expressed their attitude towards the leaders of parliamentary parties. Thus, 30.4% (down 3.3 points) trust the chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, Gennady Zyuganov, while trust in Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth was at 29.6% (down 2.3 points). That said, 10.2% (up 1.5 points) backed the leader of the New People party Alexey Nechayev, and 16.2% (down 0.3 points) had faith in LDPR leader Leonid Slutsky.

The level of support for United Russia was at 38.2% (down 0.6 points) while the Communist Party's rating came in at 10.4% (down 0.3 points). Approval figures for New People stood at 4.9% (up 0.2 points), and for LDPR those stats came in at 8.5% (down 0.4 points), with A Just Russia - For Truth getting a 6% approval rating (up 0.4 points).

The survey was conducted on November 21 through November 27. An audience of 1,600 adult men and women was polled.

## UNECA official stresses importance of building ICT infrastructure in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Jean-Paul Adam underscored the importance of building the information and communication sector infrastructure in Africa.

Jean-Paul made the comments during a session at the ongoing Internet Governance Forum taking place in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, that runs until Friday, the UNECA said in a statement issued late Wednesday.

The UNECA official emphasized the crucial importance of providing access to information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in Africa.

"Africa has the lowest implementation of appropriate capacity development aspects with only 25 percent of citizens having access to basic ICT skills," Adam said.

The UNECA is working with the government of Rwanda to establish a regional center of excellence on education from science to technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics to support curriculum development with a particular focus on ICT across the continent at the early education level, he added.

According to Adam, building the information and communication sector infrastructure in Africa will play a crucial role in addressing the digital divide at the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2023.

The WSIS Forum 2023 is scheduled to be held from March 13 to 17 next year at the International Telecommunication Union headquarters in Geneva under the theme "WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs." This year's edition of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF-2022), which kicked off on Monday and runs through Friday, is being held under the theme "Resilient Internet for a Shared, Sustainable, and Common Future."

According to the UN, the IGF-2022 is in particular putting a spotlight on the African continent, which is the least connected, with 60 percent of the population offline due to a combination of reasons.

The UN, in a statement regarding the ongoing forum, said there is immense potential in empowering the youth to thrive in the digital economy and leapfrogging technologies.

It also said that for a staggering 2.7 billion people, many of them living in developing and least developed countries, meaningful connectivity remains elusive.

**Africa has the lowest implementation of appropriate capacity development aspects with only 25 percent of citizens**

ZENGHOUI chime bells, an ancient Chinese musical instrument with a history of more than 2,400 years, has gained new vigor and enjoys great popularity in the modern world, thanks to the country's burgeoning digital technologies and cultural and creative industry.

Excavated in 1978 from the tomb of Zenghouyi, or Marquis Yi, a ruler of the Zeng State during the Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 B.C.), in Suizhou city, central China's Hubei province, the ancient Chinese musical instrument represents the pinnacle of bronze musical instruments-making in the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.) of China.

It is by far the largest, heaviest, best-preserved, and finest set of chime bells ever unearthed in China and has the most complete temperament and range among all chime bells

## 2,400-year-old chime bells glows with new vigour in modern world

unearthed in the country.

More importantly, the racks and bells of the instrument bear inscriptions consisting of a total of 3,755 Chinese characters, which contain rich and complete knowledge of music.

The chime bells is now the most precious treasure of the Hubei Provincial Museum in Wuhan City, the capital of Hubei province.

Today, in addition to watching and learning about the ancient percussion instrument at the museum, people can also buy cultural and creative products featuring the chime bells, "play" it with the help of digital technologies including holographic projection, and enjoy chime bell performances given by the Hubei Provincial Museum Chime Bell Orchestra.

"Zenghouyi chime bells is a symbol of China's rites and music culture and has been the most valuable piece of intellectual property, which has facilitated our efforts to build cultural and creative brands," said Wang Liang, director of the museum's marketing department and deputy head of the orchestra.

According to Wang, the museum began to develop chime bell-themed creative and cultural products in the 1990s. At first, it made full-size replicas and miniature versions of the chime bells, which were very popular in both the domestic and overseas markets. Then, the museum rolled out stationery and daily necessities featuring the ancient musical instrument, which have also been well received.

The application of digital technologies has "brought the chime bells to life". In the experience zone of the museum's comprehensive exhibition hall, the chime bells is projected holographically so that visitors can "play" it with their hands. With the help of a virtual reality (VR) headset and hand shank, visitors can "perform" on chime bells according to the prompts of the digital system, immersing themselves in the charm of the cultural relic.

On the eve of the 2022 Chinese Lunar New Year, the Hubei Provincial Museum, China Media Group, as well as other organizations, jointly launched a new media-based interactive project that allows people to "strike" the Zenghouyi chime bells remotely using their mobile

phones.

In 1978, when the chime bells was unearthed, a concert was held in Suizhou to test its musical function. The original Zenghouyi chime bells was used to play a famous music composition, and the performance impressed the world. Since then, the original cultural relic has been put under protection. Only its replicas have been used for performances.

In 1983, a complete replica of the chime bells unearthed was made and the Hubei Provincial Museum set up a team to perform on it, which later became the Hubei Provincial Museum Chime Bell Orchestra. Over the past more than 30 years, the orchestra has received more than 10 million visitors from home and abroad. **People's Daily**



# US gun violence claims over 1 million lives amid rampant firearm abuse, proliferation

WASHINGTON

THE United States has seen over 1 million firearm fatalities over the past three decades with the death rates reaching a 28-year high in 2021, amid a surge in both gun violence and ownership.

There were 1,110,421 deaths related to firearms in the country from 1990 to 2021, nearly 86 percent of them among males, according to a recent study released in the JAMA Network Open, an open-access medical journal published by the American Medical Association.

The death rates per 100,000 people per year, after reaching a low of 10.1 in 2004, began to climb back up, eventually increasing by 45.5 percent to 14.7 in 2021.

"Firearm fatalities accelerated dramatically during the COVID pandemic," said Eric Fleegler, one of the authors, who takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

"Multiple potential factors have likely contributed to this including severe economic distress, an erupting mental health crisis, and a significant uptick in the sale of firearms," said Fleegler, associate professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School and emergency medicine physician at Boston Children's Hospital.

## DISPARITIES

The study has also underlined increasing disparities in firearm fatality rates among racial and ethnic groups.

Homicides were most common among Black non-Hispanic men aged 20 to 40 years, and suicides were most common among White non-Hispanic men aged 70 years or older.

Disparities in maximum fatality rates per 100,000 people per year among females were highest by homicide, with Black non-Hispanic females dying in 2021 at a maximum rate of 18.2 fatalities, Hispanic females at 3.7 fatalities, and White non-Hispanic females at 2.2 fatalities.

The increase among women -- most dramatically, in Black women -- is playing a tragic and under-recognized role in a tally that skews overwhelmingly male, the researchers said, according to the Associated Press.

"Women can get lost in the discussion because so many of the fatalities are men," said Fleegler.

## GUN CONTROL STALEMATE

The study came on the heels of a pair of high-profile mass shootings in the United States, which rekindled debate on the country's gun policies.

Last week, a night-shift manager at a Walmart in Chesapeake, Virginia, opened fire inside the supermarket, killing six and injuring four others before taking his own life. Days earlier, a gunman wielded an AR-15-style rifle, killing five while injuring 19 others at a nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"I'm sick and tired of these shootings," U.S. President Joe Biden said last week. "We should have much stricter gun laws."

However, it is unlikely for a ban on assault weapons to be approved by the U.S. Congress in the near future. Republicans will take control of the House of Rep-



People gather during a rally decrying rising gun violence while urging politicians to take action in Washington, D.C., the United States, June 11, 2022. Xinhua

resentatives next term, making it almost impossible for gun control legislation to go through the chamber.

In the Senate, though Democrats held onto their majority, they don't have enough votes to overcome the filibuster to pass new gun regulations.

After the new Congress convenes early next year, Republicans on Capitol Hill are likely to go toe-to-toe with Democrats on gun issues.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, tweeted on Thursday that he will seek to "strengthen the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms."

## RIISING GUN OWNERSHIP

About a third of American adults say they personally own a gun, according to the Pew Research Center.

The United States has more guns than any other country, with estimated over 400 million guns between police, the military and American civilians. Over 393

million -- over 98 percent -- of those guns are in civilian hands, the equivalent of 120 firearms per 100 citizens.

The number continues to grow each year.

Firearms sales surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 7.5 million new firearm owners, and 5.4 million homes previously without firearms now contain firearms, the study in the JAMA Network Open said, adding that the increase was associated with the exposure of more than 16 million people to firearms in the home for the first time.

Last week, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an American national trade association for the firearms industry, said federal authorities had completed 711,372 background checks for the purchase of a firearm at retail during the week leading up to and including "Black Friday."

The day after Thanksgiving in the United States, Black Friday is traditionally the best gun sales day of a year, and last Friday was bested by only two other recent

Black Fridays in 2017 and 2019.

Advocates of gun control in the country have pointed a finger at firearm manufacturers and a federal law that protects them from being held liable when crimes have been committed with their products.

"While families across the country sat with empty seats at their dinner tables and mourned their loved ones stolen by gun violence, the gun industry -- an industry with unique legal protections that shield it from accountability -- made record sales," Everytown for Gun Safety, an American nonprofit organization which advocates for gun control and against gun violence, tweeted on Thursday.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, in the first 11 months of this year, the United States has suffered at least 618 mass shootings, defined by the nonprofit as one in which at least four people are shot, excluding the shooter. Last year, the country saw a staggering number of 690 mass shootings, up from 610 in 2020 and 417 in 2019.

Xinhua

# Lavrov blames US for leaking spy bosses' 'confidential' meeting in Turkey

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON insisted on the confidentiality of the communication channel between CIA Director William Burns and Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Director Sergey Naryshkin, but information was immediately leaked when the American delegation arrived in Ankara, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a press conference on European security issues.

"The Americans themselves told us ten times: that this should be an absolutely confidential channel, we should not announce it so that no one knows anything, that it should be serious, that it, this channel, should not be subject to any foreign propaganda, information intrigues and so on. We agreed.

But as soon as they arrived in Ankara it was immediately leaked, I do not know where from, the White House or the State Department, but it was leaked," Russia's top diplomat emphasized.

Lavrov noted that afterwards, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Director Sergey Naryshkin had to discuss the meeting publicly and list the issues touched upon, including nuclear security, strategic stability and the situation in Ukraine. According to Lavrov, the talks between the intelligence chiefs were organized at the initiative of the American side.



# 'Energy Valley' in Beijing drives innovative development of energy industry

AN "Energy Valley" located in the Future Science City in Beijing's Changping district, being home to many energy enterprises and new-type research and development (R&D) institutions with top-ranking innovation and R&D capacity, has provided support for innovative development of China's new energy industry.

Through vigorous construction and development, the "Energy Valley" has attracted more than 300 R&D institutions and enterprises to move in, and gathers more than 10,000 sci-tech talents, emerging as a core area for supporting development of the advanced energy sector under Beijing's top 10 high-end industries.

The diversity in the mainstay of innovation, concentration of innovation platforms, a sound environment for innovation and a solid industrial foundation are the characteristics of the development of the advanced energy industry in the "Energy Valley."

Multiple innovative technologies developed in the "Energy Valley" have reached the world advanced level.

At the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, 150 hydrogen-powered buses were put into use, accomplishing more than 7,000 transportation tasks involving more than 160,000 people. The fuel cells in the vehicles were developed and built by the State Power Investment Corporation Limited, which has entered the "Energy Valley," and the raw materials and spare parts in the vehicles are all independently developed.

At present, the "Energy Valley" has established a complete industrial chain covering production of hydrogen, storage of hydrogen, hydrogen fuel cells, engines and



A vehicle serving the 2022 Beijing Winter Games is fueled with green hydrogen at a hydrogen refueling station in Beijing's Yanqing district in January 2022. The facility is the first oil-hydrogen station in Yanqing district built by Sinopec Beijing Oil Products Company. (Photo by Hu Qingming/People's Daily Online)

electric vehicles. Apart from hydrogen, energy Internet is and will be a major focus of the "Energy Valley" at present and for a certain period of time in the future.

"Some 48 enterprises in the 'Energy Valley' are engaged in energy Internet, with their fields of specialization in the sector covering intelligent grid, ultra-high voltage transmission, power generation by clean energy, etc. The technologies have overall reached an internationally advanced level," said Jin Xin, head of the service department of the management committee of the Future Science City.

Jin expressed that the "Energy Valley" will focus on construction of a high ground for Internet innovation, an industrial cluster and an exchange center, and promote in-depth integration of the Internet and energy production, transportation, storage, consumption, and market.

The innovative capacity of the "Energy Valley" is also re-

flected through R&D of an array of technologies.

The Clean Energy Research Institute of China Huaneng Group, a major state-owned power company in China, has developed a flexible photovoltaic (PV) technology which can well adapt to terrain conditions and raise land utilization efficiency, thus lowering costs associated with and improving efficiency of photovoltaic projects and achieving ecological synergy.

A future-oriented flexible transformer substation developed by the Smart Grid Research Institute of the State Grid Corporation of China (State Grid), which can efficiently convert different forms of voltage and electric current and receive and distribute electrical energy in a flexible and controllable manner, has improved the conversion efficiency for alternating current and direct current.

The smart grid inspection technology has helped ensure safety of the grid. In the past,

maintenance of transmission lines relied on manual work. Nowadays, thanks to the application of the smart grid inspection technology, drones and artificial intelligence (AI) platforms play a big part in inspection and maintenance of transmission lines.

"The successful implementation of the smart grid inspection technology will vigorously promote in-depth integration of AI and the electric power business, advance cooperation between the upstream and downstream of the industrial chain of the domestic AI industry, generate new technological means for management of the power grid, and push forward upgrading of AI products and technologies, as well as their application in such industries as oil and gas exploration and transportation," said Liu Siyan, an engineer from the Computing and Application Research Institute of the Smart Grid Research Institute of the State Grid.

The smart grid inspection technology can timely solve problems, while high-resolution corrosion mapping can better prevent problems from occurring.

To prevent power grid corrosion, the State Grid has established experiment stations in 2,393 places across the country, carrying out experiments and environmental monitoring and collecting more than 40,000 pieces of data on corrosion of equipment and materials, as well as several million pieces of data on corrosive environment.

The high-resolution corrosion mapping technology has been successfully applied in construction of 6 ultra-high voltage projects, including the Baihetan-Jiangsu ultra-high-voltage power transmission project.

People's Daily

# New UN humanitarian overview gives gloomy outlook for 2023

GENEVA

THE "2023 Global Humanitarian Overview" launched on Thursday by the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other humanitarian partners paints a stark picture of what lies ahead.

At least 222 million people in 53 countries will face acute food insecurity by the end of 2022, with 45 million people in 37 countries risking starvation.

The report shows that public health is still under pressure due to COVID-19, monkeypox, vector-borne diseases and outbreaks of Ebola and cholera, and at the same time climate change is driving up risks and vulnerability.

"By the end of the century, extreme heat could claim as many lives as cancer," it says.

According to the report, it will take four generations, or 132 years, to achieve global gender parity, and globally 388 million women and girls are living in extreme poverty.

As a result of various crises, next year will set another record for humanitarian relief requirements, with 339 million people in need of assistance in 68 countries, an increase of 65 million people compared to last year. The estimated cost of the humanitarian response going into 2023 is 51.5 billion U.S. dollars, a 25 percent increase compared to the beginning of 2022, the report says.

"Humanitarian needs are shockingly high, as this year's extreme events are spilling into 2023," UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said.

"For people on the brink, this 51.5 billion U.S. dollars appeal is a lifeline. For the international community, it is a strategy to make good on the pledge to leave no one behind," he said.

Xinhua



A boy carries buckets of water in Kidemu sub-location in Kilifi County, Kenya, March 23, 2022. Xinhua



Mtibwa Sugar's forward Joseph Mkele (up) battles for possession with Kagera Sugar's central defender Abdallah Mfuko as the sides took on each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League clash held in Morogoro recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

## Fair play is not a rule in footballing world-2

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

Morrison and Metacha endangered the health of the opposing clubs' footballers and were still banned for only three matches.

Chama and Aziz Ki did not endanger the health of fellow players and were still suspended for three matches.

I do not agree with the issue of fair play being put in the rules but even if it is given the green light then the magnitude of the punishment is surprising.

Three-match ban for Simba SC's Chama can deny the Msimbazi Street side the championship which costs millions of money so why would such an offense not warrant a fine?

Football fans outside Tanzania witness what the country's soccer body is doing with fair play, and they must be very surprised.

If Burkina Faso people find out that Aziz Ki returned to the country to rest because he had been suspended for three matches, they will be very surprised.

Three matches total a whole month. If Simba SC and Yanga play every Saturday, it means that Chama and Aziz Ki may be out for a whole month due to fair play. It is funny and I think the country's soccer stakeholders live in a dark world.

At the end of the day, it is funny when people insist that the rules existed before that. The rules were there and some were not read.

However, domestic soccer lovers did not believe when punishment meted out to Aziz Ki and Chama was brought to the table because it did not occur to them that it could be devised by sane people.

I think what is happening is that there was one person who believed that there might be a day when the

players will dislike a certain leader because of his reckless behaviour.

For such members of the soccer body to protect themselves from this shame, they decided to come up with a rule to impose a mandatory handshake and it included the players.

When we return to the pitch, there is one thing that seems funny, when Chama and Aziz Ki's punishment was made public, Yanga's supporters cheered more than their Simba SC counterparts.

It can equally be said Simba SC supporters were sad than their Yanga counterparts.

There are questions I asked myself, does it mean that Simba SC supporters' feelings were deciding an argument that appeared at the beginning of the season about who is better between Chama and Aziz Ki?

Was the argument that Simba SC struggles once the squad plays without Chama, as opposed to Yanga which is not affected by Aziz Ki's absence settled?

This projects the feeling that Simba SC lacks either an alternative skilful midfielder or someone as talented as Chama.

A feeling that Yanga can take the pitch with midfielder Feisal Salum in the place of Aziz Ki and the outfit is hardly affected, whilst Simba SC does not have a such replacement, is quite strong.

Could it be that Yanga is proud of the quality of the outfit's entire squad without caring much about the missing player whereas Simba SC hardly has such quality especially when Chama is missing?

There may be truth in such a notion, especially when a soccer lover looks at how Yanga was still the best on the pitch in Tunisia even before the introduction of Aziz

successfully host it," Mallya pointed out.

"We are asking stakeholders and the corporate world to partner with us to sponsor the championship, it is a win-win situation as their products will enjoy visibility in many countries in the East Africa region, the rest of Africa, and the world at large," he said.

He mentioned Mainland Tanzania clubs that will compete in the championship as JWTZ, JKT, Police, Juyukai, Budokan, and defending champions Magereza.

Mallya pointed out that Kenya will enter Magereza, Police, and Kiambu while Zanzibar outfits are Budokan, Jambiani, and Pemba. Rukunzo and Police will represent Burundi.

He said Uganda has confirmed its participation but has not communicated the names of clubs set to compete in the championship.

## Dar betting firm awards 'Chomoka na Ndinga' promotion winners

By Guardian Correspondent

SPORTS betting firm, Parimatch Tanzania, has officially announced two motorcycle winners of the firm's weekly promotion termed 'Chomoka na Ndinga' taking place during the ongoing World Cup in Qatar.

Parimatch Tanzania's Director Erick Gerald yesterday announced the winners as Elikisai Samuel based in Dar es Salaam and Elgilius Willbroad from Kagera who have won the Hero Hunter 125cc scooters worth more than 1.5m/- apiece.

The firm also handed over Samsung Galaxy A03 Core smartphones to 10 people, of which two winners are found every day.

Parimatch Tanzania's Information Officer Ismael Mohamed noted the promotion is specific to all of the firm's customers who have an account.

According to him, new customers, who will join the 'Chomoka and Ndinga' promotion during World Cup, also have the chance to bet and win a new modern car, a smartphone, and a motorcycle from the promotion.

"If a Parimatch customer predicts any game from November 22-December 26, he/she will enter directly into the draw to compete for an 0-kilometer Urban Cruiser car from the Toyota Tanzania showroom, a Hero Hunter motorcycle 125cc, and a Samsung Galaxy A03 Core smartphone," Mohamed noted.

Mohamed further stated that Parimatch Tanzania will every day



Parimatch Tanzania's Director Erick Gerald (R) speaks at a function for presenting motorcycles to winners of the company's promotion, known as 'Chomoka na Ndinga', which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is one of the promotion's winners Elikisai Samuel (C) and Hero Company's Marketing Officer Norah Mapunda. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

be making two phone calls and the winners will be announced through the firm's social media pages.

The official said the motorcycle prize will be handed over once a week through a draw that will air on the ITV channel in a particular week.

"I should continue to emphasize to gaming stakeholders not to miss this opportunity to participate in our 'Chomoka and Ndinga' promotion because every day we are giving away two smartphones and, at the end of the week, we are giving away two mo-

torbikes," he disclosed.

"At the end of this promotion there will be a big prize of a brand new Urban Cruiser from Toyota," Mohamed added.

The official stated that the car prize will be handed over at the end of the promotion on December 27 when the big draw to find the winner of the car will be held.

Mohamed clarified that part of TVBET games, Live Casino, Casino New, and Virtual games are not allowed to participate in the promotion.

Parimatch Tanzania com-

pany has been offering a great bonus of 100 percent up to 1,000,000/- to new customers who join the firm.

The company has been present in the country since 2019, offering services that include fast payments, great odds, and exciting promotions on football, Casino, and virtual Games.

Apart from backing football, the Parimatch company offers hundreds of events every day in tennis, UFC, basketball, cricket, baseball, and many other Live and pre-match sports.

## Dar company determined to fully support fashion



Models showcase creations by one of the fashion designers in a recent Swahili Fashion Week and Awards which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: SIMON DEINER

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

HEINEKEN Tanzania Limited has said it is determined to fully support the fashion industry in the country, describing it as one of the potential sources of employment among the youth.

Brighton Mkocho, Heineken Tanzania Limited's Distribution Manager whose firm is one of the sponsors of the Swahili Fashion Week and Awards, stated so recently.

Heineken Tanzania Limited is sponsoring the fashion show through the company's brand, Desperados.

This year's edition of Swahili Fashion Week and Awards gets underway at Parthenon Hall/Greek Hellenic Club in Dar es Salaam today where more than 50 designers from around East Africa and beyond will showcase their creations.

Mkocho said apart from job creation, the fashion industry has the potential to boost the country's economy through exports.

"Desperados believes in diversity inclusion, it is a brand that can be consumed by any person and we are ready to grow together with Swahili Fashion Week and Awards, we want to reach great heights together," he said.

He further said his company is happy with the market response to the Desperados brand.

"The market for our brand is very good, consumers have welcomed us with both hands, with the support we are getting we are sure of reaching all corners of the country," he said.

This year's fashion show marks the 15th edition of Swahili Fashion Week and Awards.

Mustafa Hassanali, Swahili Fashion Week and Awards founder, yesterday said all is set for the event.

The veteran fashion designer disclosed: "All is set for the Swahili Fashion Week and Awards, we are happy that many designers have confirmed to showcase their creations."

Hassanali noted: "We aim to strengthen brand value, championing the 'Made in Africa' con-

cept and building global brands with African roots."

The 15th edition of Swahili Fashion Week and Awards, the designer said, will continue to be the highlight of fashion weeks in Africa with local, regional, and international designers garnering millions of impressions from national and international media since its inception in 2008.

According to the fashion designer, Swahili Fashion Week and Awards has been the premier creative platform for designers from Swahili-speaking countries and beyond who showcase their collections to a global audience at par.

The designer noted: "The platform intends to encourage talented designers to use it as a stepping stone to the next level into the fashion world."

"We also have the Washington Benbella Emerging Designers Competition, where 15 young and talented designers will be able to showcase their innovative and creative designs to the world," he said.

National Arts Council (BA-

SATA) Executive Secretary Kedmon Mapana said at the launch of this year's edition that the government is committed to supporting the creative industry as it is the source of employment for many people.

He disclosed that plans are underway to see that next year the government and Swahili Fashion Week and Awards have joined forces for something unique.

The official noted: "The government is committed to seeing that the creative industry is fully used as a source of employment to our youths."

"We are closing working together with Swahili Fashion Week and Awards, next year we will come up with something very big," he said.

The Swahili Fashion Week and Awards is organized by 361 Degrees, hosted by Onomo Hotel Dar es Salaam and sponsored by the Italian Embassy in Tanzania, Desperado, Hugo Domingo, Fashion Association of Tanzania (FAT), National Arts Council (BA-SATA), and others.

## JATA solicits sponsorship for Eastern Africa Judo Club Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

JUDO Association of Tanzania (JATA) has appealed to the game's stakeholders and well-wishers to come forward and support the association with finances and materials so that it can successfully host the Eastern Africa Judo Championship slated for next weekend in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

Innocent Mallya, JATA secretary-general, said the association needs 45m/- to successfully host the championship which is slated to take place from December 10-11 at a venue to be announced later.

He said the championship has attracted clubs from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar, and Mainland Tanzania.

"We will host the Eastern Africa Judo Championship next week but currently we don't have the money to

## Belgium's golden generation is over, where now for Martinez?

DOHA, Qatar

HIS eyes welling up, Roberto Martinez said his goodbyes and left, his next whereabouts unknown. It is the end of an era for Belgium's golden generation. But for the man who led it to third place at the 2018 World Cup, it is the beginning of something new.

A return to club soccer is on Martinez' horizon after his six years in charge of Belgium ended in elimination at the group stage in Qatar with a goalless draw against Croatia on Thursday.

Precisely which club remains to be seen and may be dependent on how the Spanish coach's time with Belgium's most celebrated group of players is assessed.

"I know some people only see a legacy by winning a major tournament. I see it in a different way," said Martinez, who was appointed in 2016. "I'm extremely proud, I love the way the team has played. The real fans in Belgium appreciate it. But it's the time for me to leave."

Martinez said he "wanted to give it another go," at this World Cup, but that ultimately ended in disappointment at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium and likely recrimination in the coming days.

Belgium is not the first team to be given the tag of "Golden Generation" only to then be accused of failing to live up to expectations.

England's class of David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney came up short in successive major tournaments. Former coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was blamed for wasting the talent at his disposal after bowing out of two World Cups and one European Championship, each at the quarterfinals stage, during his reign from 2001 to 2006.

There is a sense of Belgium also being a missed opportunity, making it difficult to pitch what level he returns to in club soccer after managing Swansea, Wigan and Everton previously.

He has had his chances to leave Belgium in the past and was linked with jobs at Aston Villa, Everton and Tottenham.

His family home is still in Wigan in the northwest of England and the Premier League is said to be his preference.

Martinez will do well to find a club that contains as much quality as he oversaw with Belgium, where he coached world class talents like Eden Hazard and Kevin de Bruyne, as well as the country's all-time leading scorer Romelu Lukaku.

AP

## Spain in recovery mode after losing to Japan at World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

IT'S not how Spain imagined reaching the knockout phase of the World Cup: finishing the group stage with a loss and having to rely on other teams to help it advance.

Spain survived but heads into the round of 16 against Morocco with bruised confidence after losing 2-1 to Japan.

"We have to recover emotionally," Spain coach Luis Enrique said after the match Thursday. "We will be playing against one of the surprise teams of the World Cup and we will have to be fully prepared. There are only 16 teams left in the tournament and you have to play better. It's going to be very difficult."

Few expected Spain would have such a hard time getting through the group stage in Qatar after opening with a 7-0 thrashing of Costa Rica. It had also played well against Germany despite conceding a late equalizer, and a draw against Japan in the final group game would have been enough to send Spain through to the round of 16.

But after going into what Luis Enrique called "collapse mode" in a five-minute span after halftime, Spain was in danger of an embarrassing early exit, which it avoided thanks to Germany's 4-2 win over Costa Rica in the other Group E match.

Players were anxious on the bench knowing that if Costa Rica won the other match, Spain would be eliminated. Luis Enrique said he would "have had a heart attack" had he known that at one point Costa Rica took the lead over Germany, temporarily pushing Spain out of second place in the group.

It was a big scare, and now La Roja is going into recovery mode ahead of its match against Morocco on Tuesday.

"We have to analyze what happened and fix what we didn't do well," Luis Enrique said. "I need to try to get the players cheered up again."

Spain is trying to win its first major title since the 2012 European Championship. It won its lone World Cup trophy in 2010 in South Africa.

By finishing second in its group, Spain avoided 2018 runner-ups Croatia in the round of 16, and possibly world champion Brazil in quarterfinals and Lionel Messi's Argentina in the semifinals. On its side of the bracket now, Spain has teams like England and defending champion France, which it could meet in the semis.

"It doesn't matter, the opponents keep changing," Luis Enrique said. "We wanted to finish with a win and in first place. There's nothing to celebrate."

The coach made five changes to his lineup from the 1-1 draw against Germany, bringing in Alejandro Balde, Pau Torres, Nico Williams, César Azpilicueta and Álvaro Morata, who scored in the first half for his third goal in as many matches in Qatar. AP

# Messi, Argentina try to avoid World Cup upset vs. Australia

DOHA, Qatar

AUSTRALIA'S players speak in glowing, almost reverential terms about Lionel Messi.

"He just does things that, you know, no one else can do," forward Mathew Leckie said.

Milos Degenek went even further. "Probably," the Socceros defender said, "the best footballer ever to grace the game."

Imagine, then, how they'll be feeling today when they share the same field as Messi and his Argentina team in the last 16 of the World Cup.

These are pinch-yourself times for a group of unheralded players who were expected to be on their way home by this stage of the tournament. Yet here they are in Doha, looking to cause the latest upset in a World Cup that has been full of them — right from the moment Saudi Arabia shocked Argentina in perhaps the most unlikely win in the tournament's 92-year history.

That set the tone for the past two weeks, during which Japan has beaten both Germany and Spain, Morocco has defeated Belgium, Tunisia has beaten France and, let's not forget, Australia has stunned Denmark.

The Australians want to add to that list.

"No one expects us to win," Leckie said. "So let's shock the world."

Don't expect any complacency among the Argentina squad, though. Not after what transpired against Saudi Arabia during the group stage.

"We know, at the moment, everything is very difficult," said Messi,



Argentina's Lionel Messi during the World Cup group C soccer match between Poland and Argentina at the Stadium 974 in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/um 974 in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Darko Bantic)

who is bidding to win the World Cup in his fifth and likely last attempt. "All the opponents are complicated. We know it as well as anyone."

There is a growing feeling, though, that Argentina might have come through the worst of the storm. It is only a week ago that Argentine soccer was going through a period of introspection, digesting one of its most embarrassing results ever.

Then, after an hour of its second group match against Mexico, the Albiceleste were being held 0-0 to raise the genuine prospect of a group-stage exit with a game to spare.

Now, Argentina has qualified as the winner of its group and is facing the world's 38th-ranked nation, which is playing at this stage of the World Cup for only the second time, after 2006. Netherlands or the United States will be the opponent in the quarterfinals.

Up front, Julian Alvarez has dislodged Lautaro Martinez and should keep his place

against Australia, fresh from finishing off a 27-pass sequence for an exquisite second goal against Poland.

The only place that looks up for grabs is at center back, with Lisandro Martinez having dropped out against Poland perhaps so Argentina had a taller player to deal with the aerial threat of Robert Lewandowski.

Given only one player in Australia's 26-man group plays in Europe's top five leagues, it appears to be a mismatch at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium.

For spells of its win over Poland, Argentina played like a team that arrived in Qatar riding a 36-match unbeaten record and as one of the tournament favorites. And then there's the Messi factor, a subplot which is hanging over the World Cup as he looks to win the only major title to elude him in his career.

"I think they're obvi-

ously driven by the motivation that it could be Messi's last World Cup," Degenek said, "and he wants to win the World Cup and end it on a high."

"For us, it's about stopping that. Unfortunately, I'm a big fan of his, but I'd love to win the World Cup probably more than him."

Meanwhile, Gregg Berhalter knows plenty about Dutch soccer — he turned pro in the Netherlands 28 years ago.

He will look to draw on the lessons he learned there when he coaches the United States against Oranje today for a place in the quarterfinals of the World Cup in Qatar.

The Americans have not reached the quarterfinals since 2002. The U.S. was knocked out in the round of 16 in extra-time losses to Ghana in 2010 and Belgium in 2014, then failed to qualify for the 2018 tournament.

"We deserve to be in the position we're in and we want to keep going," Berhalter said. "So for us, it's about how we recover from this game and prepare to play against a very good Dutch team, very well coached, ton of quality all over the field, and we have to come up with an idea of how to beat them."

The United States has played the Netherlands five times previously, all in friendlies, losing at home in 1998 and at Amsterdam in 2004 and 2010. The U.S. rallied for a 4-3 win at Amsterdam Arena in 2015 when Danny Williams equalized in the 88th minute and Bobby Wood scored 96 seconds later.

Berhalter isn't the only person in the U.S. camp with Dutch experience. Right back Sergiño Dest

grew up in the Netherlands. A son of a Dutch mother and American father, who rose to prominence with Ajax, he opted to play for the U.S.

"It's going to be a pretty fun one, playing against the country I was born in," he said. "I know almost every single guy over there."

The U.S. opened its campaign in Qatar with draws against Wales and England, then beat Iran 1-0 on a goal by Christian Pulisic, who bruised his pelvis crashing into the goalkeeper. He hopes to play Saturday.

A losing finalist in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Dutch also failed to reach the 2018 World Cup in Russia. The Netherlands opened this tournament with a 2-0 win over Senegal, tied Ecuador 1-1 and beat host Qatar 2-0 to top Group A.

Louis van Gaal, at 71 the oldest coach at the tournament, is back for his third stint leading Oranje. He guided them to a third-place finish in 2014.

"If you say, well, the final 16 is enough or the quarterfinals is enough, that isn't the right way to do things," he said through a translator.

"The right way to do things is to think that you'll become champion, world champion."

The Netherlands is on an 18-game unbeaten streak since losing to the Czech Republic in the round of 16 at last year's European Championship.

"We have an excellent squad and we have demonstrated that on more than enough occasions," midfielder Frenkie de Jong said through a translator.

AP

## Germany's soul-searching begins after another World Cup flop

AL KHOR, Qatar

ANOTHER World Cup, another flop.

Former soccer power Germany is facing another round of soul-searching after going out of the sport's most important tournament at the first stage for the second time in a row.

Germany's players spoke afterward of good performances and missed chances — as they've done before.

But no one had any real answers to the team's problems.

"There are 25 experts standing together here. You can all advise each other and then agree on a few details," Thomas Müller said after Germany's 4-2 win over Costa Rica on Thursday.

Germany's fate was effectively decided when it lost its first game 2-1 to Japan, then followed up with a 1-1 draw with Spain.

It left Germany at the bottom of Group E and dependent on a favor from Spain. It never came as Japan defeated Spain in its final game to top the group. Spain progressed ahead of Germany on goal difference.

"I never look at another team, it's up to us," Germany coach Hansi

Flick said of relying on Spain. "I think ultimately the sum of everything contributed to us being eliminated. We had enough chances, whether in the first half or the first 60 minutes of the game against Japan, or even at the end against Spain, when we had another huge opportunity. You really have to take those chances."

What Flick failed to mention is that Spain also missed a host of chances to put its game against Germany out of reach before Niclas Füllkrug's late equalizer.

That goal proved to be the highlight for Germany though it proved to be of little worth in yet another disappointing big-stage performance.

"We haven't been able to live up to expectations at the tournaments in recent years, because as a team, I would say we don't really have specialists running around everywhere. We have a lot of players who are very talented. Yes," Müller said before trailing off and leaving those at the emedia conference to finish his thoughts.

Germany, the 2014 World Cup champion, also crashed out during the group phase at the 2018 tournament in Russia. At last year's



Germany's Leroy Sane reacts at the end of the World Cup group E soccer match between Costa Rica and Germany at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022. (AP Photo)

coronavirus-postponed European Championship,

Germany was knocked out in the second round.

"I think really, we can't

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Messi, Argentina try to avoid World Cup upset vs. Australia

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## Dodoma Jiji FC, Ruvu Shooting in an early relegation six-pointer



Ruvu Shooting players participate in a warm-up session ahead of a recent NBC Premier League tie that took place at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**T**WO of 2022/23 NBC Premier League sides meet this evening at Dodoma's Jamhuri Stadium, as Dodoma Jiji FC hosts Ruvu Shooting in a game that could be a six-pointer.

Usually, games that come so early in the campaign are not labeled as 'six pointers' but this game could determine how the rest of the season goes for these two clubs.

Although it is unlikely to decide who ends up relegated at the end of the season it is a

massive game in terms of momentum for both teams.

Without a doubt, as it stands both teams' priority is to avoid a return to the Championship League.

The hosts got off to a horrendous start to the season but they managed two wins in their last four league games.

The 1-0 victory away at Coastal Union on Wednesday, which saw Dodoma Jiji FC striker Rashid Chambo net a dramatic 90th-minute winner,

helped them climb up to 13th place in the table, level on points with Coastal Union placed 12th but only one point above the bottom three.

Maximum points against Ruvu Shooting will take Dodoma Jiji FC to 15 points and temporarily move away from the red zone in the standings.

Forced to host their home games away from Dodoma, the team suffered to register good results with only a win in their six games played at Liti Stadium, Singida.

A return to their home ground in Dodoma is therefore a huge relief to coach Melis Medo's troops.

The visitors hit the ground running in the top flight before suffering a decline in form that has seen them go nine games without tasting victory. The side's head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa is under increasing pressure to stop the rot.

Mkwasa has a huge task on his hands to turn things around at Ruvu Shooting. That is if he is afforded the time to try and get their season back on track.

Away form in the league shows Ruvu Shooting have lost four of their six matches so far.

Scoring goals on the road has been a big problem and Ruvu Shooting has scored just two goals in their five most recent away NBC Premier League games.

This will be the fifth meeting between the two sides. Dodoma Jiji FC won three of the four games and drew the other.

In the teams' two league meetings last season, Dodoma Jiji FC won 1-0 at Jamhuri Stadium in the first half of the campaign, while the return fixture at Mabatini ground in Coast Region ended in a one-all stalemate.

It may be early in the season, but this clash could be a highly relevant one at the end of the season when the relegation places are decided.



Mwinyi Zahera

## Polisi Tanzania unveils Zahera as new head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FORMER Yanga head coach, Mwinyi Zahera, has joined Kilimanjaro-based Polisi Tanzania FC to become the club's new head coach after reaching an agreement with the club's leadership.

Zahera, who was recently the Director of Youth Football Development at Yanga, has joined Polisi Tanzania today, taking the position left by Joslin Bipfubusa, a Burundian national.

The Burundian tactician's contract was terminated on October 26, 2022, three months after he joined it on July 26, due to poor results.

Under the tutelage of the Burundian, Polisi Tanzania played nine matches collecting only five points after winning one, drawing two, and losing six, he was formally dismissed after his club's 2-0 defeat to Tanzania Prisons.

According to Polisi Tanzania's information that has been published on its social media pages, the agreement was reached yesterday in Kilimanjaro after a long discussion and a detailed assessment of the need to do well.

The statement issued by the club's information officer, Frank Lukwaro, asked the outfit's fans and stakeholders to cooperate with the coach in leading the technical bench.

"Polisi Tanzania would like to inform the public and its fans that it has reached an agreement with coach Mwinyi Zahera to become the head coach of our team," the official noted in the statement.

The statement revealed: "An agreement with coach Zahera has been reached today (yesterday) in Kilimanjaro after long negotiations and a detailed evaluation to do well."

"We ask all fans and stakeholders to cooperate with coach Zahera in his duties," the statement added.

After Bipfubusa was sacked, Polisi Tanzania was temporarily under coach John Tamba who led the squad in five Premier League games.

The club had in the five outings garnered a win in one against Ihefu SC, managed a draw with Dodoma Jiji FC, and suffered a loss to Singida Big Stars, Mtibwa Sugar, and Simba SC.

Zahera expects to start new duties to save Polisi Tanzania in which he will lead them for the first time in the upcoming Premier League game against Azam FC which will be played at Ushirika Stadium in Moshi on December 5.

## Lions Cricket Club plots Annadil Burhani Club's downfall in 2022 Gymkhana Shield tournament

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club will be eager to prove it is hardly a side made up of whipping boys as it comes up against Annadil Burhani Club in a 2022 Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showdown's Group B clash slated to take place later in the afternoon.

Both are expected to line up strong outfits team with Lions Cricket Club looking to recover from their dismal performance against one of the tournament favourites, Aruti Aces, during the week two fixtures.

Bottom-placed Lions Cricket Club has yet to notch a win in the squad's two games, losing to group leaders Aruti Aces and second-placed Upanga Sports Club.

Lions Cricket Club's hopes for victory are set to be pinned on experienced players led by skipper Atif Salim, and promising players Rijali Fentu, Abubakar Selemani, Goodluck Andrew, and Shamil Hameer.

Atif and Mohamed's experience is expected to come in handy and motivate fellow players to torment Annadil Burhani Club.

The two senior performers had an encouraging showing in the two matches, efficiently chipping in and seeing to it their squad finished innings with respectable figures.

Atif, Andrew, and Gulraiz Haideri were among the cricketers who made their presence felt in the last outings, they are for that matter under pressure to play their hearts out later this afternoon.

Annadil Burhani Club boasting some fine experienced cricketers in the squad will be keen on getting a second win under their belt in this season's Gymkhana Shield tournament.



Players making Lions Cricket Club in a group picture when the side faced Upanga Sports Club in this season's Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament's duel which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

ment.

Abbas Adamji, Juzer Ghor, Murtaza Kaderbhai, and skipper Mustafa Lukmanji are some of the cricketers that the fourth-placed Annadil Burhani Club will bank on for good results against Lions Cricket Club.

Sunday will see a double-header with an anxiously awaited duel between Lions Cricket Club and Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in Group B, followed by the Group A tie between Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) vs Union Sports Club encounter.

Lions Cricket Club and DCC will be looking at picking key points in the tournament, whilst Union Sports Club will be looking at proving a point that its past tie against Caravans was a one-off performance, and

Union Sports Club will for that matter come out firing on all cylinders aiming to garner maximum points

from their tie against SKLPSC.

For the statistics board, Caravans Cricket Club's Nandakishan Pottachira is the leading run-getter with 156 runs, cracking 10 sixes and 14 boundaries.

His best batting figure was in view when Caravans played against Union Sports Club, having notched 121 runs.

In the bowling department, GP's Wahid Hussein is the leading wicket-taker with six wickets.

The outfits battling it out in this season's showpiece have been placed in groups A and B.

Group A consists of Caravans Cricket Club, GP, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC), Pak Stars, Union Sports Club, and Gymkhana Cricket Club.

Aruti Aces, Upanga Sports Club, Aga Khan SC, Annadil Burhani Club, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), and Lions Cricket Club have been put in Group B.

The 2022 edition is sponsored by Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petroleum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and Pepsi.

Cello/Ruby's Magic and Co has moreover sponsored a special cash prize to be handed over to batsmen scoring centuries and wicket-takers posting hat-tricks in the showdown.

This year's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club early this month.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

