



ZANZIBAR NOW SET TO VERIFY ALL VESSELS FLYING TANZANIAN FLAG PAGE 3



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Top five travel companies in Kenya for 2024 named

# 'Food insecurity is driving poaching in national parks'

*"Traditionally, local people have been expected to comply with rules but have not been invited to participate in the planning or benefits associated with the parks"*

By Guardian Correspondent

RESEARCHERS from the Pennsylvania State University, abbreviated as Penn State, say that the lack of food, not money, is the primary driver of poaching and other illegal activities at the Mkomazi National Park.

Doctoral student Gasto Lyakurwa led the study, which was based on a survey covering 267 household heads in villages bordering the park to understand the factors leading to illegal activities in the park.

The study highlights the need for sustainable solutions that balance conservation with local community needs, sparking debate as it came out in the journal Conservation, shedding light on the complex relationship between human livelihoods and wildlife conservation in East Africa.

The researchers examined how food security, financial security and educational security influence the likelihood of local



**It is easy to understand why they are not more supportive of park boundaries when their lives are at stake...**

residents engaging in illegal activities within the park, the summary indicated.

Mkomazi National Park, established in 1951, covers over 1,250 square miles of protected habitat for otherwise endangered wildlife, including elephants, lions, buffalo and rhinoceroses.

"However, its creation displaced large numbers of people, creating tension between conservation efforts and local communities' needs," the study suggested, despite that much of the area is in past decades rather sparsely populated.

They said that the research findings challenge common assumptions about poaching motivations, with Edwin Sabuhoro, an assistant professor of recreation, park and tourism management at Penn State, explaining the findings.

"For countless generations, the people in this area relied on that land for meat, traditional medicines, firewood, fish and timber. These resources were essential to the people's livelihood, but suddenly, they

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan cuts the ribbon to inaugurate Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan Girls' Secondary School at Migeregere village in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region, yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia inaugurates girls' science, technical school

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday inaugurated a secondary school for girls, dedicated to science and technical subjects.

The school, bearing the president's name, is located in Rwinga, Migeregere village of Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region has capacity to accommodate over 1,000 students pupils from Form One to Form Six, but currently has 548 students enrolled in Forms One and Six.



**In January this year, 49,396 children were registered for early education, an increase of 7,256 from last year**

Addressing the residents, the president stressed the crucial role of education for girls in fostering community and national development, affirming that the school building initiative is meant to increase the number of female experts in science and technology. This will help foster a more inclusive and skilled workforce for the future, she said, asserting that the initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen education and promote gender equality

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## Plan International rolls out first three-year girls' thrust

By Henry Mwangonde

PLAN International Tanzania has launched a three-year campaign aimed at driving social and leadership change to remove barriers, discrimination and harmful stereotypes that prevent girls from achieving their dreams.

Jane Sembuche, the NGO's country director, announced the 'GirlsTakeover' campaign at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, saying it is intended to

involve over 3,000 girls across the country.

The initiative showcases the abilities and power of girls by providing them with opportunities to assume leadership roles, thereby helping them to become more confident and aspire to be future leaders, she stated.

"Around the world, hundreds of girls from various countries will take on prominent leadership roles to amplify their voices regarding their essential needs and

demand equal opportunities in leadership, autonomy and representation," she elaborated.

She pointed at key challenges facing girls, including child marriage, which robs them of their childhood, education and future opportunities, as such unions perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality.

"We must implement laws that prohibit child marriage, raise awareness about its harmful effects and provide support to

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## Four UN agencies all for 'One Health' key anti-microbial catalytic financing

By Special Correspondent

GLOBAL leaders attending the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), have adopted a pivotal declaration.

The commitment envisages a ten per cent reduction in the 4.95m deaths each year linked to bacterial resistance by 2030, via sustainable national financing, alongside a \$100m fund in catalytic funding.

The declaration affirms that 60 per cent of countries will have financed national action plans on AMR by 2030, diversifying funding sources and increasing contributors to the newly created antimicrobial resistance multi-partner trust fund.

The IN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) accepted the declaration, expressing satisfaction with expressions for a comprehensive, One Health approach that integrates human, animal, plant and environmental health.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados was among key movers at the meeting, featuring AMR survivors plus various civil society and stakeholder organisations worldwide.

Experts say that antimicrobial resistance relates to pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites becoming resistant to treatments, complicating infection management and increasing the risk of severe illness and even death.

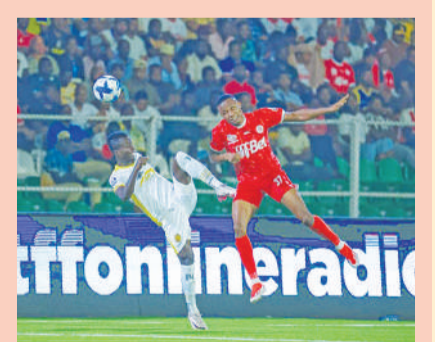
The declaration aims for at least 70 per cent of antibiotics used globally for human health to belong to the WHO drug access group, starting with minimal side effects and a lower potential for promoting drug resistance.

It sets targets for infection prevention and control (IPC), calling for all countries to provide basic water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management services in healthcare facilities, with a target of 90 per cent compli-

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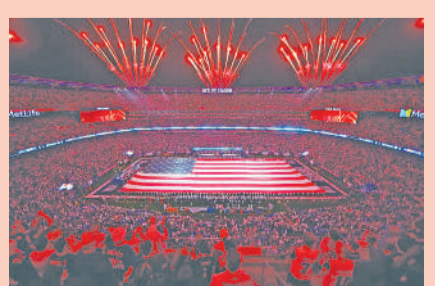
## SPORTS

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Fadlu Davids thrilled with Simba crushing victory over Azam

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The financial row threatening to derail Fifa's new Club World Cup before it begins



## 'Food insecurity is driving poaching in national parks'

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were cut off from the land. Even though local people told us they feel connected to the wild animals, they also made it clear that they are not likely to respect park boundaries if they cannot feed themselves or their children."

Key findings from the study include: 253 out of 267 surveyed families earned their livelihood through agriculture. The average annual household income was \$1,115.

Further, 74 percent of household heads had only primary school education. Food security was the primary driver of illegal activity in the park, the researchers affirmed.

Education and financial security had minimal influence on poaching when accounting for food security, the summary noted, underlining the need for a more holistic approach to conservation that addresses the basic needs of local communities.

The prospective doctorate holder emphasizes that communities are expected to support conservation, "but they are facing deprivation. Animals – especially elephants and

lions – come out of the parks and trample crops and injure or kill people. Also, the people feel they need park lands to graze their own animals. It is easy to understand why they are not more supportive of park boundaries when their lives are at stake."

To successfully protect wildlife and their habitat, parks need to prioritize food security for nearby residents, he asserts, intoning that this approach could lead to more sustainable conservation efforts and improved relationships between parks and local communities.

In response to these challenges, Prof. Sabuhoro is helping lead the human wildlife coexistence research network, an initiative bringing together various stakeholders across East Africa to develop solutions that support both conservation efforts and local community needs.

"Traditionally, local people have been expected to comply with rules but have not been invited to participate in the planning or benefits associated with the parks," he stated,

asserting that the network is intended to push for change in that aspect.

Organizing meetings in different East African countries to address specific regional needs, the effort involves local researchers, who bring cultural knowledge and language skills to build trust with communities.

Emphasizing the importance of bringing research findings back to local communities, the study's findings underscore the need for conservation strategies that address food insecurity while protecting wildlife.

By focusing on sustainable alternatives to meet essential needs in communities adjacent to national parks, conservation and development organizations can work towards a more balanced future for both protected areas and people.

"By training local people in research methods and helping to develop and support meaningful research projects, we can help support management of parks in ways that are sustainable for humans and animals alike," the don underlined.

## Plan International rolls out first three-year girls' thrust

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families to prevent it," she declared, pointing at the need to similarly address educational inequality.

Many girls are denied access to education due to constraints, cultural obstacles and inadequate infrastructure, she stated, stressing the need to ensure that every girl has access to inclusive, high-quality education by building more schools and creating safe learning environments.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is another significant issue impacting girls' health, well-being and potential for success, she said, underlining the need to strengthen laws against GBV, provide support services for victims and educate communities to change harmful attitudes and behaviours.

The government needs to implement policies that support the campaign's goals in addressing these challenges, she said, affirming that on this year's International Day of the Girl, hundreds of girls from over 60 countries will lead a historic campaign to assume leadership positions.

"This is not only a unique opportunity for girls to learn but also a way

to build their confidence in their abilities. As they take on leadership roles, they gain essential skills that will aid them in their future careers and foster a mindset that they can achieve their aspirations," the activist affirmed.

By providing leadership opportunities, the campaigners seek to bridge the gap between girls' dreams and opportunities available to them, with a view that it is time to unite and challenge the stereotypes that limit girls.

"We need to demand more opportunities so that every girl can become what she aspires to be. The world needs to see the immense potential that arises from opening doors for girls to showcase their abilities," the leader campaigner asserted.

Mariam Surve, a beneficiary of the campaign from Lugalo College of Health, shared the view that the programme has been an inspiration, with girls becoming more confident of achieving their goals in life, in the wake of this initiative.

"We call upon stakeholders to join us, as what we lack is the guidance and leadership to show us the way," she added.

## Four UN agencies endorse 'One Health' key anti-microbial catalytic financing

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ance with the WHO minimum IPC programme requirements by 2030.

There are also commitments to ensure equitable access to antimicrobial drugs and to improve surveillance data reporting on their use and prevalence levels of AMR.

In the agricultural sector, the declaration is angled on reducing global antimicrobial drugs use in agri-food systems by prioritising infection prevention and control measures. This includes strategies such as animal vaccination, good husbandry practices and enhanced biosecurity, it specified.

The declaration emphasises the necessity of addressing the discharge of antimicrobials into the environment, with increased research and action on key sources of antimicrobial pollution.

Recognising AMR as a complex issue, the declaration advocates for a multisectoral response that includes specific interventions across human health, agriculture and environmental sectors.

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu stated that the intersectoral challenge of AMR demands a One Health systems approach backed by robust global governance. "Sustainable financing is essential to support our priorities and targets. Our health depends on safe, nutritious food and food security hinges on resilient agrifood systems," he declared.

UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen noted the significant role of the environment in AMR trans-

mission, asserting that the environment must be part of the solution.

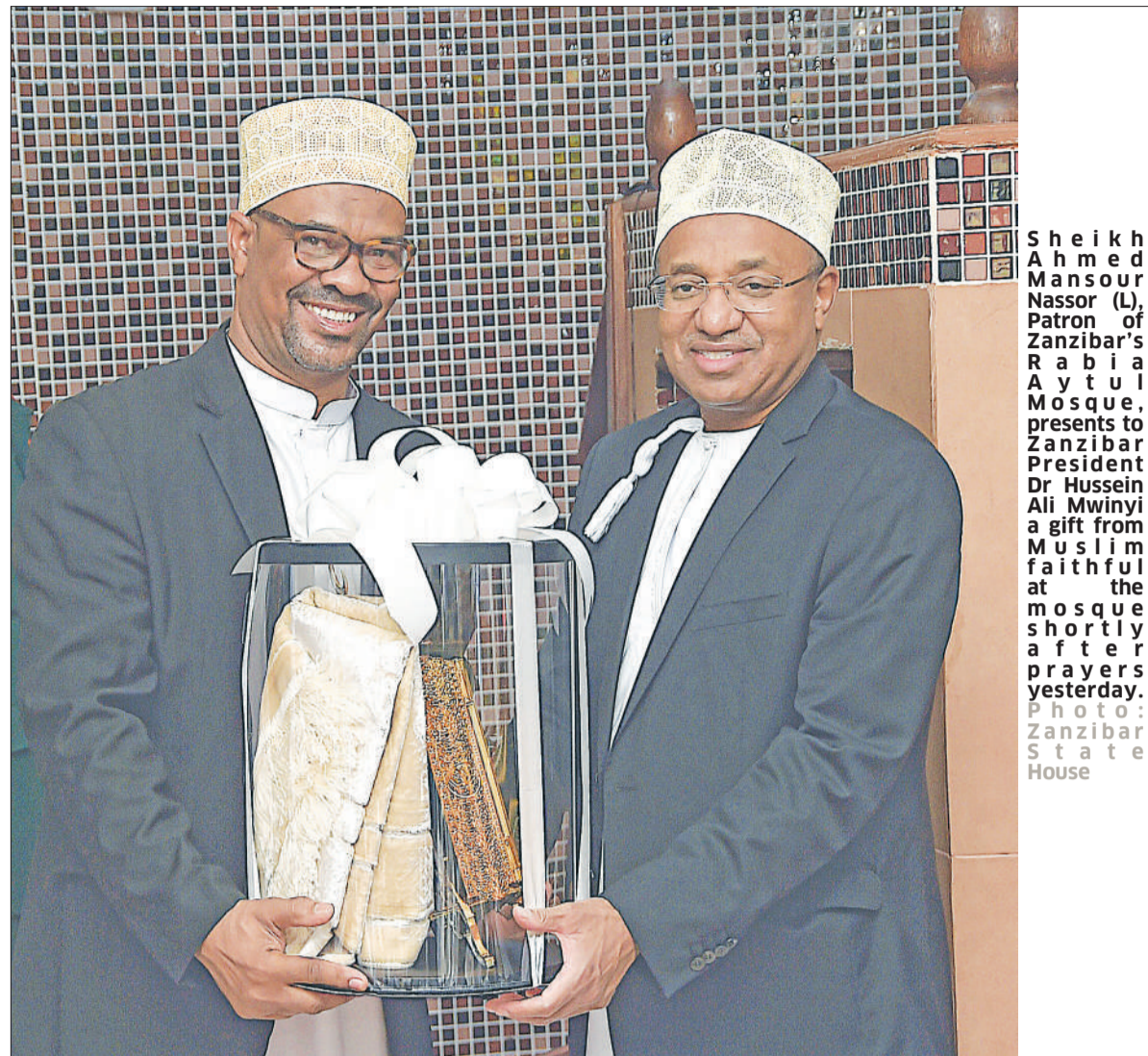
WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted that AMR threatens to reverse medical advancements, in which case commitments in the declaration are crucial for tracking AMR and expanding access to effective antimicrobial drugs.

WOAH Director General Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran stressed the urgency of action, particularly in prioritising preventative measures in animal health.

The declaration establishes the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (bringing together the four agencies) as the central coordinating body for the global response. It mandates updates to the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR by 2026 to ensure a robust and inclusive multi-sectoral response.

Countries are encouraged to report quality surveillance data on AMR and antimicrobial drugs use by 2030, utilising existing global systems such as GLASS, an e-commerce startup enabling government agencies to buy from small businesses, tied to a \$3m funding capacity, as well as FAO's InFARM.

The declaration aims for 95 percent of countries to report annually on their AMR national action plans, whereby fostering a strong partnership with private firms, academia and civil society is expected to drive research, innovation and the development of solutions to combat AMR effectively, officials underlined.



Sheikh Ahmed Nassor (L), Patron of Zanzibar's Rabia Aytul Mosque, presents a gift from Muslim faithful at the mosque shortly after prayers yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Samia inaugurates girls' science, technical school

recognise that as women they are just as capable as anyone else and can achieve their dreams," she emphasised.

"Let there be no cases of students failing to complete their studies due to pregnancy. If that happens, I will hold the teachers accountable. We are aware of the challenges you face, and the government is here to support you," she said to applause.

Officials noted that 16 primary schools and 14 secondary schools were built in the region last year

alone, thus the region has 247 secondary schools where 187 of them are state run.

This illustrates collaboration with the private sector to improve education access for all children, regardless of gender, she said, noting that the government allocated 14.5bn/- for the region to fund free education, resulting in a significant increase in student enrolment.

In January this year, 49,396 children were registered for early education, an increase of 7,256 from last

year," she stated.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG), said the school used up 108bn/-, and was established to empower girls through education, a campaign that the president initiated.

A total of 4,443 students have already enrolled in the special science education schools nationwide studying from Form One to Form Five so far, he added.

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across the country.

"This school focuses on science and technical subjects, specifically designed to uplift girls. I am delighted to see clean energy being used here. This is one of the projects I initiated to help African women access clean cooking energy, starting with educational institutions so students can see food prepared with gas, which they can also use at home," she told the gathering.

Urging teachers to take care of the students, she reminded them of their responsibility to nurture the still adolescent children.

"Please ensure they learn their subjects, take care of their health and help them understand their identity as women. They should



Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (facing camera), Permanent Secretary in the Finance ministry, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday leading a meeting with a combined World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Commonwealth Secretariat delegation on the assessment of the quality of Public Sector Debt Statistics in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

By Special Correspondent

## WHO, TikTok join up to support science-based health information

and fostering positive health discussions.

"This collaboration could mark a turning point in how digital platforms approach social responsibility," said Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist. "The intersection of health and technology offers a unique opportunity to engage people of all ages, providing credible information when and where they need it."

With over 1 billion users, TikTok aims to utilise its platform to enhance health awareness and provide access to trustworthy information. By breaking stigmas, sharing impactful stories, and building supportive communities, TikTok seeks to positively influence users' well-

being.

"Millions come to TikTok every day to connect and share experiences related to their well-being," said Valiant Richey, Global Head of Trust and Safety Outreach and Partnerships at TikTok. "We are thrilled to partner with WHO's Fides network of health influencers to bring engaging and authoritative mental well-being content to our community."

Launched in 2020, WHO's Fides network mobilises health content creators to combat misinformation and elevate evidence-based narratives. With a community of over 800 creators reaching 150 million people across various platforms, Fides aims to enhance targeted, credible communication, helping user's ac-

cess vital health information.

Dr Alain Labrique, WHO's director of digital health and innovation, highlighted the initiative's importance: "Creators who understand their audiences have a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between science and everyday life. WHO can support influencers in delivering evidence-based information, ensuring that health conversations on platforms like TikTok are both impactful and informed."

The collaboration will focus on a range of pertinent health topics, translating scientific information into relatable and digestible video content. TikTok's creator training programmes will further support influencers in the mission.



Jacqueline Ouden (C), a mental health officer with local CSO Wajimama, contributes to panel discussions at the launch of a mental health campaign held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the focus being on public awareness and education on mental health. She is with child mental health specialist Hussein Mshunga (R) and mental health advisor Dr Catherine Kaisalika. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

## Research affixes mental health issues to poor performance by preschool children

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

A NEW study has revealed a significant connection between classroom understanding and mental health among preschool-aged children.

Conducted by the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in collaboration with Tanzania Mental Health Community of Practice (TMH-CoP), the study examined emotional, social and psychological wellbeing of children aged zero to five.

The research found that 41 percent of children experience mental health issues that hinder their reading skills and academic success.

Dr Nabwera Rashid, a lecturer at Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE), presented the findings during a virtual discussion

on Thursday concerning mental health of preschool children and its impact on early academic outcomes in Tanzania.

The research involved 403 children aged zero to seven across three districts: Arumeru in Arusha, Kinondoni in Dar es Salaam and Nzega in Tabora with nearly half (49.6 percent) being girls.

Dr Rashid reported that among the 403 children assessed, 169 (41 percent) were found to have mental health challenges that negatively affected their learning processes.

He noted that areas most impacted included foundational reading skills such as phonemic awareness, vocabulary development and picture recognition.

"Disruptive behaviour was observed in 131 of the children, particularly those unable to sit still in class. This issue is particularly prevalent in Kinondoni where busy parents struggle to provide

adequate care to their children. Of every ten children you encounter, three to five are likely to have mental health issues," he said.

The findings revealed that 58 percent of preschool children, equivalent to 235 individuals, scored below average on a reading skills assessment in Kiswahili.

"This indicates that many preschool children lack the ability to recognise letters, understand phonetics, read with comprehension and handle books properly," he said.

"While discussions about mental health often focus on adolescents, this research highlights the critical importance of addressing these issues in younger children. At this stage, they learn to manage their emotions and engage with social dynamics. Monitoring their understanding and integration into society is essential as their mental health can significantly influence

their development."

The study also found that 2.8 percent of children in this age group are enrolled in different levels of preschool education, with three to five children in each classroom likely experiencing mental health challenges.

"Behavioural issues such as defiance and aggression often point to underlying mental health problems that parents or the community may not yet recognise. If a teacher asks a child to read aloud and they refuse, it may indicate a deeper issue," he noted.

The World Health Organization estimates that between 10 to 20 percent of children and adolescents face mental health challenges. This means that among children aged three to twelve, three to five may experience such issues, with over 90 percent of cases occurring in low and middle-income countries like Tanzania.

## MNH diagnoses 3 pc of children with type 1 diabetes, managing 6000 cases

By Guardian Reporter

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has reported that approximately three percent of children are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, with the referral facility currently managing 6,000 cases.

Dr John Rwegasha, Director of Medical Services at MNH, made the announcement early last week during the opening of a two-week training programme for nurses from various African countries, including Tanzania.

The initiative sought to enhance the experts' understanding of how to care for children with Type 1 diabetes. It was facilitated by the Allied Healthcare Diabetes Educator Course for African Nurses (ADECA) in collaboration with Life for a Child and the International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD).

Dr Rwegasha noted that the programme is sponsored by individuals from Australia and the UK who have initiated a project to build capacity of nurses working with children affected by the condition.

"The prevalence of Type 1 diabetes in Tanzania is around three percent; three out of every 100 children are diagnosed. At the Diabetes Association of Tanzania (TDA), nearly 6,000 patients are being treated at Muhimbili, primarily due to lack of adequate education on the subject," he said.

He emphasised the critical importance of the training, given the hereditary nature of Type 1 diabetes. "Management cannot rely solely on medication or dietary control like Type 2 diabetes," he said.

He highlighted the urgent need for treatment, stating that without it, a child could face severe complications as they depend on insulin for survival. The needs of the children are considerable compared to adult diabetes patients; without close support from specialists, they face rapid health deterioration, including potential blindness, high blood pressure and kidney failure.

"While doctors understand how to treat the condition, it is essential for nurses—who spend considerable time with patients—to also receive comprehensive training," he said. He stated that once trained, the nurses play a crucial role in empowering their peers and improving the overall quality of care.

Discussing human resources, Dr Rwegasha pointed out that World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a ratio of one doctor for every 4,000 patients. In Tanzania, the current ratio is one doctor for every 20,000 patients.

"At Muhimbili we are developing a paediatric unit and enhancing skills of paediatric doctors alongside training nurses to support former," he said.

Dr Chizo Agwu, Director of Training at ADECA, affirmed the importance of this training for nurses, noting that it also empowers families to better care for their children with diabetes. He mentioned that the first phase of the programme trained 15 nurses from seven countries, while the second phase included another 15 nurses from nine sub-Saharan African countries, with two participants from Tanzania.

"We train nurses to become educators for children with diabetes. This is crucial as managing diabetes in young people relies on a multidisciplinary team approach. We need both doctors and nurses to provide effective support," he stated.

Dr Anicetu Muchunguzi, a long-term Type 1 diabetes patient and Vice Chairperson of Young People Living with Type 1 Diabetes Tanzania (TDYA), expressed concern that many young people over 25 lose their lives due to inadequate access to treatment and lack of independent living skills developed from a young age.

"Healthcare providers, especially nurses who spend significant time with patients must possess a deeper understanding of these challenges. We need such professionals to be present at the grassroots level of healthcare," he said.

**At Muhimbili we are developing a paediatric unit and enhancing skills of paediatric doctors alongside training nurses to support former**

## Zanzibar now set to verify all vessels flying Tanzanian flag

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

IN efforts aimed at tackling illegal activities and fraudulent registrations, the Zanzibar government has announced plans to verify all international vessels registered under the Tanzanian flag through Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA).

Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed, the Minister for Infrastructure, Communication and Transport, made the statement in the House of Representatives on Thursday, stating that any vessel found engaged in illegal activities would face deregistration.

He was responding to questions from some representatives including Dr Mohammed Ali Suleiman of Mtambwe constituency, who inquired about the benefits of licencing international vessels and regulating their activities in Zanzibar.

"We have encountered issues with some vessels involved in illegal activities. At least 15 ships flying Tanzanian flag have been identified as violating laws and regulations. We are making progress but we have planned verification exercises to ensure compliance," Dr Mohamed said.

He emphasized the importance of the initiatives for both national security and the integrity of Zanzibar's maritime sector.

"By verifying our vessels and enhancing surveillance, we can better protect our waters and ensure that all maritime activities are conducted legally and responsibly."

Since 2020, Zanzibar Maritime Authority has registered 800 international ships, accumulating a total gross tonnage (GT) of 3,068,376.32. Additionally, 40 local vessels with a total GT of 58,115 have also been registered. The comprehensive registration process has enabled ZMA to collect over 10.1bn/- in registration fees.

In April this year, Zanzibar announced plans to introduce surveillance radar and marine vessel tracking systems to promote safe fishing and transportation activities in the Indian Ocean.

Minister Mohamed announced this in Dar es Salaam while officiating at the opening of a two day Regional Seminar on Africa Ferry Safety.

"Currently there are around 380 illegal harbours used for boarding and disembarking of passengers and cargo. This contravenes safety measures. The government is in the process of dealing with this by introducing surveillance radar and marine vessels tracking systems," he said.

He said that being an island within the Indian Ocean, Zanzibar residents and visitors do mostly depend on ferries for movement of people and goods and this exposes them to accidents and therefore the government is introducing the measures to protect life and economy of the archipelago.

According to him, there have been some deadly ferry mishaps that occurred in the past but the government took serious measures to ensure such accidents don't occur again.



It's survival of the fittest par excellence as would-be passengers scramble for space in a commuter bus at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis bus stop yesterday. Such scenes had for years become history in the country's urban areas but they are making a baffling comeback in some. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Ruaha National Park set to celebrate 60th anniversary

By Francis Godwin, Iringa

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Pindi Chana is set to officiate events to mark the 60th anniversary celebrations of Ruaha National Park in Iringa Region early next month.

Speaking to journalists here yesterday ahead of the event, Ruaha National Park manager Godwel Ole Meing'ataki said the events will include various community activities and education on the park's significance.

He said the celebrations will take place from October 1 to 7 within the park, emphasising the park's commitment to strengthening relationships with diverse communities, including individuals with disabilities, to ensure they have opportunities to visit and support underprivileged families.

"I invite all Tanzanians, especially residents of Iringa, to join us in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Ruaha National Park with a grand finale on the last day," he said.

He mentioned that Dr Chana will officially launch a new balloon tourism service during the event, designed to attract more visitors by offering breath-taking aerial views of Ruaha.

During the celebrations, Ruaha National Park will collaborate with various stakeholders from Iringa, including traditional and religious leaders, to conduct special tours to the park aimed at enhancing understanding and cooperation in environmental conservation.

A special 60th-anniversary symposium will discuss the park's history, achievements, challenges and recommendations for improving conservation efforts.

The park has arranged visits for people with disabilities from Iringa Region, providing them with opportunities to experience its attractions.

Residents near the park, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, will also receive assistance and education on the importance of conserving natural resources and economic benefits of sustainable tourism.

Meing'ataki further announced a sports festival will be held at Tungamalenga area to raise conservation awareness through entertainment.

Regarding the park's accomplishments, he stated that Ruaha National Park has made significant progress since its

establishment in 1964.

Initially covering 9,500 square kilometres, it has since expanded to 19,822 square kilometres, greatly contributing to the economic growth of Iringa and the nation as a whole. Ruaha is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including approximately 15,000 elephants, 20,000 buffaloes and over 8,000 lions, making it a prime destination for both local and international tourists.

Improvements have also been made to the park's infrastructure, including reception areas, accommodation and roads, enhancing visitor services.

Beyond being a major tourist attraction, Ruaha National Park plays a crucial role in the national economy. The Ruaha River which flows through the park, is a vital water source for the Mtera Dam, significantly contributing to the country's electricity generation. Conserving the river ensures sustainable energy production which the nation relies on.

The park also generates substantial revenue through tourism, with visitors paying various fees, including entry and accommodation charges.

He encouraged Tanzanians to take part in the celebrations by visiting Ruaha National Park. He stressed the importance of fostering a culture of appreciation for local attractions among Tanzanians, particularly children, to create a generation committed to conserving natural resources.



**Residents near the park, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds, will also receive assistance and education on the importance of conserving natural resources and economic benefits of sustainable tourism**



Bishop Sammy Severua, a director with Mirerani township's New Light Nursery and Primary School District, speaks at the school's Standard Seven graduation ceremony earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## DC urges teachers to emphasize agriculture and cookery in class

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

IRINGA district commissioner Kheri James has called on teachers to emphasize basic skills training, especially agriculture and cookery to prepare pupils to be independent upon completion of studies.

James made the appeal on Thursday during his tour to inspect various development projects in the district where he visited the ongoing construction of classrooms in various primary and secondary schools aimed at improving teaching and learning environments and boosting pupils' performance.

While acknowledging the government's efforts to provide safe learning spaces for children, he took the opportunity to remind teachers of their responsibility to teach practical skills that empower pupils for future life.

He stressed that having irresponsible youth is a burden on both the nation and families.

"I commend teachers for the vital work you do in teaching and ensuring pupils pass their exams. However, I want to remind you that merely teaching in the classroom is not enough to prepare children for independent living after graduation. It is high time you started teaching practical skills like agriculture and culinary which help pupils recognise their potential and become self-reliant adults," he said.

On child welfare, James asserted that schools and families should be safe places for children.

"Therefore, teachers must act as role models for their pupils outside of the academic environment, demonstrating behaviours that children can emulate," he said.

The initiative to teach pupils life skills has gained support from Kalenga Primary School which implements a strategy to utilise school land for agriculture.

The community has decided to cultivate the fields to provide

food for pupils and serve as a practical learning environment for agricultural skills.

Kalenga Primary School head-teacher Shaibu Mingaula said that in collaboration with local residents, the school has allocated over 40 acres for agriculture to ensure food security for pupils.

The initiative not only addresses the need for school meals but also provides a hands-on learning experience in farming.

"To fulfil the government's goal of providing food for children, the school board, in partnership with parents, proposed to the village government the establishment of a school farm managed by the community. So far, we have successfully cultivated for one season and are preparing for the next, where we plan to grow maize and beans to ensure food security at school," he said.

Some parents and residents of Kalenga Village, including Elmina Mgongolwa and Geojina Mhavile, hailed an agreement on a school

farm to reduce contributions that previously left some children without meals.

Their collective effort aims to ensure all children receive food while at school.

"As parents, we have decided to contribute our efforts to produce food and reduce school contributions for meals which was a significant burden for us. Without food, our children struggle to concentrate in class but through this farm, we ensure pupils' wellbeing as we know that without meals they cannot succeed academically," Mgongolwa said.

Steven Mhapa, Iringa District Council chairperson who accompanied the District Commissioner during the visit, outlined the council's strategy to ensure all schools have meal programmes to improve academic performance.

He confirmed that directives have already been issued for teachers to oversee the initiative.

## African nations, partners pledge over \$800 m for mpox response

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN countries and partners have pledged more than \$800 million towards the continent's mpox response amid surging infection, the director-general of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced on Thursday.

Jean Kaseya said \$314 million was pledged to a new mpox fund created at a meeting of African heads of state earlier this week, of which \$129 million is from the pandemic fund to support 10 countries impacted by mpox, while about \$145 million from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

"Today we have around \$814 million," he said.

Money from the pandemic fund will support 10 countries impacted by mpox: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan.

"Our team is working with the pandemic fund team on the way to allocate these resources in the 10 countries approved for support," Kaseya said at a virtual news conference.

The funding, created at a meeting of African heads of state earlier this week, is expected to bolster country and regional capacity in critical areas, including disease surveillance, diagnostics, laboratory networks and health workforce while addressing the immediate challenges posed by mpox.

The continental preparedness

and response plan for Africa has a budget of about \$600 million.

Kaseya said the US has also committed to provide \$500 million to support the continental response plan and 1 million vaccine doses.

He said Africa has secured 4.4 million vaccine doses against 10 million doses needed to control the disease spread.

A total of 2,910 new cases of mpox, mostly in central and eastern Africa, were recorded last week and 16 new deaths, according to the latest data from Africa CDC.

More than 32,000 confirmed cases in 2024 have been recorded on the continent with 840 deaths.

Compared to the same period last year, Kaseya said there has been more than a 194 percent increase in cases in 15 African nations.

Mpox cases are steadily increasing across all affected countries, Kaseya said, citing contact tracing and low testing capacity among the challenges.

The testing rate on the continent stands at 49.5 percent, whereby many cases cannot be confirmed.

Kaseya said this week Africa CDC would deliver available vaccines from the EU to some affected countries such as Rwanda, the Central African Republic, South Africa, Burundi and Cameroon.

Congo, the most affected country in the region, will begin vaccinations in the first week of October.

"Our objective is to stop this outbreak in the next six months and we need full support from member states and our partners," he said.



All manner of small traders pictured yesterday doing roaring business but literally blocking the pedestrian walkway beside the busy road leading to Mbezi Mwisho commuter bus station in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# Magistrate accuses lawyer of using delaying tactics to drag case in D'Salaam

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

KISUTU Senior Resident Magistrate Aaron Lyamuya and State Attorney Faraja Ngukah have expressed disappointment in defence lawyer Edward Chuwa regarding delays in the criminal case against Dar es Salaam couple Bharat Nathwani and Sangita Bharat.

The couple faces charges of causing grievous harm and using abusive language, stemming from an incident that reportedly occurred on July 21, 2023 when Nathwani allegedly inflicted serious injury on Kiran Lalit by immersing her head in a bucket of mixed cement.

Magistrate Lyamuya on Friday condemned the repeated postponements of the case which began over a year ago, citing a pattern of delaying tactics by Chuwa.

"These issues are not new; they are documented in court records. This case must come to an end; we cannot continue to come here daily and achieve nothing," Lyamuya said.

He emphasised the responsibility of all parties involved, noting that both him and the state attorney are paid by the government to perform their duties.

"I have tolerated these delays for too long. I have been patient but it is unacceptable for the defence to continuously postpone proceedings

with excuses. This case must conclude," he said.

Lyamuya instructed the defendants to communicate with their lawyer and urged Chuwa to come to court prepared to proceed and allow the couple to return to their normal lives. He scheduled the next hearing for October 7, urging witnesses to attend.

During the session, Ngukah said that Chuwa has a history of delaying tactics, noting that the case has been postponed seven times due to his excuses. He pointed out that during a previous hearing on September 10, Sangita claimed illness, only to later attend Indian cultural celebrations.

Ngukah asserted that Chuwa's frequent excuses were unacceptable, especially since he had proposed the latest hearing date himself.

"This case is taking far too long and must come to an end," he stressed, underlining the implications of ongoing delays.

He urged the court to direct that if Chuwa does not attend future hearings, another lawyer be present to ensure the case continues without further adjournments.

"It has been a year since this case started on August 18, 2023 and only four witnesses have testified," he said.

*"These issues are not new; they are documented in court records. This case must come to an end; we cannot continue to come here daily and achieve nothing"*

# FAO unveils continental atlas to combat tsetse fly in Africa

ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has unveiled a comprehensive atlas detailing distribution of tsetse flies across Africa.

This crucial resource, according to FAO, aims to aid efforts in combating the often-lethal parasitic disease affecting livestock, which results in billions of dollars in economic losses for farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tsetse flies (genus *Glossina*) are blood-sucking insects that act as incubators and carriers for trypanosomes, single-celled parasites responsible for causing debilitating and often fatal diseases.

In humans, the disease is also known as "sleeping sickness," resulting in an illness that affects the nervous system and manifests symptoms such as fatigue, severe headaches, and coma. If not diagnosed and appropriately treated, the disease almost invariably leads to death.

While sleeping sickness is no longer considered a public health problem, with fewer than 2,000 cases reported each year in humans, the disease still severely affects livestock in Africa. Animal trypanosomiasis, known as "nagana" in cattle, hinders milk and meat production, as well as the animals' ability to work. This leads to food insecurity and decreased income for millions of African farmers who depend on livestock.

Efforts to control and eliminate animal trypanosomiasis require decisions based on sound evidence. However, the last continental maps of tsetse distribution in Africa were developed more than half a century ago, and no Africa-wide map of animal trypanosomiasis occurrence has even been generated.

Years in the making, the FAO atlas is the first significant step in filling such data gaps.

Its data on tsetse distribution is based on 669 scientific papers spanning 31 years (from 1990 to 2020). It combines geolocation data such as Google Earth with entomological fieldwork, including stationary traps and fly rounds using mobile devices.

In total, 7,386 sites across Africa were analysed, producing the most comprehensive maps to date of the tsetse fly's distribution on the continent.

Based on the data collected, the occurrence of the *Glossina* species

was confirmed in 34 countries, spanning from a maximum latitude of approximately 15° north in Senegal (Niayes Region) to a minimum of 28.5° south in South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal Province). No published data on tsetse flies could be found for five countries in sub-Saharan Africa that are known or considered to be affected: Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia. Furthermore, relatively limited information was found for several countries, especially Angola, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The atlas did not consider countries in northern Africa that have been historically free of tsetse flies.

Overall, relatively abundant data were available for the species of paramount veterinary and public health importance, especially for the riverine (*palpalis*) and savannah (*morsitans*) groups, while more limited information was found for the species of the forest (*fusca*) group.

With the available data, FAO developed continental and national maps for 26 of the 31 recognized species and subspecies of tsetse flies. The species with the broadest geographic distribution appear to be *Glossina palpalis* and *Glossina tachinoides* in western Africa, *Glossina fuscipes* in central Africa, and *Glossina morsitans* and *Glossina pallidipes* in eastern and southern Africa.

This kind of data will be vital for practitioners on the ground and policymakers in the affected countries, as well as for scientific researchers and international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), with which FAO is working closely in the fight against sleeping sickness.

The atlas also provides a blueprint for the development of national information systems. Indeed, with FAO's support, veterinary authorities in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Sudan and Zimbabwe have already adopted FAO's methodological approach.

"We are hopeful that these tools will help reinvigorate initiatives aimed at removing this major hurdle to sustainable development in Africa and thus contribute to the vision of a healthy world, free of poverty and hunger," Thanawat Tiensin, the Director of FAO's Animal Production and Health Division, wrote in the atlas' forward.



Kenneth Nollo, legislator for Bahi in Dodoma Region, has a word with students of the constituency's Mpinga Secondary School while on a routine tour on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Leadership change through ballots in Zanzibar possible, says Othman

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE opposition ACT Wazalendo national chairman Othman Masoud Othman has said that people who claim that political changes cannot take place in Zanzibar through the ballot contradict provisions of the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984.

Othman made the remarks yesterday while opening a youth conference at Ziwani Constituency Hall in Chake Chake, Pemba South Region.

He noted that after the revolution in 1964, the isles were governed by laws and enforced by the Revolutionary Council until the late Second President Aboud Jumbe

Mwinyi decided in 1979 that Zanzibar should draft its own constitution to strengthen the foundations of democracy and good governance.

"So when someone says we will not hand over leadership based on a piece of paper, it implies that those in power wish to remain endlessly. Ask them which country they refer to and which revolution they purport to defend," he said.

He emphasised that according to the 1984 constitution, the Zanzibar Revolution must be advanced through procedures outlined within the constitution with one key principle being that people have the right to choose and be chosen.

Addressing the issue of public

funds, Othman said that Zanzibar cannot achieve developmental progress if it is burdened with substantial debts that exceed its income from local sources.

He mentioned that Zanzibar's current budget stands at 1.5trn/- while salaries cost 900bn/- with an additional 300bn/- allocated for debt repayment.

He added that for Zanzibar to achieve developmental progress, it is essential to establish laws that respect citizenry.

He stated that the government should not engage in business but instead focus on managing policies and plans for the benefit of its citizens; if the government

engages in business, it will reach a point where effective governance becomes impossible.

Othman, who is also the First Vice President of Zanzibar and a seasoned legal expert, said that if the government wishes to conduct business, it must obtain a licence rather than operate clandestinely.

Yusra Haji Kombo, a member of the central committee of the party, stated that governance changes in Zanzibar heavily depend on the significant role of the youth and reminded others of the importance of obtaining Zanzibar resident identification cards to complete the requirements for registration in the permanent voters' roll.



Wastewater lies stagnant, stinking and literally abandoned in a trench deep inside a section of Dar es Salaam's Kawe suburb, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

# DFC, Citi announce new loan to lift small businesses in Tanzania

NEW YORK CITY

THE United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Citi have announced a significant financing package of \$320 million for CRDB Bank.

The funding aims to enhance the bank's capacity to provide loans to small businesses, particularly those owned or led by women.

According to a statement issued by the US Embassy in Tanzania yesterday, the ceremonial signing took place on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, attended by DFC Deputy CEO Nisha Biswal, Citi Global Head of Export Agency Finance Richard Hodder and Abdulmajid Nsekela, Group CEO and Managing Director of CRDB Bank. Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and a delegation of senior officials were also present.

The initiative is set to support over 4,500 small businesses in Tanzania, recognised as one of Africa's most dynamic markets. At

least \$60 million of the funding will specifically target women-owned or women-led small businesses eligible for DFC's 2X Women's Initiative, addressing the unique economic challenges women face globally. Additionally, \$25 million will support small businesses in Burundi.

The loan underscores DFC's commitment to strengthening its relationships in Tanzania and enhancing existing partnerships while exploring new opportunities for collaboration to advance economic security in the region and across Africa.

"DFC is committed to Tanzania's economic growth, focusing on investments that will significantly impact people and communities," Biswal said.

"This loan will facilitate lending to thousands of small businesses driving economic progress throughout the country."

In his remarks, Nsekela said: "This \$320 million loan will substantially expand access to finance for

women- and youth-led micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Tanzania and Burundi, empowering these entrepreneurs to innovate and achieve sustainable growth. We believe this funding will not only support business expansion but also act as a catalyst for gender equality, equipping women entrepreneurs with the resources they need to thrive and contribute to inclusive economic development."

The funds will bolster CRDB Bank Group's efforts in promoting inclusive economic growth, aligning with its five-year strategic plan to enhance support for entrepreneurs.

Nsekela noted that in addition to innovative financing products, the bank, through its subsidiary CRDB Bank Foundation, prioritises capacity building for young and female entrepreneurs through financial literacy and entrepreneurship training.

"This partnership with DFC and Citi will further accelerate these

initiatives," he said.

Citi Tanzania's Chief Country Officer and Banking Head, Geoffrey Mchangila, added, "Citi is actively pursuing our social finance agenda through innovative partnerships like this. Our goal is to create real economic value in Tanzania by driving financial inclusion for small businesses, addressing unmet financial needs. This transaction is part of our \$1 trillion commitment to sustainable finance by 2030, focusing on expanding access to employment, finance, and essential services for low-income communities in emerging markets."

The loan builds on DFC's extensive previous collaborations with CRDB Bank and USAID/Tanzania to support Tanzanian small businesses, including a \$20 million guaranty aimed at lending to small businesses in the education sector and a \$4 million guaranty to enhance financing access for women and youth borrowers in health.

## Call for security of women, children labourers in mines

NAIROBI

AS THE global race to acquire economically vital minerals unfolds, stakeholders in Africa's mining sector call for protection of women and children labourers who play a crucial role in sustaining the industry.

Women in Mining Africa, an advocacy group that aims to mitigate harsh working conditions in rural communities, organized a virtual meeting this week with organizations and experts. They are working to promote gender equity and social justice in the mining sector as demand for African resources continues.

"We seek to empower women in mining by advocating for equal access to resources, opportunities, and leadership roles across the continent," said Comfort Asokoro Ogaji founded Women in Mining Africa, which works in 36 African countries.

"We also work to promote responsible mining and advocate for sustainable, ethical, and socially inclusive mining practices," Ogaji said. "Child protection in mining communities is at the core of our mission and also capacity building and collaboration across the continent."

The World Bank says women represent 30 percent of the industry known as Artisanal and Small-scale Mining, or ASM. However, women are often barred from entering the mines and relegated to lower-paying jobs.

According to the International Institute for Sustainable Development, women's contributions are overshadowed by the historically dominant role of men, hindering women's meaningful participation and resulting in unequal pay.

Women, unlike their male counterparts, also face gender

inequality, violence and harassment.

Jose Diemel works as a senior adviser at Levin Sources, a consulting firm that drives the transition to just and sustainable minerals value chains. Diemel has worked with artisanal and small-scale miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She said the management of mining fields has improved over the years.

"I have seen the mentality change towards artisanal mining, and we slowly started to talk about artisanal management plans around the possibility of peaceful coexistence," said Diemel. "And now we're working at 11 sources, we very regularly receive a request from large-scale mining companies, industrial mining companies, to help them set up ASM management plans that range from peaceful coexistence to collaboration."

Mining experts say miners are being empowered, receiving different ways to sustain their livelihood and undergoing safety training.

The small-scale miners also have been able to obtain loans to purchase equipment that ease their work, increase their product, and their income.

Thokozile Budaza advocates for women's rights in South Africa, the largest platinum and manganese producer in the world. She said the voices of the resource owners and those working on them must be included in decision-making.

"African leaders can better anticipate the ripple effects of their policies and decisions and the lack of decisions ensuring that the benefits of mining are equitably distributed and the voices of the stakeholders, especially those marginalized, are heard and respected while dealing with investors coming into Africa to source critical materials for development," said Budaza.

## US, Zambia enhance security cooperation with UN training

LUSAKA

THE United States Army Southern European Task Force, Africa's (SETAF-AF) civil affairs team in Zambia (CAT Zambia) has facilitated a two-week United Nations engagement course for select participants from Zambian Army.

The training, held recently at the Kenneth Kaunda Peace Training Center in Chongwe District, focused on preparing trainers within the Zambia Defence Force (ZDF) for future self-taught courses.

The mission supported partner capacity building and enhanced security cooperation between the U.S. and Zambia. In addition to strengthening ZDF capabilities, the initiative aligns with SETAF-AF and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) strategic objectives to expand opportunities in Southern Africa, thereby distinguishing the U.S. as the region's partner of choice.

"The UN engagement platoon 'train the trainer' course was beneficial in allowing CAT Zambia to understand how the UN operates within a peacekeeping capacity, and how their use of civil military cooperation and engagement teams is very similar to U.S. Army civil affairs," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James Cooley, a civil affairs soldier with CAT Zambia, SETAF-AF.

The course, taught in partnership with the Institute for Security Governance (ISG), builds a sustainable training program within the ZDF by training future trainers who will continue passing on the skills and knowledge acquired during the course. By focusing on a train-the-trainer approach, the team supports AFRICOM's engagement style: partner-led, U.S.-enabled.

As a component of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), ISG strengthens partner institutional capacity and capability through advising, education and professional development programs such as the engagement in Zambia.

The ZDF also aims to establish a lasting impact, ensuring that their forces remain well equipped for

future peacekeeping missions.

"Attending this course gave us the opportunity to continue working alongside Zambian soldiers who attended a civil affairs class we instructed earlier in the year," said U.S. Army Sgt. Anthony Behring, a civil affairs soldier with CAT Zambia, SETAF-AF. "During the program, we were able to share best practices through joint discussions, while also learning from the Zambian's extensive UN experiences."

The first week of the course included hands-on training, where participants engaged in exercises designed to mirror real-world peacekeeping scenarios. Instructors from CAT Zambia and ISG worked closely with participants to guide them through complex engagements with civil authorities, sharing prior experiences and enhancing their skill sets.

This civil affairs program highlights the importance of sustainable knowledge transfer within defense institutions. In line with AFRICOM's guidance, the long-term goal is to create a self-sufficient training program that allows the ZDF to continually improve its own operational readiness.

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Michael Langley, commander of AFRICOM, has continually maintained that most of the continent's nations prefer to solve African problems with African solutions. This engagement is the latest example of U.S. commitment to supporting that goal.

Recent U.S. engagements in Zambia include the African Land Forces Summit 2024, which was held in Livingstone, April 22-26. With 40 African nations in attendance, this year's theme was "Regional Solutions to Transnational Problems."

Ongoing civil affairs evaluations will provide valuable insights into how future training programs can be adapted to better serve the ZDF's specific needs. Looking ahead, SETAF-AF plans to continue its support of ZDF training efforts and explore ways to incorporate civil affairs into national and regional operations.



Kibiti district commissioner Col Joseph Kolombo (2nd-L, seated) in buoyant mood alongside pupils and teachers as well as Tanzania Education Authority and TotalEnergies officials at a ceremony at which the district's Jaribuni Mpakani Primary School was gifted a consignment of desks earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Special Correspondent

A CAMEROONIAN separatist leader has been arrested in Norway for his alleged role in the ongoing armed conflict in the Central African country.

Lucas Ayaba Cho was arrested on Tuesday on "charges based on his various expressions on social media", his lawyer told the BBC.

Cho is an influential figure in the Anglophone movement pushing for independence from Cameroon, where over 6,000 people have been killed and nearly a million others displaced since fighting began in 2016.

Some in the country's two English-speaking regions say they are discriminated against by the French-speaking majority.

Human rights group Amnesty International has accused both government troops and the armed separatists of killings, rapes and torture of civilians.

Cameroon's Anglophone crisis - fuelled by student rejects and poor spelling

Red Dragons and Tigers - the rebels fighting for independence

Singer Libianca on 'horrific threats' over Cameroon war

A Cameroonian official told the BBC that Norway and Cameroon had a security agreement, which

## Cameroonian separatist head nabbed in Norway

could see Cho being extradited in the coming days.

His lawyer said he wasn't aware of any extradition request.

Cho, who describes himself as a liberation leader, is one of the most prominent separatist leaders shaping the conflict in Cameroon's restive Anglophone regions.

On its website, the 52-year-old is described as Commander-in-Chief of the Ambazonian Defence Forces (ADF), one of several armed groups seeking independence from Cameroon.

He commands his movement from his base in Norway, where he is believed to have ordered a recent two-week lockdown as part of the separatists' campaign to boycott schools.

Known for his tough-talking and hard-line approach, he came under criticism after ADF fighters recently targeted taxi drivers in the North-West region, ordering them to change the colour of their vehicles from yellow to white and blue - the colours of the flag of the planned break-away state of Ambazonia.

Some of those who refused saw their vehicles burnt.

The ADF's political wing, the Ambazonia Governing Council, has imposed a "liberation tax" which compels people living in the restive Anglophone regions to pay a certain amount of money to fund the conflict against the government.

In January 2017, he said he survived an assassination attempt after holding talks with other separatist leaders in Belgium.

His anti-institutional radicalism did not emerge with the outbreak of the Anglophone crisis in 2016. It's a trait that dates as far back as the 1990s when he was reportedly expelled from the University of Buea for taking part in demonstrations over an increase in tuition fees.

Norway's National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS) said Cho "had a central role in an ongoing armed conflict in Cameroon."

On Wednesday, the Norwegian investigators sought his custody from the Oslo District Court.

"We are in an early phase of the investigation, and there are several

investigative steps that remain," Norwegian prosecutor Anette Berger said.

Emmanuel Nsahlai, a US-based lawyer representing some victims of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, hailed Cho's arrest as a "significant victory" against separatist violence in Cameroon.

"This arrest marks a critical step in holding him accountable for his actions and bringing justice to the victims of his violence," Nsahlai told the BBC.

Cho is not the first separatist leader to be arrested abroad in connection with the violence in Cameroon.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, the Cameroonian government has been urging foreign countries hosting separatist leaders to facilitate their repatriation back home for trial over their role in the ongoing violence.

In 2018, Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, the leader of the Anglophone separatist movement, and 46 others were arrested in Nigeria and later extradited to Cameroon.



Tricky situation with motorbike taxi rider forced to exercise extra vigilance and his passenger to ensure a perfect balancing act - but both without helmets - along a Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's Bagamoyo Road on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso investigate French journalist over jihadi analysis

BAMAKO/NIAMEY

PROSECUTORS in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso have launched investigations against French journalist and researcher Wassim Nasr into what they called his “apology of terrorism” and “complicity” in alleged terrorist acts, in the latest action against the Western media.

Nasr, who works for the French broadcaster France 24, gave an informed analysis of a rare deadly jihadi attack in Mali’s capital Bamako on September 17. The prosecutors accused him of having been in contact with the attackers and that they communicated their location, objectives and death toll in real time with him.

Nasr also made comments that “amount to blatant acts of publicity and support of the terrorists,” Manzo Hadiza, deputy prosecutor of Niger alleged during a press conference on Wednesday.

Prosecutors from the judicial divisions on terrorism in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso all issued the same statement apparently in coordination, aired on their national televisions late on Wednesday.

“They are trying to intimidate anyone still contradicting their storytelling about security and control,” Nasr, who is based in France, told the AP in a WhatsApp message. He said the investigation by the three West African countries is a clear attack on journalism.

“We should all have a thought about all journalists and civil society activists who are surviving under the rule of those juntas, they are the ones who need support,” he added.

Local journalists in the Sahel region, where Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso are located, are facing increased security risks particularly from terrorism, the media freedom group Reporters Without Borders said Tuesday.

Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso have for more than a decade battled an insurgency fought by armed groups, including some allied with al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. Following military coups in all three nations in recent years, the ruling juntas have expelled French forces

and turned to Russian instructors.

But the security situation in the Sahel, terrori groups ramping up their attacks has worsened since the juntas took power, analysts say, with a record number of attacks and a record number of civilians killed both by Islamic militants and government forces.

Over the first six months of this year, 3,064 civilians were killed by the violence, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, a 25% increase compared to the previous six months.

Meanwhile, the ruling juntas have cracked down on political dissent and journalists. Earlier this year, Malian authorities banned the media from reporting on the activities of political parties and associations. Burkina Faso suspended the BBC and Voice of America radio stations for their coverage of a mass killing of civilians carried out by the country’s armed forces. Earlier this year, Niger’s authorities ordered the closure of the “Maison de la Presse”, an umbrella organization of Niger’s journalists’ associations, after it denounced press freedom violations.

Nasr’s employer France 24 is also suspended in all three countries notably over its coverage of the security situation.



**We should all have a thought about all journalists and civil society activists who are surviving under the rule of those juntas, they are the ones who need support**

## Sudan army launches major attack on capital Khartoum

KHARTOUM

SUDAN’S army has launched a major offensive against the powerful paramilitary group it is fighting in the country’s civil war, targeting areas in the capital it lost at the start of the conflict.

In dawn strikes on Thursday, government forces shelled Rapid Support Forces (RSF) bases in the capital Khartoum, and Bahri to its north.

Sudan has been embroiled in a war since the army and the RSF began a vicious struggle for power in April 2023, leading to what the UN has called one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

Up to 150,000 people have been killed in the conflict while more than 10 million people - about a fifth of the population - have been forced from their homes.

The military escalation comes despite US-led efforts to broker a ceasefire, which is being discussed on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week.

Residents of the capital said the artillery and air strikes started overnight and intensified at dawn.

Numerous accounts said the army crossed key bridges over the River Nile - which had separated government-controlled areas in Omdurman from the regions controlled by the RSF.

The RSF claimed to have repelled the attempts, but sounds of clashes and plumes of smoke were reported coming from locations in central Khartoum.

Since early in the war, the paramilitaries have been in control of nearly all of the capital.

Thursday’s advances appear to be the government’s first significant push in months to regain some territory.

Speaking later at the UN General Assembly in New York, Sudan’s

de facto leader, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said that he supported efforts to bring an end to the war, but only if they brought an end to the RSF’s occupation of Sudanese territory.

He questioned why the international community had not stepped in to help counter the group, and accused states in the region of “providing funding and mercenaries for their own political and economic benefit, in flagrant violation of law and international will”.

The UN has called for “immediate” action to protect civilians and end the fighting.

It says that, since the start of September, it has documented at least 78 civilian deaths as a result of artillery shelling and air strikes in the greater Khartoum area.

Much of the worst and most intense fighting has taken place in heavily populated regions. Both sides have accused each other of indiscriminately bombing civilian areas.

“Relentless hostilities across the country have brought misery to millions of civilians, triggering the world’s fastest-growing displacement crisis,” warned the UN on Wednesday.

It noted that half of the 10 million people who had fled their homes were children, while at least two million have sought protection in neighbouring countries.

It also called Sudan “the world’s largest hunger crisis”. There are fears of widespread famine as people have not been able to grow any crops.

There have also been warnings of a possible genocide against non-Arabs in the western region of Darfur.

A cholera epidemic is also raging throughout the country- more than 430 people have died from the easily-treatable disease in the past month, the health ministry said on Wednesday.



Nosim Kimerei (3rd-R), chairperson of CCM women’s wing in suburban Dar es Salaam’s Kivule ward, leads her colleagues in an environmental cleanliness drive at Kivule Dispensary yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Special Correspondent

## Small island nations scuffle for survival amid rising sea levels

WORLD leaders who took the stage at the United Nations General Assembly have warned about sea level rise and the impacts of climate change in the most dire and personal terms.

Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said even if vulnerable lands are submerged, their nations should still be recognized. “We must also be clear,” she said. “We will not be wiped out off the map, nor will we go silently to our watery graves.”

In a special high-level summit to address the impacts or rising seas, small island nations pleaded for their survival and insisted on their sovereignty despite overflowing oceans.

“The existential threat that we

face is not of our making, but it will remake us,” Tuvalu’s prime minister, Feleti Teo, said. He insisted the voices of nearly 1 billion people in low-lying nations needed to be heard.

“Heritage is lost, and the very fabric of our nations become increasingly threatened. For many of us, these are the hard realities we experience today. Not the projections of a coming future,” he added.

Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan asked the international community to hold

businesses and governments accountable, and to increase climate funding. He pointed out the imbalance between the world’s military expenditure and funds needed to combat the effects of climate change. “A worrying reflection of the world’s priorities,” he said

Vietnam’s To Lam warned that “poor countries are being left further behind with a widening development gap” in the face of challenges from climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters. Super Typhoon Yagi,

which ravaged Vietnam, “serves as a stark warning as a severe impact that natural disasters and climate change can have on sustainable development for all,” he said.

President of Togo Faure Gnassingbé said he hopes Africa is not left behind, and that he believes investment in green energy and education are the key to a better future for Africa’s youth. “If we do nothing, the question of the environment will lead to major waves of migration towards the north, which is clearly something that is a common concern.”



This is part of evidence of the ongoing implementation of Dar es Salaam’s rapid transit bus infrastructure project, as found yesterday along the Lugalo stretch of Bagamoyo Road. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Special Correspondent

## Lebanon ceasefire prospects abate as Netanyahu arrives in New York

A COALITION of the United States and its allies called for a 21-day pause in hostilities in Lebanon, where Hezbollah operates, after Israeli airstrikes aimed at the Iran-supported group led to hundreds of casualties and displacement of many mid-week.

As he arrived in New York for the U.N. General Assembly on Thursday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated that hopes for a cease-fire are fading, asserting that Israel will persist in its attacks on Hezbollah “with full force” until its goals are fulfilled.

Shortly before his remarks,

the Israeli military reported the killing of a Hezbollah drone commander in an airstrike on an apartment complex in the suburbs of Lebanon’s capital.

“During the flight, I gave approval for the elimination of the head of the UAV (Unmanned aerial vehicle) unit and other things, and he was eliminated. My policy, our policy is clear. We are continuing to strike Hezbollah with full force. And we will not stop until we reach all our goals, chief among them the

return of the residents of the north securely to their homes,” he said.

This statement was made, while U.S. and European leaders urged a 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations between Israel and Hezbollah.

This week, Israel has significantly increased its airstrikes in Lebanon, claiming to target Hezbollah.

Israeli officials are resolute in their efforts to end over 11 months of cross-border attacks from the militant group, which

have led to the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents from northern Israel.

The announcement dampens expectations for an international effort to cease the escalating violence that has resulted in hundreds of casualties in Lebanon and raised the risk of a full-scale war between Israel and Hezbollah.

Israel has also mentioned the possibility of a ground invasion to drive the militant group further from the border.

## Africa needs to work on a vast range of economic, societal 'perfect storms'

THE rise in microbial resistance to anti-malaria drugs has made quite a few leaders of African countries seek global action against malaria resistance, expressing that that a "perfect storm" was brewing.

This relates to the malaria upsurge, as it is one of the converging crises threatening to derail decades of progress - first in the fight against malaria and also in other areas, as malaria is linked to HIV and tuberculosis.

It is easy to understand why African leaders are calling for concerted efforts in that regard, as the health challenge has a number of characteristics of ability to surpass Africa's efforts to keep crisis at bay.

These fears were expressed midweek on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York - at a high-level fireside chat hosted by the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).

Aside from funding, identifying clear ways of overcoming the microbial resistance challenge as regards malaria weren't altogether evident. Growing resistance to insecticides and antimalarial drugs is one thing, while climate-induced disasters leading to increased flooding touch off malaria upsurges.

Beyond that observation it is a matter of epidemiological projection on the numbers of likely cases up to 2030, as well as the projected number of deaths.

Cast in the background of death margins in conflicts in Africa and around the world at the moment, it is hard to say that 112 million more malaria cases also likely to cause 280,700 more deaths is shocking.

For socio-medical conditions of that sort to come up as shocks, there has to be normal situations - that the new scenario is a disturbance on this fairly placid atmosphere.

This doesn't exist at the moment and, when it comes to the wider crises afflicting Africa, the jury is out there if there is sufficient effort on the continent to stem all the crises confronting it.

The financial gap in antimicrobial resistance financing thus poses a grave threat - and hence the appeal for a successful Global Fund replenishment in 2025, if malaria financing is a priority.

The issue now is how many priorities African countries are wishing for, as there is a food systems and malnutrition priority, a climate change priority, etc., while only days earlier we heard about a fundamental learning priority.

Listing a raft of priorities at the same time emasculates the urgency of any of them, as the others battle with any specific priority, thus frustrating targeted funding. It remains just 'business as usual'.

An encumbering thematic pluralism persists at both the level of financial leveraging and that of epidemiological focus, when African Union officials underline the need for a multi-sectoral approach, covering agriculture, environment, mining and tourism.

This is essential for malaria elimination as well as Covid-19 pandemic preparedness and response, for which a US\$6.3bn annual disbursement was floated. It will partly involve enhancing domestic resource commitments, where health funding has been rising but gaps remain.

## Why many diplomats view UN Security Council seat as a matter of life and death

PLENTY is being said - and heard - at the ongoing plenary sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

Some of that is detailed and strategically promising, while the utility of some of the more strident themes is hard to define from a bread and butter aspect.

It is the seeming breakthrough of Africa's bid for a UN Security Council permanent seat being achieved.

A top diplomat, none other than the Russian Foreign minister, has recently backed that bid - of course, basically symbolic, as it was just in a UN General Assembly speech.

It is a bit perplexing as to what Africa's leading diplomats expect from having a permanent seat in the Security Council, especially as Africa has always coveted the veto power.

Still, going by how the Security Council votes on a day to day basis, only the United States and Russia regularly make use of their veto power, as they lead blocks of countries within the council and in the wider assembly.

The series of resolutions placed before the council and often vetoed by the US and by Russia occasionally.

Looking at how Africa views the world, and the content of its positions in the UN General Assembly or its initiatives like South Africa filing a case at the International Criminal Court against what it described as genocide in Gaza, it is evident that Africa belongs to the BRICS camp - that is, contrasted with NATO.

The latter camp stands upright for democracy and unimpeded respect for pluralism and other facets of the International

Declaration of Human Rights. Meanwhile, the former appreciates this key ingredient to global peace and harmony with various levels of mitigation - even mild reservations.

Africa's desire for a permanent seat on the UNSC is considered 'legitimate' by a series of top diplomats, among them the UN Secretary General.

However, that doesn't mean that it is feasible or strategically usable, especially with Russia supporting similar bids by India and Brazil.

The latter two countries might be considered more credible than any specific African country courtesy of the clout they have around the world.

But it would not be as much at UNSC level, where even China doesn't have veto power ahead of Russia.

Russia will have a greater role than China on most world issues. Similarly, France and Britain rarely cast vetoes to outstrip their US ally.

The idea as expressed by the top Russian diplomat that admitting Africa to the UNSC inner circle would help elevate the voices of developing countries is partially true but might prove dysfunctional.

Africa has a number of revolving seats in the council, where Algeria has used its current membership of the council to bring up several resolutions. It did so as a member of the Arab League.

Meanwhile, many other African states are Anglophone or Francophone, and finally BRICS allies, which removes the strategic demand for veto power. That would mean merely influencing the vote taking in the inner circle by joining the Russia-China minority group, while actually still effectively without the all-important veto power.

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By Sarah Grevy Gotfredsen

THE story of X (formerly known as Twitter) in Brazil has taken another surprising turn: Elon Musk, the platform's owner, appears to have backed down.

To recap: Musk refused to take several steps ordered by Brazil's Supreme Court, including removing certain accounts that the court said threatened Brazil's democracy and naming a new formal representative in the country.

The court responded by blocking X, leaving roughly twenty-two million Brazilian users unable to access the platform.

As part of the blackout order, the court said that internet users who tried to circumvent the measure by using a virtual private network (VPN) could be fined nearly nine thousand dollars a day (which, as the New York Times notes, is more than most people in Brazil make per year).

Musk furiously criticized the ban, but now appears to be complying with it, as NYT has reported. His sudden reversal may end a long-running battle with Alexandre de Moraes, the controversial justice behind the ban.

Moraes has become a polarising figure in Brazil over the past three years owing to his firm stance on combating online disinformation campaigns, particularly from the far right.

X isn't the only platform that has faced the slam of his hammer: in 2022, he threatened to block the messaging app Telegram, alleging that it had repeatedly refused to comply with requests to help fight disinformation in the lead-up to national elections. Telegram eventually complied and remained online.

Later that year, Brazil's electoral tribunal took things a step further, granting Moraes unilateral power to order tech companies to remove accounts and online posts in an effort to combat election-related disinformation.

This move infuriated right-wing politicians, including former Brazil president Jair Bolsonaro, who accused Moraes of abusing his power.

Moraes's supporters, on the other hand, argue that he has been taking necessary steps in an extreme situation to protect Brazil's democracy. Moraes himself has insisted that "freedom of expression is not freedom of aggression, it is not freedom to offend, nor to threaten".

The dispute between Musk and Moraes gathered momentum this April, when the justice ordered the suspension of several accounts as part of an investigation into Bolsonaro's refusal to recognize his election defeat in 2022.

X's global government affairs team

## Social media companies feel the heat - and backing away



said that the order was given, in its view, without proper explanation, adding: "We are prohibited from saying which court or judge issued the order, or on what grounds."

In a power play, Musk called out Moraes by name and declared that he would not comply with his orders regardless of the repercussions.

"As a result, we will probably lose all revenue in Brazil and have to shut down our office there," Musk said in a post, adding: "But principles matter more than profit."

And yet the accounts Musk previously vowed not to suspend are now exactly that: suspended. Recently, "X also complied with the justice's other demands, including paying fines and naming a new formal representative in the country," according to NYT.

Moraes said in a decision on Saturday that X has still "not duly met" all of his requirements for ending the ban. He gave the platform only days to present validating documents. Reuters has meanwhile since reported that X "will file documents requested by Brazil's Supreme Court and ask that service be restored in the country".

The reason behind X's sudden decision to comply with the court's orders is unclear. Neither Musk nor any representative of X has made a public statement on the matter - an eyebrow-raising silence, given Musk's previous bold rhetoric around free speech.

Regardless of the reason, rival social media platforms have been basking in the gap left by X in one of the world's most online countries.

Bluesky - an alternative to X founded by its former CEO, Jack Dorsey - registered two million new users in the four days following the suspension, according to the Financial Times.

Even Tumblr, the microblogging social network whose popularity

peaked a decade ago, saw a roughly 350 per cent growth in the number of users.

Whatever the reason, Musk isn't the only tech titan bowing to regulatory pressure at the moment. Three weeks ago, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov was arrested in France for refusing to cooperate with legal authorities regarding criminal activity on the app, including the sharing of content related to child sexual abuse and drug trafficking.

Law enforcement agencies in various countries have voiced concerns for years over the app's hands-off approach to content moderation, which has consequently made it a go-to platform for aspects of the criminal underworld and for those wishing to foment far-right terror attacks.

Durov was released on bail - which was set at more than five million dollars - and is required to report to the police twice a week, according to The Guardian (UK).

Now Durov says that his company is cracking down on illegal content. In a recent Telegram post on, he informed his thirteen million subscribers that the platform was leveraging AI to remove "problematic content" that users could previously have found through its search feature.

The IP (Internet Protocol) addresses and phone numbers of those violating the app's policies may also be shared with relevant authorities in response to what Durov describes as valid legal requests.

"These measures should discourage criminals," Durov wrote, adding: "Telegram Search is meant for finding friends and discovering news, not for promoting illegal goods."

Separately, Instagram is rolling out changes that it says will make the app a safer space for children

and teens.

The new policies include automatically making the accounts of users aged sixteen and under private, thus limiting who can contact or tag teen accounts in posts, and automating sleep mode to mute notifications overnight.

These new protocols come after years of warnings that social media platforms may be harming teens. A recent survey by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt found that one-third of Gen Z wishes that Instagram had never been invented.

Now, with the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act looming in the US Congress, Instagram is taking action - though critics say it's too little, too late.

Jim Steyer, an advocate for children's digital well-being, told The Guardian (UK): "This is basically another attempt to make a splashy announcement when the company's feeling the heat politically, period."

Platforms taking a step back after feeling the heat from regulators presents a new, slightly more hesitant approach, one that differs from Mark Zuckerberg's notorious motto to "move fast and break things".

The Times reported earlier this week that Zuckerberg himself is "done with politics" - though it seems unlikely that politics is done with him.

These clashes come after a decade or so of platforms operating in a sort of no-man's-land, where outside rules were often ignored, for better or worse.

Brazil's banning of X is one of the biggest examples seen thus far of authorities putting their foot down and punishing tech giants with real-world consequences. With this seal broken, other nations may follow.



# Limited funding, expertise hinder climate change research

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

COUNTRIES including Tanzania face significant economic risks linked to climate change. The risks may lead to labour productivity losses due to high temperatures that could reach 4-6 percent leading to total economic losses of 1.2 percent of Gross Value Added (GVA) by 2030 and 1.5 percent by 2050.

Following the extreme weather events including floods, droughts, and rising sea levels, governments are advised to take urgent action to adapt to climate change.

Tanzania is currently ranked 145 out of 185 countries on the ND-GAIN Index for climate readiness. The index measures a country's current vulnerability to climate disruptions and its readiness to improve resilience.

Dr Jamal Msami is the Principal Researcher and Director of Strategic Research at REPOA, is of the view that successful climate resilience will require integrating climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development through coordinated efforts across governance, politics, and institutional practices.

The economic toll is already evident. Tanzania's agricultural sector is losing approximately \$200 million yearly from climate-related risks, compounded by energy and water stress.

"With projections that flood damage alone could cost \$60 million per year by 2050, the stakes for climate resilience are high," said Dr Msami when addressing delegates at Policy Forum breakfast debate that brought together key stakeholders from the government, academia, civil society and the private sector.

Sponsored by the Irish Embassy in Tanzania, the debate was themed –'Shaping Tanzania's future navigating climate resilient development (CRD) challenges and choices'

CRD is an outcome and a process consisting of actions and social choices made by multiple actors performed over different dimensions of governance, politics, institutions, practices and bounded by ethics, values and worldviews that successfully integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development.

According to Msami Ethics, values, and worldviews must deeply inform these actions. He said CRD is not just an endpoint but an on-going process involving multiple actors and dimensions.

At the heart of CRD is the balance



REPOA Principal Researcher and Director of Strategic Research Dr Jamal Msami insist a point during Policy Forum breakfast debate in Dodoma this week.

between ensuring climate justice and equity, particularly for Tanzania's most vulnerable populations, and meeting the country's international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30-35 per cent by 2030, as per the National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Although financial investment is vital in mitigating climate change impacts, the researcher suggests that there should be a balance between mitigation and adaptation.

While mitigation moderates climate risks, it can also limit adaptation options, particularly in energy-intensive sectors. At the same time, adaptation measures could inadvertently increase greenhouse gas emissions if not carefully planned.

Between 2015 and 2022, Tanzania received over \$5 billion in climate-related development finance, with more than half directed towards adaptation.

Dr Msami suggested that more financial support is needed, particularly for building local capacity, fostering innovation, and developing context-specific resilience strategies.

He mentioned some of the challenges that hinder government efforts in achieving CRD as unsustainable development practices, combined with

rapid urbanization and population growth, are increasing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions while straining Tanzania's existing infrastructure.

Governance and institutional frameworks remain insufficient to address the scope of the climate crisis, with many national development plans failing to fully consider current and future climate risks.

Despite the existence of a National Disaster Risk Management Strategy (2022-2027), its integration into broader development policies has been slow. And the coordination among implementing agencies remains fragmented.

However, despite external financing opportunities being identified, there is no domestic budget allocation for climate adaptation, leaving Tanzania vulnerable to future funding gaps.

There are still growing interest in impact investment and private sector participation in CRD, as well as the recent adoption of carbon trading regulations, which could generate significant financial resources for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Msami also cited the National Disaster Management Strategy and Tanzania's strong network of stakeholders—from government bodies to academic institutions and civil society—as critical

enablers for achieving climate resilience.

He stressed that with the right mix of political will, innovation, and evidence-based policymaking, Tanzania can overcome these challenges and build a sustainable, resilient future.

Rehema Ulimboka, Assistant Lecturer at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) was concerned that destruction of the environment is in a high speed, highlighting the need for continued environmental conservation awareness education to the people.

Ulimboka noted that community-based adoption is vital for building resilience to climate change.

"By engaging local communities solutions become more tailored, sustainable and adaptable to the unique environmental and social challenges they face."

Forest Officer from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Felister Kagembe said to mitigate climate change impacts the government has now entered into contracts with various companies for carbon trading.

She underscored the need for more awareness education to increase the public understanding on climate change, its impacts as well as how to

address them.

"A well-informed public is crucial to driving the success of CRD initiatives, as many communities and individuals lack awareness of climate change risks and the importance of resilience building actions."

The Irish Embassy in Tanzania, who sponsored the event, has continued to show its commitment to supporting climate resilience initiatives in the country, taking into consideration the importance of international collaboration in addressing climate change, particularly in vulnerable nations like Tanzania.

The Irish government pledged to continue working with local partners to ensure that Tanzania can access the financial, technological, and policy tools it needs to achieve climate resilience.

Studies have shown that navigating a complex path towards climate resilience involves a multifaceted approach that integrates various strategies and stakeholders.

Some of these key steps among others include, evaluating the specific climate risks faced by communities, ecosystems, and economies. Use climate models, historical data, and local knowledge to understand vulnerabilities.

Engage local populations in decision-making processes to ensure their needs and knowledge are incorporated. Foster partnerships between government, businesses, NGOs, and academia.

Creating plans that address economic, social, and environmental dimensions of resilience and focusing on actions that provide the greatest benefit for the least cost.

Protect and restore natural habitats that can buffer against climate impacts, such as wetlands and forests. Implement solutions like green roofs, permeable pavements, and urban forestry.

Upgrade existing infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and rising sea levels, transition to renewable energy to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, encourage sustainable agriculture, water management, and waste reduction practices and support systems that minimize waste and promote recycling and reuse.

By following these steps, communities and organizations can navigate the complexities of climate resilience effectively, adapting to challenges while building a sustainable future.

By Correspondent Constantine Akitanda

## President Samia's call to halt forest fires impresses organic agriculture proponent

IN the lush southern highlands of Ruvuma, a region renowned for its agricultural resilience, districts such as Mbinga, Songea, Namtumbo, Tunduru, and Nyasa have long thrived on farming.

Yet, as each planting season approaches, a dangerous practice persists, the widespread use of fire to clear fields.

This tradition is causing devastating harm, not only to the forests that shape these rural landscapes but also the soil that sustains thousands of livelihoods.

The once vibrant forests are being systematically destroyed, stripped bare by uncontrolled fires that ravage entire ecosystems, leaving the land barren.

In Mbinga District, where the Matengo people have coexisted with their mountainous surroundings for generations, the loss is profoundly felt, their biodiverse-rich forests are vanishing rapidly, year after year, sacrificed to flames in the name of agricultural preparation.

The transformation is stark—what were once verdant hillsides now resemble scarred patches of land, stripped of life and vitality. The fires, deeply embedded in local farming traditions, have eroded natural vegetation and destabilized the already fragile environment.

Over generations, this practice has gradually depleted the soil's fertility, pushing ecosystems toward collapse.

During a rally in Namtumbo District on September 26, President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivered a stern message.

She urged local communities to abandon the destructive habit and protect the forests that remain. "Stop burning down forests, if you must burn your fields, ensure the fire doesn't spread and destroy conserved areas," the President warned. Her message is unequivocal, that Tanzania's environmental future hinges on collective action.

Her remarks come at a pivotal mo-



Forest fires not only destroy vast woodlands, but they also damage critical infrastructure.

ment when Tanzania, like much of the world, faces the twin crises of environmental degradation and food security.

President Samia highlighted the far-reaching effects of forest fires—not only do they destroy vast woodlands, but they also damage critical infrastructure.

Uncontrolled fires frequently ravage roads, which are vital to connecting rural communities and fostering economic development, this only worsens conditions in regions already struggling with poverty.

As the President urged citizens to stop burning forests, Bakari Mongo, Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), echoes her sentiments.

He told The Guardian that said the President's ban on burning comes at an opportune moment, as stakeholders in organic agriculture and agroecology advocate for a shift towards sustainable farming practices.

Mongo stresses that traditional methods, such as leaving crop residues like

maize stalks on fields after harvest, can help restore soil fertility.

"Rather than burning fields, it's time we raise awareness and ensure farmers move away from fire-based practices that harm the soil, forests, and the creatures that inhabit them," he said.

Mongo emphasized that incorporating organic materials back into the soil reduces reliance on chemical fertilizers and preserves the land for future generations.

This approach aligns with the global movement toward agroecology, a model that balances farming with environmental stewardship. In a region as dependent on agriculture as Ruvuma, adopting such practices could revitalize the land and secure the livelihoods of those who depend on it.

The destruction of Tanzania's forests carries broader socio-economic consequences; forests regulate the climate, support biodiversity, and maintain essential water cycles.

Their loss exacerbates climate change, leading to more frequent droughts and floods—conditions that disproportionately impact both rural and urban communities.

Mongo added: "The loss of forests has significant consequences for communities, not only ecologically but also economically, for many rural households; forests provide essential resources such as firewood, food, and traditional medicines." As these resources dwindle, poverty deepens, and communities become increasingly vulnerable.

Tanzania's burgeoning eco-tourism industry, a vital economic driver, faces

decline as forests shrink and wildlife habitats disappear.

President Samia's call to action is a plea for collective responsibility, protecting Tanzania's environment, she insists, is not solely the responsibility of government agencies but a shared duty for all citizens.

Communities must take ownership of their natural resources, embrace sustainable land management, and ensure forest fires become a leftover of the past.

One solution lies in education and awareness campaigns targeting both farmers and local leaders.

Through highlighting the long-term benefits of sustainable farming and forest conservation, the government can foster a cultural shift away from destructive practices.

Local authorities must also be empowered to enforce regulations that prevent uncontrolled fires and hold accountable those who fail to comply with proper land management practices.

While sophisticated technology, such as satellite-based fire monitoring systems, may not yet be feasible in rural Tanzania, practical alternatives exist.

Community-based fire surveillance and early warning systems, tailored to the realities of the Southern Highlands, could help detect and control fires before they spread.

These solutions would empower local communities to respond swiftly, minimize damage, and preserve the ecosystems on which they depend.

President Samia's message is as urgent as it is timely. Tanzania's forests, if protected, will continue to sustain life for generations to come. But the window to act is closing, as she poignantly stated, "The environment must be protected if it is to protect us in return."

# Serious concerns as world marks International Day of Peace

By Telesphor Magobe



TANZANIA joined other countries across the world in celebrating International Day of Peace, marked each September 21. This year's theme is "Cultivating a Culture of Peace". We mark this day while mindful of a wave of abductions, rape, sodomy and wanton killings, including those of persons with albinism.

The UN General Assembly in 1999 laid out values needed for establishing and maintaining a culture of peace such as respect for life, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the promotion of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation. Others are commitment to a peaceful settlement of conflicts, and adherence to freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

If we live by these values, we will be able to heal and re-establish broken relationships, act justly and restore peaceful relations in society. If we don't, it means the situation is likely to regress.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 states: "By 2030, promote

*The Law and you*

peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." How far do we as a country fare in this?

True peace is a result of justice - which is all about establishing right relations in society. We do justice when we treat others as we would like to be treated by them and we do injustice to others when we tread on them.

When we listen to news bulletins aired on TV or radio stations or read social media stories we learn that the world is not all that peaceful and a safe place to live in. All these stories make people live in uncertainty and think that if bad things have

happened to a relative, friend, neighbour, a colleague of mine or even to a stranger today, then tomorrow it may happen to me. This means we must do something about it to offset un-peacefulness among people and nations by acting justly.

The consolation we may get is that in Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024, Tanzania is ranked 65th of the surveyed 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness, covering 99.7 per cent of the world's population. In the GPI 2023, Tanzania was ranked 91st (with the overall scores of 2.058 points).

Iceland is ranked the 1st (after having the overall score of 1.112) of all surveyed independent states and territories. "It remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008, the first year of GPI ranking," according to GPI 2024.

Yemen is ranked 163rd of all the surveyed independent states and territories with the overall score of 3.397 points. "This is the first year that Yemen has been ranked as the least peaceful country in the world, with the country having fallen 24 places in the rankings since the inception of the index."

The GPI 2024 shows this year's results found that the average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.56 percent. This is the 12th deterioration in peacefulness in the last 16 years, with 65 countries improving and 97 deteriorating in peacefulness and the highest number of countries to deteriorate in

a single year since the inception of the GPI in 2007.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania is ranked 7th out of the surveyed 44 countries. It is preceded by Mauritius, Madagascar, Botswana, Ghana, Zambia and Namibia. In the East African Community (EAC), it is ranked the 1st out of the 8 surveyed countries [Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Somalia was admitted into the EAC by the Summit of EAC Heads of State on November 24, 2024 and became a full member on March 4, 2024.

Mauritius is the most peaceful country in sub-Saharan Africa for the 17th consecutive year. It has the highest levels of peace in the region across all three GPI domains, namely militarisation, ongoing conflict, and safety and security.

According to the GPI, sub-Saharan Africa has

recorded a fall in peacefulness on the GPI 2024, with the average score in the region deteriorating by 0.89 per cent over the past year. This makes it the second least peaceful region behind the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with three of the 10 least peaceful countries in the world found in the region.

The more we fight injustice in society and in the world the more peaceful and just societies and nations we create, while the more injustice we condone or create the less peaceful societies and nations we create. So, if we choose peace and justice we won't cause or condone injustice.

Today's inspiring quote: "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." - Albert Einstein.

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By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

## China-Tanzania bilateral ties: Celebrating 60 years of partnership, economic growth

THE Tanzania-China bilateral cooperation has evolved beyond traditional government contacts, expanding into strong people-to-people connections. Today, Tanzanians and Chinese citizens often refer to each other as 'Rafiki', meaning 'a friend' in Kiswahili.

This friendship, built over decades, reflects the unique and enduring relationship between the two nations. It was initiated by Tanzania's founding fathers, the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume, alongside China's Chairman Mao Zedong.

Recently, the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania celebrated the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was made by Mao Zedong, the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), on October 1, 1949. The event that dramatically reshaped China's modern history, has since then been on a path of rejuvenation and growth.

In tandem with these celebrations, Tanzania's government reiterated its commitment to strengthening ties with China, aiming for mutual economic growth.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, praised China's unwavering friendship over the past six decades, emphasizing that China has stood with Tanzania through both good and bad times.

"The visionary leadership of the late Nyerere and Mao laid a solid foundation for our countries' friendship, fostering a strategic partnership that continues to connect our shared histories and future aspirations," Prof Kabudi remarked, highlighting the recent visit of the Chinese Naval Hospital Ship 'Peace Ark,' which provided humanitarian aid and marked 60 years of bilateral military cooperation between the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

In addition to humanitarian initiatives, trade between China and Tanzania has flourished. Trade volume has increased from less than \$100 million in 2000 to \$8.8 billion in 2023—a staggering 88-fold growth.

Prof. Kabudi encouraged Tanzanians to explore Chinese markets for agricultural products like honey, sunflower, and dried chili, which are currently in demand.

Chen Mingjian, Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania, highlighted China's role in global poverty reduction, noting that China has accounted for 75 percent of the worldwide decrease in extreme poverty. She highlighted China's leadership in green energy, being a top investor in wind, solar, and nuclear power.

The ambassador celebrated key milestones in China-Tanzania cooperation, including the completion of the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge, part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and progress on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). With only a two-meter section left, the Kigongo-Busisi Bridge by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) and China Railway will soon connect the Usagara-Sengerema-Geita road across Lake Victoria.

It will provide a crucial link between the region and neighbouring countries—Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.



The ambassador discussed the increase in Chinese tourist arrivals to Tanzania, which surpassed 44,000 in 2023, and the premiere of the China-Tanzania feature film 'Welcome to Milele', a special film that showcases their historical partnership, particularly in the liberation movement.

The film commemorates 60 years of China dispatching its first medical team to Tanzania and highlights the enduring friendship between the two nations.

Additionally, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, along with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the renovation of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) which runs trains between Kapiri Mposhi, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam.

The project will accelerate regional trade and integration. President Xi further pledged over \$50 billion in aid and loans to Africa, supporting infrastructure and agricultural modernization as part of China's continued commitment to the continent development.

President Xi emphasized the value of global cooperation in his address at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) stating, "If you want to go fast, walk alone; if you want to go far, walk together." He stressed the importance of a win-win partnership for sustainable, shared achievements.

Beijing's commitment to Africa has fuelled significant infrastructure development, though some critics caution about the debt burdens these projects create. As China faces economic challenges at home and growing competition with the United States, its policies toward Africa may shift, but the strong ties between China and Tanzania remain firmly rooted in a shared vision of progress.

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	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 UMJUAWYO 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**

# Activists: Immediate policy, law changes needed to end child marriages

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

**M**ARA, Shinyanga, Tabora and Dodoma are among the regions in Tanzania with the highest prevalence of child marriage, where many girls are married before their 18th birthday. The troubling trend is driven by various factors, including income poverty, social norms, adolescent fertility and weak legal frameworks.

According to the Demographic and Health Survey (2015/16), child marriage rates in the regions are staggering: 59 percent in Shinyanga, 58 percent in Tabora, 55 percent in Mara, and 51 percent in Dodoma. In contrast, regions like Iringa and Dar es Salaam have much lower rates, at 8 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

The survey also reveals that 29 percent of women aged 20-24 in Tanzania were married before the age of 18, hindering the development of many girls.

Activists and stakeholders have long campaigned for amendments to the Marriage Act of 1971, which they argue undermines the dignity and aspirations of children and girls in the country.

Despite the efforts, many young girls remain forced into marriage, finding themselves in difficult situations that impede their development.

In a concerted effort to eradicate child marriage, activists have launched a campaign aimed at educating girls and communities about the importance of protecting the rights of the girl child. This campaign began earlier this week, focusing on regions particularly vulnerable to child marriage: Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora and Dodoma. It is organised by TECMN, comprising over 80 non-governmental organisations, including the Msichana Initiative, Medea, Plan International, My Legacy, Binti Makini Foundation, and the Theatre Arts Feminist Group.

During the campaign's inauguration in Tarime District, Mara Region, Lilian Kimati, the TECMN coordinator, expressed a commitment to eradicating practices that hinder children's dreams.

Currently, Tanzania's Marriage Act sets the minimum marriage age for girls at 15 with parental consent, while boys must be at least 18. "If this law is revised, we believe child marriages could become a thing of the past, allowing girls



Stakeholders visit rural areas to educate communities, advocate for policy and legal improvement

to achieve their dreams," she said.

Peragia Baron, the acting Tarime District Executive Director, acknowledged the vital role played by various organisations in reducing child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) rates in the district. "Historically, child marriage was alarmingly common, with many girls married shortly after undergoing FGM. It was not unusual for girls to be considered wives by Standard Four and married by Standard Seven. In local customs, once a girl is circumcised, she is viewed as an adult and eligible for marriage," she noted.

Baron added that while child marriage still exists, rates have significantly decreased in recent years, partly due to advocacy centres supporting children fleeing forced marriages.

She called for more organisations to be established in rural areas to broaden outreach.

"If these programmes reach every village, we could make substantial progress in preventing child marriage, as many individuals in these areas lack awareness and do not know where to report such issues," she said.

She said the council allocates a specific budget each year for the social welfare department to raise awareness about combating FGM and child marriage.

Valerian Mgani, project manager at the Association for Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (ATFGM) in Tarime, reported that initiatives to combat child marriage face obstacles from some politicians who defend these practices.

"When we work against FGM and child marriage,

we often encounter opposition from certain politicians who argue that we interfere with their constituents' customs. Even when we involve the police, they claim we act against local traditions," Mgani explained.

When visited Agape Knowledge Open School, a centre dedicated to rescuing and empowering girls who have suffered abuse and those forced to drop out of school due to early pregnancies and child marriages in Shinyanga, Kimati emphasised that child marriage poses a serious threat to girls' education and economic opportunities.

Amina Juma (not her real name), a girls at the AGAPE centre, shared her story, stating that many parents in Shinyanga, especially in rural areas, still marry off their daughters at a young age due to greed and en-

trenched customs.

The girl fled home when her parents intended to marry her off for financial gain.

"Girls have the right to an education, and when the time comes for them to marry, they should do so without pressure. Parents need to understand that girls are not liabilities; relying on them for wealth is an outdated notion," she said.

Hadija Yasim (17), a witness to child marriage from Manyada Village, also recounted her experience. At just 15, her uncle sought to marry her off in hopes of gaining wealth. ]

Upon learning of the plan, she reported it to the police, who brought her to the AGAPE centre. "In my village, a large percentage of girls like me are already married, and I saw the struggles they faced. I was not ready

to marry at my age," she explained.

Yasim expressed that life at the AGAPE centre is far better than returning home, where girls face gender-based violence and pressure to marry young, leading to serious health consequences later on.

John Mayola, director of the AGAPE centre, stated that their primary mission is to provide guidance and counselling to help these children understand the dangers of such practices. He reported that the centre receives about 57 children annually, including those facing early pregnancies and child marriages. "Since January, we have admitted three pregnant girls, one of whom has already given birth to a two-month-old baby, along with nine cases of child marriages," he said.

He called for government education initiatives for girls, as parents often use various tactics to pressure them into early marriages. When girls resist, they are sometimes coerced into living with men, which can lead to pregnancies that facilitate marriage.

In late 2022, Speaker of the National Assembly Dr. Tulia Ackson proposed raising the minimum marriage age for girls to 21. "I believe that 18 is still too young for a child to marry, as they are not ready to handle the responsibilities of marriage at that age. They should focus on their studies in high school," Dr. Tulia said.

According to a 2021 United Nations report, more than 650 million women alive today were married as children. Child marriage is a global issue driven by gender inequality, poverty, unfavourable social norms, and insecurity.

By Thomas Lyimo

**I**T is alarming that some of the most industrious people in agriculture, the backbone of the country's economy, are threatened by malnutrition and poverty. Agriculture accounts for about 25 percent of the country's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The sector supports both national income and overall economic growth.

The presence of malnutrition and poverty jeopardizes future productivity, as unhealthy individuals struggle to work consistently while others may be discouraged, seeing little improvement in their living standards despite their efforts.

People are more motivated to work when their efforts leads to tangible benefits, being in agriculture or any other sectors of the economy.

The challenge is now how to utilize the available resources effectively for individual and community betterment. Having fluent resources is not enough if people do not know how to use them to improve their welfare.

It is frustrating to see hardworking farmers fail to achieve good health or economic development despite their dedicated efforts. It is demoralizing to be constantly busy with little to show for it.

Surprisingly, the assertion by nutrition experts that all the necessary nutrients are within reach, yet malnutrition still affects many. The issue isn't access to food but rather knowledge of how to use it effectively, highlighting the direct relationship between education and health.

Farmers also face anxiety about where to sell their produce, exacerbating the challenges they already face. The remedy to malnutrition and lack of markets lies in education. Government and stakeholders, primarily through the media, are trying to address these issues, but the sooner, the better.

When is the right time? During school; if students are educated on connections between agriculture, nutrition, and marketing, they will be better equipped to utilize agricultural produce efficiently—helping to combat malnutrition and sell surplus crops for economic gain. The

## Path to healthier and economically stable individuals begins with quality education



Health and the economy are closely linked, making it essential for the government to design a curriculum that focuses on these key areas.

ability to analyze and apply knowledge is crucial to development.

Health and the economy are closely linked, making it essential for the government to design a curriculum that focuses on key areas, including:

Environmental conser-

vation and disease prevention; harmful practices like deforestation for charcoal contribute to air pollution, global warming, and agricultural decline due to unreliable rainfall, ultimately hindering economic development. Students should be taught to assess the eco-

nommic value of health and understand how disease prevention is critical to sustaining productivity and economic growth. A healthy workforce is essential for development.

Market awareness for agricultural produce; farmers often suffer losses due to a

lack of market access. Educating students on how to identify and assess markets for agricultural goods could help address the challenges farmers face. Teaching students about key buyers and market trends would empower them to predict future opportunities and chal-

lenges, allowing them to make the most of agricultural production.

A health- and economy-focused education system would benefit the country in several ways:

Increase in GDP; healthy individuals who can work efficiently and consistently contribute to GDP growth. Additionally, those who sell surplus goods bring in foreign currency, fueling further development.

Lower health expenditures; when citizens prevent disease, the government can allocate resources previously spent on healthcare toward other developmental projects.

Higher life expectancy; longer, healthier lives mean a more productive workforce and a lower dependency ratio, which is beneficial to the economy.

The government spends significant resources addressing problems that could have been mitigated early on. As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure. It's unacceptable for issues like malnutrition to persist in a country with such vast arable land capable of producing a balanced diet.

Some scholars have labeled African countries, including Tanzania, as poverty-stricken. This is mainly due to the lack of initiative in utilizing our abundant arable land for economic growth. It's time to redesign our education system to ensure the maximum use of our resources for national development.

Mental liberation, the ultimate goal of education, will be achieved when learners can connect related aspects—like agriculture, nutrition, and marketing. The government, in collaboration with stakeholders, must strive to implement an education system that combats malnutrition and poverty. Positive change starts with education.

The author is a teacher based in Moshi. He can be reached at [lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com](mailto:lyimo.thomas@yahoo.com)

By Adonis Byemelwa

# World pharmacists' day: The key role of druggists in global health



Pharmacists are instrumental in promoting disease prevention through vaccinations, health screenings and patient education

ON September 25, 2024, the global community came together to celebrate World Pharmacists Day, shining a spotlight on the invaluable role pharmacists play in safeguarding public health.

World Pharmacists Day serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions pharmacists make to communities worldwide. This year's theme, 'Pharmacists Meet Global Health Needs', underlines the essential role pharmacists play in enhancing the health of individuals and communities alike. From ensuring access to medicines to participating in public health campaigns, pharmacists are often the first point of contact for health advice, serving as a crucial link between patients and healthcare systems.

World Pharmacists Day holds profound significance that extends beyond borders, serving as a global acknowledgment of pharmacists' unwavering dedication to promoting the safe and effective use of medications. This day raises awareness about health issues and educates the public on the importance of proper medication practices. In Tanzania, this commitment is particularly evident as health professionals and regulatory bodies unite to tackle the alarming rise in drug resistance and self-medication.

In many rural communities, the situation is concerning. It is not uncommon to find unqualified individuals selling medicines, or even neighbors in unrelated shops stepping in to dispense medications in the absence of pharmacy owners. This practice undermines established norms and poses serious risks to public health.

Tanzanians have also become increasingly aware of counterfeit drugs, often discovered in pharmacies, leading to dramatic scenes of these dangerous substances being destroyed in broad daylight. Such incidents highlight the urgent need for vigilance to protect innocent lives and ensure the integrity of healthcare in the community.

Tanzania's Chief Government Pharmacist Daudi Msasi delivered a powerful message, highlighting their critical contributions in ensuring access to essential medicines, medical supplies, and diagnostic tests.

"Pharmacists are instrumental in promoting disease prevention through vaccinations, health screenings, and patient education," he emphasized, showcasing their vital role in enhancing public health initiatives and effective medication management. This day serves as a reminder of how pharmacists are at the forefront of health care, committed to improving the well-being of communities worldwide.

This annual celebration aims not only to enhance public awareness of pharmacists' impact but also to address the pressing challenges posed by drug resistance and the alarming rise in self-medication practices.

As Msasi urged pharmacists to lead the charge in medication oversight, particularly concerning antibiotics, the call for proper guidelines on medication usage resonates with urgency. The misuse of antibiotics is a global issue that requires collective action to prevent the development of drug-resistant

strains, which pose a grave threat to global health.

In Tanzania, the importance of adhering to proper dispensing practices is paramount. Boniface Maggie, the Registrar of the Pharmacy Council of Tanzania, called upon pharmacists and pharmacy owners to refrain from dispensing medications without a doctor's prescription, warning that such practices only exacerbate the growing problem of drug resistance.

"Improper use of medications can lead to ineffective treatments and serious health risks," he cautioned, highlighting the potential dangers of self-medication. The Pharmacy Council's emphasis on regulatory compliance reflects a commitment to educating the public about safe medication practices, thereby reinforcing the need for professional advice before drug use.

The ongoing fight against drug resistance is echoed by Adonis Bitegeko, Manager of the Eastern Zone of the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA). He reiterated the TM-

DA's dedication to safeguarding public health by ensuring the quality and safety of medicines. "The TMDA is responsible for monitoring and regulating the registration, importation, and distribution of pharmaceutical products," Bitegeko stated, emphasizing their pivotal role in promoting adherence to professional guidelines and combating drug misuse.

Former Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu's strong stance against the practice of dispensing medication without a doctor's prescription highlights the gravity of the situation. Her declaration during the Third Conference on Drug Resistance highlighted the need for immediate action, as she warned pharmacists that they would face hefty fines and potential closure of their pharmacies if they continued such practices.

Ummu's call for surprise inspections of pharmacies aims to ensure compliance with regulations, further reinforcing the message that safeguarding public health is a shared responsibility.

In light of these developments, the need for continuous education and professional development among pharmacists becomes increasingly evident. Well-acclaimed standards for pharmacists globally emphasize the importance of ethical practices, adherence to regulatory guidelines, and ongoing training in the latest advancements in pharmaceutical care. These canons ensure that pharmacists remain equipped to address the evolving health needs of communities while promoting patient safety and effective medication use.

The situation in Tanzania reflects a growing awareness of the challenges posed by drug resistance, prompting calls for improved practices among pharmacists. The Pharmacy Council and the TMDA are taking significant steps to enhance public awareness and educate healthcare professionals on the importance of adhering to national treatment guidelines. By emphasizing the need for coor-

dated efforts under the "One Health" campaign, Tanzanian health officials are working to combat drug resistance through a multifaceted approach.

Pharmacists in Tanzania are also encouraged to participate in research and development initiatives, contributing to the creation of new medicines and enhancing the overall quality of healthcare services. The role of pharmacists extends beyond dispensing medications; they are increasingly involved in public health advocacy, supporting campaigns that promote healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and improved health literacy among communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists have demonstrated their resilience and commitment to public health, serving on the front lines of the crisis. Their involve-

ment in vaccination campaigns, health screenings, and community education has proven essential in addressing both immediate health concerns and long-term public health goals. The lessons learned during this period highlight the need for ongoing collaboration between pharmacists, healthcare providers, and regulatory bodies to ensure the safe and effective use of medications.

As we commemorate World Pharmacists Day 2024, it is time we recognize and celebrate the crucial role pharmacists play in building healthier communities. Their expertise, dedication, and commitment to patient care are invaluable assets in the ongoing fight against drug resistance and the promotion of public health.

By reinforcing the importance of ethical practices and adherence to professional guidelines, we can ensure that pharmacists continue to meet the global health needs of individuals and communities.

The challenges of self-medication and the misuse of antibiotics require collective action from all stakeholders in the healthcare sector. By fostering a culture of collaboration and education, we can create a healthcare environment that prioritizes patient safety, effective medication management, and the overall well-being of society.

World Pharmacists Day serves as a timely reminder of the indispensable role pharmacists play in achieving these goals, and we must continue to support and empower them in their vital work.

The celebration of World Pharmacists Day not only honors the significant contributions of pharmacists but also calls for a renewed commitment to safe medication practices. As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the role of pharmacists will remain crucial in addressing emerging health challenges and ensuring that communities have access to the resources they need for a healthier future. Together, let us recognize the importance of pharmacists in our healthcare systems and work towards fostering a culture of responsible medication use and public health advocacy.

# 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 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 15 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA 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## BUSINESS



Wilberforce Ofori, Chairperson of Micro-Credit Association of Ghana

## Company bemoaning increase in unlicensed Ghana digital lenders

## ACCRA

The Chairperson of the Micro-Credit Association of Ghana (MCAG), Wilberforce Ofori, has expressed concern about what he described as the increase in unlicensed digital and online lending platforms in the country.

According to him, while these unregulated activities pose serious risks to consumers, it is also causing damage to the integrity of the financial sector.

Mr Ofori recalled the Bank of Ghana's (BoG) warning in June about over 97 unlicensed loan applications, and the Cyber Security

Authority's efforts, including nearly 400 arrests, and noted that despite these developments, these operations persist.

Mr Ofori observed that many individuals, driven by financial desperation, resort to those services, often being offered exorbitant interest rates and short repayment periods that lead to emotional distress and harassment when the tides change.

"I caution all members to desist from engaging in such operations and urge our stakeholders to work together to address this issue and protect the reputation of our industry," he said.

Mr Ofori raised the alarm at the association's 15th Annual General Meeting held virtually last Thursday on the theme: "Micro-Credit: A Catalyst for the Growth of MSMEs."

The event focused on reviewing the association's financial performance for 2023 and preparing for future operations.

Financial resources While providing an insight into the financial health of the association, he stated that the financial resources of the association were judiciously used and carefully managed, thus, enabling it to accomplish the targets set by the governing board.

## Equity Bank, Bakhresa Group sign pact to offer loans to small traders



Leah Ayoub (R), business director at Equity Bank and Hussein Sufiani, director of communications at Bakhresa Group, display documents after signing a distributors and stockists financing partnership pact in Dar es Salaam on Thursday: Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## By Guardian Correspondent

**E**QUITY Bank Tanzania and Bakhresa Group have announced a new agreement to provide loans to traders in efforts aimed to uplift their businesses.

The sustainable initiative aims to offer loans to flour traders, allowing them to borrow up to 300m/- to purchase the product.

During the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Leah Ayoub, business director at Equity

Bank, said hundreds of flour suppliers and stockists will be able to access the loans easily.

"We recognise that many distributors and entrepreneurs struggle to access capital due to high interest rates. This agreement allows us to simplify our services for customers and distributors of Azam products.

"This loan will be interest-free; instead, customers will pay a commission ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.5 percent, with repayment expected within seven to 30 days,"

she said.

She added: "This is an opportunity for quick capital growth. We are committed to supporting entrepreneurs and facilitating easy access to services without unnecessary hurdles. Even customers without an Equity account can open one on their mobile devices to obtain a loan."

Hussein Sufiani, director of communications at Bakhresa Group, noted that the agreement will assist customers by eliminating the need to seek sponsors or

financiers. Instead, they can easily access funds through the bank or online services.

"This service is also digital; you can access it via SMS. There's no need to visit the bank for transfers; transactions occur automatically once you place your order. As you continue to borrow, the amount can increase," he said.

He emphasised that the initiative will particularly benefit small customers and encouraged them to take advantage of this opportunity.

continued support from the Bank of Ghana, which provided GHc2 million to support the association's monitoring and inspection activities through the other Financial Institutions Supervision Department.

The support, he said, had been crucial in maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of its operations.

Commitment The Executive Director of the association, Ebenezer Quartey, said that last year, the MCAG made significant strides in advancing and supporting the micro-credit sector, reinforcing its commitment to empowering micro-finance institu-

tions and ensuring their sustainable growth.

He said one of the key achievements was the launch of a member portal, developed with financial support from GIZ.

The innovative platform, he said, had revolutionised how members assessed the health of their institutions by providing clear performance indicators, enabling more informed decision-making and better overall management.

To further support its members, he said an on-site examination was conducted, aimed at strengthening institutional resilience and ensuring business sustainability.

## Top five travel companies in Kenya for 2024 named

## NAIROBI

Travel companies help people plan, choose, and arrange their holidays and trips to ensure they go as smoothly as possible. They assist them in determining the best travel destinations, arranging transportation, choosing accommodations that suit their needs, preferences, and budgets, and making other travel arrangements, which might include booking flights, hotels, sight-seeing tours, and formulating dining recommendations.

The idea of a business whose service line was organising trips began with Thomas Cook, a British Baptist preacher who founded his firm Thomas Cook & Son in 1841. The idea then expanded to the Americas, followed by other parts of the world, including Africa, where Kenya is.

Today, according to data from the Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO), the number of businesses in the tour operator industry in Kenya is estimated to be over 300 after international tourism arrivals picked up from their pre-pandemic levels with significant growth recorded in the first six months of 2024 when the

country collected Ksh142.5 billion in revenues.

When booking a holiday, you want to spend your money with a trustworthy company. Tip: Ask about client reviews, which will give you a better idea of your travel agent's efficiency and expertise.

The first thing a trustworthy travel company or tour operator should ask is about your needs, budget, and preferences to help refine their recommendations and create a customised itinerary for you at a reasonable price. You should ensure the costs are appropriate because you will pay for the trip.

So whether you have a big budget or a small one, are seeking personalised travel experiences through Kenya's must-see sights or something more relaxed, these expert tour operators will help you travel with confidence and deliver the trip of a lifetime;

They are Kenya's top 5 travel companies, providing tailored itineraries and unique experiences to cater to individual preferences, as they appear on TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel platform, where travellers share reviews for experiences, accommodations,



Travel companies assist customers in determining the best travel destinations, lining up transportation, and making other travel arrangements.

restaurants, and other travel categories.

Andersky Tours & Travel is now Kenya's largest tour operator and has won awards for its excellent service at reasonable prices without compromising on the quality of your adventure. Their packages start from around Ksh7,000.

According to user reviews, they are famous for their expert local guides, who offer an enriched approach to creating the ultimate travel experience

to various destinations, such as the renowned national parks and game reserves Masai Mara National Reserve, Amboseli National Park, Tsavo National Park, and Nairobi National Park, among many others.

They also offer group travel solutions for company retreats, team-building events, incentive travel, corporate meetings, and conferences. However, a key marker of Andersky's reliability is that honeymoons and special occasions make up a

quarter of its business; it's also strong on family holidays.

Additionally, they have specialised in round-the-world tickets and local multi-city flights for more than a decade, and one can use their site to book tickets for discounted rates and special promotions.

Owned and managed by the famous Simon Kabu, Bonfire Adventures is another established tour operator in Kenya. It offers everything from standard private tours

to small group active tours to 100+ destinations on all seven continents.

Despite offering curated itineraries with hands-on experiences and collaborations with experts in various fields to create unique and immersive travel experiences, they are expensive owing to their target market, the wealthy middle class.

Bonfire Adventures was started in 2008 around a bonfire at the Maasai Mara C\*\*\*\*\*e, hence 'Bonfire' Adventures.

Hagai Tours & Travel, based in Eldoret, is a small group travel company that specialises in group tours of around 10-20 travellers. For over three years, the company has planned getaways for various travellers on different budgets.

They also provide customised tours across Kenya for independent travellers who love discovering new food and learning about culture, history and nature.

For more than five years, Leshamara Safaris has been a trusted guided tour specialist that ranks among the best travel tour companies for expeditions to various destinations across the country;

They provide expert end-to-end service for booking and managing group travel to the Maasai Mara, Amboseli National Park, Tsavo National Park, Aberdare National Park, Lake Nakuru National Park, Mount Kenya National Park, and other destinations, starting at about Ksh15,000.

Juancy Tours & Travels is a new entry to the country's best tour operators based in Nakuru, Kenya. Its travel experts coordinate trips nationwide with special packages to Singapore and South Africa.

The company specialises in custom itineraries and private group trips. It claims to offer trips that "aren't luxury but aren't budget either," giving travellers a great middle-ground for their group adventures. You can reach out to them for quotes.

Those are the top 5 tour operator companies in Kenya. If you want to find more that offer curated tours and travel experiences, you can do your research online. Browse online reviews, testimonials, and ratings and check for accreditations and certifications to ensure they are reliable, reputable, and capable of meeting your expectations.

# ExxonMobil's \$10 billion in Nigeria's deepwater asset to unlock 180,000 bpd

LAGOS

The decision of ExxonMobil to invest \$10 billion in deep-water oil projects in Africa's biggest oil-producing country is expected to unlock at least 180,000 barrels per day (bpd), BusinessDay's findings have revealed.

ExxonMobil is one of the international oil companies (IOCs) which have exited Nigeria's onshore environment to explore the deep-water operations in the oil-rich Niger Delta.

In recent public appearances, ExxonMobil executives in Nigeria have hinted at the progress made on several deep-water operations in Nigeria, including OML 133 (Erha FPSO), OML 138 (Usan FPSO), OML 139 and OML 154 (Owovo discovery) in the oil-rich Niger Delta, without giving any specifics.

Now, ExxonMobil's new strategy in Nigeria will focus on the Owovo deep water asset, a sizable deep-water project drilled by ExxonMobil affiliate, Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria (Deepwater Ventures) Limited, estimated to cost \$10 billion and unlock an estimated 180,000 bpd.

BusinessDay's findings showed the deep-water asset discovered in October 2016 has a potential recoverable resource of between 500 million and 1 billion barrels of oil on the Owovo field offshore Nigeria.

"We're working closely with the president's office and the special adviser to the president to secure favourable fiscal arrangements that will make this significant investment possible," said Shane Harris, chairman and managing director of ExxonMobil affiliates in Nigeria, as quoted by the press release from the presidency on Thursday.

"Our commitment to Nigeria remains unwavering. As we celebrate 70 years of oil production and 8 billion barrels produced, we're not retreating but refocusing our investments on deep-water opportunities," Harris was further quoted as saying.

ExxonMobil issued a tender in August 2023 seeking for oil rigs that will carry out drilling, completion, testing, temporary abandonment and workovers in water depths from 600 to 1,800 metres. It highlighted OML 139 and 154 in this tender, which closes on September 6, 2023. This will run for three years with an option for another two.

Another tender called for the provision of oil country tubular goods (OCTG) and ser-



vices in the same licences and with the same duration. This OCTG tender closed on August 8 2023.

Bala Wunti, group general manager of Nigerian Upstream Investment Services (NUIS) of formerly National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), in July 2023, said the Owovo project, which Exxon has put in the freezer, has been unfrozen courtesy of the Petroleum Industry Act and changes in the Production Sharing Structure.

ExxonMobil holds 27 percent interest and is the operator for the Owovo project, while Joint venture partners include Chevron Nigeria Deepwater G Limited (27 percent interest), Total E&P Nigeria Limited (18 percent interest), Nexen Petroleum Deepwater Nigeria Limited (18 percent interest), and the Nigeria Petroleum Development Company Limited (10 percent interest).

A note from S&P Global last year highlighted the impact of the PIA on deepwater projects. The changes have increased Owovo's net present value (NPV) by more than 200 percent, it said, to more than \$3.5 billion.

Obo Idornigie, vice president at Welligence, an energy data intelligence firm,

told Energy Voice that partners in Owovo were planning to tie the field back to Usan FPSO, which is underutilised.

He said NNPC records indicate that field development planning at Owovo would be completed with partners aiming for the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) and contracting in 2024.

Idornigie added, "This is encouraging news, but projects like Bonga SW and Preowei have also had a number of false starts. Let's hope Owovo can buck the trend."

The Erha field is in OML 133, while Usan is in OML 138. Exxon's Nigerian volumes have been declining over recent years. In 2020, production was 150,000 barrels per day of liquids. By 2023, this had fallen to 123,000 bpd.

Liam Mallon, president of ExxonMobil Upstream Company, was amongst the first executives to meet President Bola Tinubu after he took office in May. The meeting sent encouraging signs on the major's commitment to Nigeria and the possibility of fresh investments being announced soon.

There is an ongoing plan with ExxonMobil and Seplat Energy for the divestment of the former's onshore assets for

\$1.2 billion.

The deal, which has been ongoing since 2022, is anticipating some greenlight following President Bola Tinubu's intervention in the issue.

Apart from ExxonMobil, Shell Plc reached an agreement in January to sell its Nigerian onshore oil assets to a local consortium for over \$1.3 billion, pending government approval.

In addition to the initial sum, Shell anticipates receiving extra payments of up to \$1.1 billion. The purchasing consortium, named Renaissance, comprises ND Western, Aradel Energy, First E&P, Waltersmith, and Petrolin.

Similarly, TotalEnergies stated plans to offload its minority stake in a significant Nigerian onshore oil joint venture following Shell's divestment announcement.

The Federal Government, through Vice President Kashim Shettima, has welcomed ExxonMobil's proposed \$10 billion investment in Nigeria's deep-water oil operations, describing it as a clear testament to the administration's economic reforms and investment-friendly policies.

This is coming just as the international

maritime giant, DP World, announced plans to develop a multibillion-dollar port project in Nigeria, according to the statement released by Stanley Nkwocha, the senior special assistant to the president on media & communications (office of the Vice President).

According to the statement, the Vice President stated this on Wednesday during a high-level meeting with ExxonMobil executives on the sidelines of the ongoing 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in York, United States.

"This potential investment by ExxonMobil aligns perfectly with President Bola Tinubu's administration's vision for a more investment-friendly Nigeria. We are committed to creating an enabling environment for such transformative projects," he said.

Shettima elaborated on President Tinubu administration's efforts to ensure ease of doing business in Nigeria.

He said, "The Renewed Hope Agenda places a strong emphasis on ease of doing business. We have initiated comprehensive reforms to streamline bureaucratic processes, enhance transparency, and provide fiscal incentives that make Nigeria an attractive destination for global investors".

The Vice President highlighted recent policy changes by the administration, saying, "Our administration has taken bold steps to unify the exchange rate, remove fuel subsidies, and implement

tax reforms.

These decisions, while challenging in the short term, are designed to create a more stable and predictable business environment in the long run," he added.

Addressing the specific concerns of the oil and gas sector, the Vice President continued: "We are actively working on revising the fiscal framework for deep-water operations.

"Our goal is to strike a balance between attracting investments and ensuring fair returns for the Nigerian people. The potential ExxonMobil investment is a clear indication that we are moving in the right direction.

"As we welcome ExxonMobil's renewed commitment, we see this as just the beginning. Our doors are open to all investors across various sectors. The message is clear: Nigeria is open for business, and the President Tinubu administration is your partner in progress."

Earlier, Shane Harris, Chairman and Managing Director of ExxonMobil Affiliates in Nigeria, reaffirmed the company's commitment to investing in Nigeria.

"Our commitment to Nigeria remains unwavering. As we celebrate 70 years of oil production and 8 billion barrels produced, we're not retreating but refocusing our investments on deep-water opportunities," Harris said.

The centrepiece of ExxonMobil's new strategy is the Owovo project, a substantial subsea tie-back that could represent a \$10 billion investment.

## Fidelity Bank refurbishes Accra Junior High School

ACCRA

Fidelity Bank, under its Orange Impact Initiative, has refurbished the Accra Royal Junior High School (JHS).

The project, which involved a comprehensive overhaul of the school's infrastructure, will directly benefit 150 students and 12 teachers and forms part of the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The renovated school now boasts a newly refurbished six-unit classroom block, a library, a headmistress's office, a staff common room, a storeroom, renovated washrooms, a paved compound, and beautifully landscaped garden space.

These enhancements provide a much-improved learning environment for the students and staff of

Accra Royal JHS.

A release from the bank said the initiative was part of its ongoing commitment to improving the education sector and ensuring that no child was left behind due to infrastructural limitations.

It is also in line with the bank's missions to support SDG 4 (Quality Education) target 4.8, which seeks to build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

In his speech read on his behalf, the Deputy Managing Director of Fidelity Bank, Atta Yeboah Gyan, emphasised the importance of creating a conducive learning environment.

"This story began two years

ago when our team embarked on an ambitious journey to identify schools that were in dire need of our support. After assessing Accra Royal JHS, we knew we had to act swiftly and decisively.

"The poor state of the roofing and the worn-out nets posed numerous challenges that hampered both teaching and learning. It was evident to us that for learning to thrive, there had to be a change and that change is what we are here to celebrate today," he said.

Other beneficiaries

The completion of the project marks a significant milestone for the Orange Impact Initiative, which provides various forms of support to schools in need.

Over the years, six other schools have benefited from the pro-



Edwin John-Teye, South East Sector Regional Manager, Fidelity Bank, with Madam Justine Ivy Apawu, District Director of Education - Accra Metro, during the inauguration of the renovated school

gramme, including Duose D/A Primary School, Mamprobi Ebenezer 4, Okogyasuo M/A Basic School, Fodome Kordzeto M/A Primary & JHS, Nyameyekrom M/A KG and Primary School, and AbbeyKorpe School.

The Headmistress of Accra Royal

JHS, Madam Francesca Garbrah, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Fidelity Bank for making the transformation possible.

"We are here today to celebrate a milestone achievement. We want to thank everyone involved in making

sure that this project becomes a reality.

"This moment marks the culmination of teamwork and hard work on the part of Fidelity Bank and those of us here at Accra Royal JHS," she stated.

SHANGHAI

The top leadership of the Communist Party of China called for stabilizing the real estate market and strengthening fiscal and monetary policy support at a meeting on Thursday, vowing to strive to hit the targets for this year's economic and social development.

Economists and market analysts said the meeting reflected top policymakers' intensified emphasis on reviving market confidence and stabilizing economic prospects amid headwinds.

A number of concrete measures to stabilize the property market and boost fiscal spending are expected, which will lay the foundation for the world's second-largest economy to achieve steady growth this year and next, they added.

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held the meeting on Thursday to analyze and study the cur-

## Leadership sets out priorities for economy



rent economic situation and make further arrangements for economic work.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Chinese economy has posted a generally stable performance this year, making progress while ensuring stability. It is necessary to take a comprehensive, objective and sober view of the current economic situation, face the difficulties squarely and remain confident, said a statement issued after the meeting.

The country should effectively implement existing policies, step up efforts to roll out incremental

policies and strive to accomplish the targets and tasks for this year's economic and social development, it added.

"The meeting took place in September, ahead of the typical arrangements in previous years, underscoring the central leadership's heightened focus on the economic situation and macroeconomic policy," said Luo Zhiheng, chief economist at Yuekai Securities.

Luo said that the meeting sent a clear signal that policy measures will be reinforced to tackle the downward pressure facing the economy since the second quarter, including lukewarm sentiment and demand, the real estate downturn and the ailing stock market.

It was decided at the meeting to strengthen countercyclical adjustments of fiscal and monetary policies, ensure necessary fiscal expenditure and implement impactful interest rate cuts, after the country's central bank unveiled a package of monetary easing measures on Tuesday.

The meeting also underlined promoting the stabilization of the real estate market and stopping it from further declining, outlining measures including strictly managing new commercial housing construction, increasing loans for "white list" projects, vitalizing idle land stock and adjusting housing purchase restrictions.

# China launches investigation into Canada's EV restrictions

## FUJIAN

China has launched an anti-discrimination investigation into Canada's recent trade restrictive measures targeting imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles and steel and aluminum products, the Ministry of Commerce said on Thursday.

He Yongqian, spokeswoman for the ministry, said at a news conference that preliminary information and evidence gathered by the ministry indicate that Canada's planned imposition of additional tariffs and other restrictive measures on Chinese imports are discriminatory trade practices under Chinese law.

The anti-discrimination probe, which started on Thursday, will continue for three months and, if deemed necessary under special circumstances, its duration will be further extended, the ministry said in an online statement.

In late August, Canada announced a 100 percent surtax on the import of EVs manufactured in China, which will take effect on Oct 1. It also announced

a 25 percent surtax on imported Chinese steel and aluminum products, which will take effect on Oct 15.

While Canada's tariff plan follows those of the United States and the European Union, Brussels has recently agreed to push forward negotiations with Beijing on a price undertaking – an alternative to imposing hefty duties – and reach a solution acceptable to both sides through dialogue and consultation.

Analysts said that even though Canada's actions are blatantly discriminatory and protectionist, countermeasures taken by China are being carried out within the boundaries of compliance and legality under the framework of the World Trade Organization.

This is the first such probe initiated by China, and also the first of its kind in the world, said Tu Xinquan, dean of the China Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

"Canada has blindly followed the US and the EU, without conducting its



China-made new energy vehicles await shipment to Europe in Xiamen, Fujian province.

own investigation or research. It has been extremely subjective, malicious and reckless in announcing these restrictions," he said.

The WTO's core principles can be summarized as nondiscrimination, fair trade and transparency –

all of which Canada's actions have flagrantly violated, Tu said.

China's "anti-discrimination investigation is aimed at taking compliant and legal measures to defend the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises", he added.

In 2023, China maintained largely balanced goods trading ties with Canada, with the total import and export value reaching \$88.99 billion, according to data from the General Administration of Customs.

Out of the total value, China's

exports to Canada amounted to \$45.08 billion, while its imports from Canada were worth \$43.91 billion, resulting in a near equilibrium in the flow of bilateral trade.

The export of Chinese EVs to Canada accounts for around 2 percent of China's total goods enter-

ing the Canadian market.

It is clear that Canada's actions reflect some political calculations and are not based on legitimate economic concerns, said Liang Ming, director of the Institute of International Trade at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The deep integration of economic globalization means the interests of all countries are now intensely intertwined, Liang said, adding that Canada's excessive protectionist trade policies will undermine the stability of global supply chains, ultimately harming the interests of its own consumers and other participants.

China has also initiated an anti-dumping probe into the import of Canadian canola and certain petrochemical goods.

China imported about 5.49 million metric tons of canola in 2023, with around 5.05 million metric tons of the total imports, or 92 percent, coming from Canada. The total value of Canadian canola imports reached \$3.47 billion last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

# Brazil fines Musk's X for site's return after ban

## BRASILIA

Brazil has fined Elon Musk's companies after some users in the country were able to briefly access the social media platform X, despite a ban imposed last month.

Brazilian users swarmed the site on Wednesday after X updated how its servers within the country were accessed.

The platform's restoration was unintended, the company said. Hours later access was again blocked.

On Thursday, a Brazilian court fined the firm five million reais (\$920,000; £695,000) for breaching the ban.

The company moved its service back to its previous provider on Thursday afternoon, according to the ABRINT internet provider association, which said it noticed the change while testing to block the new servers.

X and Cloudflare have not yet confirmed the move, but ABRINT said X's public DNS (Domain Name System) indicated a return.

Supreme Court judge Alexandre de Moraes had described the company as having committed a "trick" in re-enabling access for some users.

He then fined X and Mr Musk's other company, the internet satellite firm Starlink, more than \$920,000 (£695,000) for each day X operates in Brazil.

But it's unclear if the court can enforce payment of the fine or will seek payment now that service has been returned to its previous servers.

Mr Musk's firms have previously ignored Brazilian court orders, including the court order from Justice de Moraes which led to the social media site being banned in the first place in August.

Explaining the sudden access for some users on Wednesday, X said a change of network providers had "resulted in an inadvertent and temporary service restoration to Brazilian users".

"While we expect the platform to be inaccessible again in Brazil soon, we continue efforts to work with the Brazilian government to return very soon for the people of Brazil," an X spokesperson said in a statement.

The company's explanation had caught some observers by surprise.

"Everything that happened during the day led us to believe that it was on purpose," said Basilio Rodriguez Pérez, advisor to ABRINT, the country's leading trade group for Internet Service Providers (ISP).

ABRINT said X moved to servers hosted by Cloudflare, and that the site appeared to be using dynamic internet protocol (IP) addresses that change constantly, indicating to him that the change in access to Brazilian users was purposeful.

By contrast, the previous system had relied on specific IP addresses that could be more easily blocked.

Mr Rodriguez Pérez, ABRINT advisor, said those dynamic IP addresses could also be linked to critical services within Brazil.

"Many of these IP [addresses] are shared with other legitimate services, such as banks and large internet platforms, making it impossible to block an IP [address] without affecting other services."

That includes the service PIX, which millions of Brazilians depend on to make digital payments.

Despite the change, some experts said Cloudflare was well-positioned to help Brazil reinforce the ban.

"Actually, I think the ban would be even more effective if Cloudflare really cooperates with the government," said Felipe Autran, a constitutional lawyer in Brasilia, the country's capital.



## ITV PGM SCHEDULE

Table containing the ITV PGM SCHEDULE for Saturday 21 Sept, Sunday 22 Sept, Monday 23 Sept, Tuesday 24 Sept, Wednesday 25 Sept, Thursday 26 Sept, Friday 27 Sept, Saturday 28 Sept, and Sunday 29 Sept. The table lists various programs and their start times across different channels.

## WORLD

# Trudeau survives vote of confidence in Canadian parliament, new threat looms

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau easily survived a vote of confidence on Wednesday after his main political rival failed to muster enough support to end nine years of Liberal Party rule.

Legislators in the House of Commons voted 211-120 to defeat a motion by the official opposition Conservative party declaring a lack of confidence in Trudeau's minority Liberal government.

Trudeau, whose popularity has slumped amid unhappiness over rising prices and a housing crisis, became more politically vulnerable this month when the smaller New Democratic Party tore up a 2022 deal to keep him in power until an election scheduled for end-October 2025.

"Today was a good day for the country

because I don't think Canadians want an election," said Karina Gould, the senior Liberal in charge of government business in the House.

Despite surviving the vote, other challenges loom for Trudeau. Earlier in the day, the leader of the separatist Bloc Québécois said he would work to bring down the government unless it quickly agreed to the Bloc's demands.

Trudeau's Liberals will soon face a second vote on one of its budget measures, which is also a matter of confidence, but are expected to also survive that. Officials said the vote could take place on Wednesday or Thursday.

"We are going to work piece of legislation by piece of legislation, issue by issue, negotiating with the different political parties," Gould told reporters.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at the Global Progress Action Summit, in Montreal, Sept 21, 2024. AP

The right-of-center Conservatives have a big lead in the opinion polls ahead of an election that must be called by the end of October 2025.

The Conservatives say they want an election as soon as possible on the grounds that Canadians cannot afford a planned increase in the federal carbon tax. They also say federal spending and crime have ballooned under the Liberals.

"Enough is enough. Costs are up, taxes are up, crime is up, and time is up," the Conservatives said in a statement.

Trudeau, while acknowledging public unhappiness, has accused the Conservatives of playing politics rather than focusing on what people need.

Bloc leader Yves-Francois Blanchet said he would keep Trudeau in power at least until end-December if he gave more money to seniors and vowed to protect a system of tariffs and quotas that protect dairy farmers, many of whom live in Quebec.

If the government did not formally do this by Oct 29, the Bloc would talk to opposition parties with a view to bringing down Trudeau, he told reporters.

But to succeed he would need the support of the NDP, which also backed Trudeau on Wednesday. Polls indicate the party would also be in trouble if an election were called now.

## Pakistan PM Sharif welcomes IMF's \$7 billion funding agreement

PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the International Monetary Fund's decision to approve a \$7 billion funding agreement for the country, his office said on Wednesday.

Islamabad had been working on implementing conditions that Sharif had previously called "strict" from the IMF to complete the 37-month loan program agreed to in July, which the country hopes will be its last.

The IMF said the new program will require "sound policies and reforms" to strengthen macroeconomic stability and address structural challenges alongside "continued strong financial support from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners."

An immediate disbursement of about \$1 billion will take place.

Rollovers or disbursements of loans from Pakistan's long-time allies, in addition to financing from the IMF, have helped the country meet its external financing needs in the past.

The government had also vowed to increase its tax intake, in line with IMF requirements, despite protests in recent months by retailers and some opposition parties over the new tax scheme and high electricity rates.

Pakistan has been struggling with boom-and-bust economic cycles for decades, leading to 22 IMF bailouts since 1958. Currently the country is the IMF's fifth-largest debtor, owing the Fund \$6.28 billion as of July 11, according to the lender's data.

The latest economic crisis has been the most prolonged and has seen Pakistan facing its highest-ever inflation, pushing the country to the brink of a sovereign default last summer before an IMF bailout.

Inflation has since eased and credit ratings agency Moody's has upgraded Pakistan's local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings to 'Caa2' from 'Caa3', citing improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better government liquidity and external positions.



Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif leaves UN headquarters during the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 24, 2024 in New York. AFP

# Xi calls for accelerating progress in China's space endeavours

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Monday encouraged personnel in China's space industry to continue to work hard and accelerate progress in space endeavors.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, met with the representatives of space scientists and engineers who participated in the research and development of the Chang'e-6 lunar mission at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Xi stressed that the achievements of the lunar exploration project embody the wisdom and hard work of several generations of Chinese aerospace workers, and demonstrate the remarkable accomplishment the country has made in scientific and technological self-reliance in recent years.

He urged efforts to promote the spirit of lunar exploration, characterized by "chasing dreams, daring to explore, collaborating to overcome challenges, and achieving win-win cooperation," to further enhance the national confidence and pride of all Chinese people, and build up a great force for comprehensively promoting the building of a strong country and realizing national rejuvenation through



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, meets with the representatives of space scientists and engineers who participated in the research and development of the Chang'e-6 lunar mission in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 23, 2024. Xinhua

Chinese modernization.

The Chang'e-6 probe was launched from China on May 3. On June 25, its returner made a landing in north China, bringing back 1,935.3 grams of samples from the far side of the moon.

Xi noted that Chang'e-6, for the first time in human history, collected samples from the moon's far side, breaking through a number of key technologies, marking another landmark achievement in China's endeavors in space as well as in science and technology. It is an important milestone

for China's lunar exploration project.

Over the past 20 years, the lunar exploration project has focused on key core technologies and achieved fruitful results in scientific discovery, technological innovation, engineering practice, achievement application, and international cooperation. It has blazed a path of high-quality and cost-effective lunar exploration, making a major contribution to the development of China's space industry and human space exploration, he said.

Xi stressed that over the past 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the space industry has grown from weak to strong, and achieved historic, high-quality and leap-forward development.

Xi noted that outer space is a domain shared by humanity, and that space exploration is humanity's common cause. The lunar exploration project has always followed the principles of equality, mutual benefits, peaceful utilization and win-win cooperation.

The Chang'e lunar missions, which belong to both China and all people in the world, have provided a broad stage for international scientific and technological cooperation, and contributed Chinese wisdom and strength to the world's deep space exploration, he said.

He urged those in attendance to keep an open mind, deepen various forms of international exchange and cooperation in the field of space, share development achievements with other countries, improve outer space governance, and make space science and technology achievements more beneficial to all people.

Stressing that there is no end to space exploration, Xi encouraged aerospace workers to conduct elaborate scientific research on lunar samples, continue major space projects, and promote the comprehensive development of space science, technology and application.

Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi, all of whom are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, also attended the event.

Xi and the other leaders also viewed lunar samples and an exhibition on the lunar exploration project's 20 years of achievements.

Xinhua

# Returnees to Sudan's Omdurman gripped by indiscriminate shelling, hunger and diseases

KHARTOUM

THE Karari locality of Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, has regained some vibrancy after a fierce battle in March that expelled the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from the old neighborhoods, expanding the control of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to the south.

Overcrowded markets and therapeutic activities such as masquerade parties and puppet theaters – the routines of life – have started to re-emerge in the locality, which hosts more than 160 shelter centers packed with displaced Sudanese. However, the returnees have never felt rest as

sured amid the hustle-bustle, as they are still subjected to random artillery shelling from time to time.

On Monday, at least 15 people were killed and 61 others injured in an artillery attack by the RSF on the crowded Sabreen civilian market in Karari. The death toll could be higher as the local rescue team was unable to reach some victims.

"This is the reality now. We are trying to live with the situation, but we are afraid to give up and flee again," said Mahmoud Satti, a teacher who returned to Omdurman after a year-long displacement journey in central Sudan. "What happened in Sabreen market was very tragic. People here are dying because of random shell-

ing," Satti told Xinhua. He urged government authorities to protect the returnees, address the security gap, and provide necessary services to Omdurman's residents. "There are no food shops amid a great shortage of goods, while prices for what is available are very high," said Saadan Omer, a citizen from Omdurman.

Most people live on aid from their relatives abroad, and Takias – sanctuaries for the impoverished and needy set up by Sudanese activists and volunteers – remain as the primary source of food supply for Omdurman's residents, he said. "There is a significant spread of diseases amid a great shortage in medicines, while there are no nearby hospitals, and

even those operational have been bombed and looted," said Saeed Al-Zubair, a 49-year-old man from Omdurman. Since the fighting between the SAF and RSF began in April last year, epidemic diseases have plagued the country, including Omdurman, leading to hundreds of deaths.

The conflict has resulted in at least 20,000 deaths and displaced millions of people, according to a press release published Tuesday on the website of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said last week that an estimated 3.4 million children under five are at high risk of the deadly epidemic diseases in the country.

According to UNICEF, more than 70 percent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are non-operational. On Wednesday, the OCHA warned that Sudan is now facing the world's most severe hunger crisis, with over half of its population, nearly 26 million people, suffering high levels of acute hunger.

Famine has been confirmed in North Darfur State's Zamzam camp, with many other areas at risk, it said, adding that nearly 5 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women have been acutely malnourished.

Meanwhile, Doctors Without Borders, an aid group, said Tuesday that 30,000 children under two

were screened for malnutrition in South Darfur State in August, and 32.5 percent of them were acutely malnourished. In response to the dire humanitarian situation, Omdurman's government authorities pledged to provide food for local residents and support community initiatives.

"Both official and popular efforts are ongoing to restore electricity and water services, remove war remnants, reopen roads, clean neighborhoods, and launch initiatives to bring life back to markets and shops," Acting Minister of Social Development of Khartoum State Siddiq Hassan Freini told Xinhua.



## German Greens leadership quits after coalition's election setbacks

BERLIN

THE co-leaders of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's ruling coalition, Omid Nouripour and Ricarda Lang, said on Wednesday they would resign as leaders of the Green Party following the party's defeat in the federal state elections and poor opinion polls.

In the September elections in the eastern states of Thuringian, Saxony and Brandenburg, the Greens performed worse than in the previous elections, failing to surpass the 5-percent threshold required to enter parliaments in two of the states.

Additionally, in the European Parliament election held in June this year, the German Green Party's vote also declined compared to the previous election, contributing to a decrease in the party's support rate in German opinion polls.

"The results of the just-concluded regional election in Brandenburg show that the Green Party is in its worst crisis in a decade," Nouripour told a news conference.

According to German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz, the announcement of the Green Party leadership's resignation will not affect Germany's "traffic light" coalition. Steffen Hebestreit, the spokesman for the German federal government, said on Wednesday that Scholz had "worked closely and trustfully" with the two leaders and expressed regret over their departure.

The SPD leadership also thanked the Green Party leaders for their close cooperation. It has been reported that a new Green Party president will be elected at the Green Party congress in mid-November.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck has taken some responsibility for the poor election result and called for an open debate on the future of the Green Party at the party congress.

German analysts believe that while the resignations will not have a direct impact on the German federal government or the Green Party ministers serving at the federal level, including Habeck and Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, the move could potentially lead to greater political instability.

Agencies

## Palestinian leader Abbas urges efforts to stop Israeli occupation, 'genocide' at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas received a long round of applause as he addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday, insisting that "we will not leave, Palestine is our homeland," and "if anyone were to leave it would be the occupier."

He proceeded to accuse Israel of perpetrating a "full-scale war of genocide," dismissing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claim that Israel didn't kill civilians in Gaza. "I ask you, who is it then that killed more than 15,000 children?" he said.

"Stop this crime. Stop it now. Stop killing children and women. Stop the genocide. Stop sending weapons to Israel. This madness cannot continue. The entire world is responsible for what is happening to our people," Abbas said.

### SANCTION AND EXCLUSION

During his speech, Abbas (pictured) called on the international community to impose sanctions on Israel and also its exclusion from the United Nations following the "genocide in Gaza."

"We call for sanctions against Israel. Israel does not deserve to be part of this organization. I don't know how the United States can insist on depriving us of our rights," Abbas said, adding that Israel must be stripped of United Nations membership for failing to accept a two-state resolution to the conflict and allowing the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes. "We are going to submit an application to the UNGA on this matter," he said.

"We regret that the U.S. administration -- the largest democracy in the world -- on three occasions obstructed draft resolutions at the Security Council demanding Israel to observe a ceasefire," Abbas said, accusing the United States of encouraging Israel's military actions by repeatedly using its veto power and supplying Israel with weapons used in the conflict.

"This is the United States -- the same country that was the only member in the Security Council that voted against granting the state of Palestine full membership in the UN," Abbas said, expressing disbelief over what he sees as the U.S. consistent opposition to Palestinian statehood and rights.

He also touched upon the situation with settlers in the West Bank, specifying that 600,000 settlers currently live there. "We want ICJ (the International Court of Justice) ruling on Israel to be implemented," he noted.

### CRIME AND GENOCIDE

Highlighting that Palestinians have endured nearly a year of what he described as one of the most heinous crimes of the time, the leader said that "it is the crime of a full-scale war of genocide that Israel is perpetrating. A crime that has killed more than 40,000 martyrs in Gaza alone, and thousands remain under the rubble. A crime that has injured more than 100,000 to this day."

He pointed out that whole Palestinian families have been annihilated, their family names completely erased, stressing that amid the onslaught, diseases are spreading, clean water and vi-

tal medicines are in scarce supply, and over two million Palestinians have been displaced, many forced to flee multiple times in search of safety. The deaths and injuries continue unabated, not only in Gaza but in the West Bank and in Jerusalem.

Abbas underscored that he was not speaking today "to respond to the lies" of the Israeli prime minister, who claimed before the U.S. Congress in July that Israeli forces did not kill innocent civilians in Gaza.

"I ask you, who is it then that killed more than 15,000 children of the 40,000 and an equal number of women and elderly persons. And who is it then that is continuing to kill them, I ask you?" he said.

"Palestine will be free, despite anyone who objects. Our people will live in the land of their fathers and grandfathers ... The occupation will end," concluded Abbas.

### STRIKE AND CEASEFIRE

Right after Abbas, Gambian President Adama Barrow addressed the UNGA that "the Israeli occupation, expansion of settlements, blockade of Gaza, and restrictions in the West Bank, together with the threat of intensifying the war to a regional conflict, continue to worsen the ongoing tensions in the Middle East."

"Accordingly, I call on the United Nations, the international community, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States to join forces and urgently bring about permanent peace in Palestine," he said, adding that "we call on the international community to prioritize support for the post-conflict reconstruction of Gaza and the improvement of economic conditions in the West Bank. Even though the situation in that region is extremely serious, the intense destruction of lives and property continues."

In the meantime, Netanyahu instructed his military to keep fighting "with full force" on Thursday, as high-stakes international diplomatic efforts were underway to pause the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel.

Netanyahu is heading to New York for the UNGA, as members of his government dismissed a ceasefire proposal that the United States, European allies and several Arab nations put forward. Israel's military carried out new strikes in Lebanon, including one in Beirut, the capital, that targeted the commander of Hezbollah's drone unit.

The UNGA adopted a resolution on May 10 supporting the Palestinian bid to become a full UN member and recommending that the Security Council "reconsider the matter favorably." The resolution was adopted with 143 votes in favor and nine against, including the United States and Israel, while 25 countries abstained. China voted for the resolution.

## African leaders voice collective demand for more space of development at UN session

UNITED NATIONS

AFRICAN heads of state and government on Wednesday addressed the General Debate of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, expressing a common wish that their countries proceed faster and safer along the paths of sound development while expecting the world body to spare no effort to help them overcome current obstacles and better prepare for the future.

### DETERMINATION

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo said that "Africa is not a continent of despair. She is full of great possibilities. She is required, however, to chart a new course of development. Our young population is filled with energy, creativity and ambition ... The people of Africa are not asking for handouts -- they are demanding opportunities in a new global architecture so they can have access to education, healthcare and jobs, to be able to build better lives for themselves, their families and their descendants."

"It is impossible to address the challenges of today without speaking of the contradictions that exist within this global institution," he noted. "African nations must take ownership of their security, and the African Union needs to strengthen itself to be able to respond swiftly to threats," the president said.

Liberian President Joseph Boakai said that innate greed, insensitivity to the poor, the international drug epidemic, money laundering, dynamics of climate change and the impact of social media "must compel us to rethink our approach to global peace and security."

"Our vulnerabilities are evident, and we need to use our collective knowledge to find solutions that will preserve the planet for future generations," the president said.

"The threat of conflicts to our shared world underscores the importance of collaborative efforts to foster regional and global stability and peace," he noted, adding that the member countries must support all the UN's efforts to address peace and security issues worldwide. "Liberia is concerned about the escalating security challenges in the West African region, including terrorism and economic and political instability."

With the recognition and the urgency for profound global transformation as the core of the Pact for the Future which was passed on Sunday at the Summit of the Future, the world body's member states strive to rebuild trust in multilateralism with a legitimate demand to be recognized as equal partners, said President of Namibia Nangolo Mbumba.

Such partners mean those who can be trusted in the fight against war, poverty, global injustice and inequality.

The theme for this General Debate -- "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for present and future generations" -- "aligns perfectly with our shared aspirations for effective international cooperation," he noted.

"Namibia is working to develop a sustainable energy mix to support its ambitious industrialization agenda and to contribute to the world's efforts to combat climate change."

### ACHIEVEMENTS

As an ocean nation heavily dependent on marine resources, Cabo Verde in the ocean decade focuses on local and global actions to promote sustainable ocean management, said José Maria Pereira Neves, president of Cabo Verde, adding that "we have been focused on the importance of sustainable ocean management, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are very vulnerable to climate change, and the degra-



Philemon Yang, president of the 79th session of the UNGA, delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the General Debate of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 24, 2024. (Xinhua/Li Rui)

dation of marine ecosystems."

For three consecutive years, the country has hosted international ocean conferences to foster partnerships between governments, the private sector, scientists, and civil society to advance ocean science and create innovative solutions to ocean challenges.

It is important to bring together key stakeholders in order to boost collaborative solutions for the oceans, help develop research capacities to study the impact of climate change and ocean acidification, and promote knowledge sharing and technology transfer to improve ocean monitoring and observation systems, he noted.

The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) has made significant progress in a very difficult world environment, and endeavored to garner support to replenish the Global Fund, said Umaro Sissoco Embaló, president of Guinea-Bissau.

"We worked with the private sector to promote the production of drugs and nets to combat malaria," said Embaló, also serving as ALMA President. "We encouraged the transfer of technologies to African companies."

We launched End Malaria Councils and Funds and supported youth movements against malaria," he said. Despite all the progress achieved, challenges persist. "Global warming and rains associated with climate change are expanding the geographic reach of mosquitos, thus exposing more than 170 million people to the threat of malaria in the African continent," he noted.

The international community cannot hope to advance sustainable development when some race ahead while others are left to struggle. In other words, no one should be left behind, said Seychelles' President Wavel Ramkalawan. "Words are nothing without deeds and we have to act urgently, in unity, to make the necessary transition to a more sustainable future."

Except for combating climate change and military expenditure rise, "it is time to move beyond discussion and implement real reforms in the international financial system to address the preclusion of some vulnerable countries, regardless of income status, from opportunities to meet development needs," he said. "The multilateral system remains our best hope for addressing the challenges we face."

### WISH AND CAUTION

Philemon Yang, president of the 79th Session of the UNGA, told the opening of the General Debate on Tuesday that "this will be a priority for my presidency. Africa is one of the priorities of the United Nations. We must support Africa."

The African Union's Agenda 2063 presents a bold and transformative vision for the continent. Africa currently has the youngest population in the world. And by 2063, one in four people will be African.

The generation of resources for the well-being of these people has been much slower than the population growth.

"We must not let Africa's potential to go unrealized. In fact, to truly unlock Africa's vast potential, we must actively cultivate global partnerships that align with the continent's aspirations and drive its success. In this endeavor, I look forward to working with all Member States of the United Nations this year on keeping Africa at the heart of our agenda," he noted.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, sensitive to the global changes, warned to the assembly that "a powder keg risks engulfing the world," while urging country leaders, including those from Africa, to come together to find solutions. Remarking against a cascade of crises and conflicts, he said that "our world is in a whirlwind. We are edging towards the unimaginable ... We see this age of impunity everywhere -- in the Middle East, in the heart of Europe, in the Horn of Africa, and beyond." He drew comparisons between the Cold War and current conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar, saying that they all lacked guardrails and red lines. Calling the current state of the world "unsustainable," Guterres said that "we can't go on like this," but he also expressed hope, telling world leaders that "the challenges we face are solvable." The only path forward requires action, like overhauling international institutions such as the Security Council and the World Bank to better reflect the realities and needs of today's world, and for countries to come together and cooperate around a common purpose, he said. "It is in all our interests to manage the epic transformations underway, to choose the future we want and guide our world toward it."



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (at the podium and on the screens) delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the General Debate of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York, on Sept. 24, 2024. Xinhua



## FIFA orders Yanga to pay Augustine Okrah \$24,400 in wage dispute

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber has ruled in favour of Ghanaian forward Augustine Okrah, ordering Tanzanian giants Young Africans SC to pay \$24,400 in outstanding wages owed to the player.

This decision comes after a prolonged payment dispute during Okrah's time at the club.

In addition to the payment order, FIFA has fined Young Africans \$3,000, which must be settled within 30 days.

Failure to comply with the ruling within 45 days could lead to further sanctions, including a potential ban on registering new players for up to three transfer windows.

Should Young Africans continue to ignore the payment order, they could also face additional disciplinary actions from FIFA.

Okrah (pictured), who has since moved on to play for Bechem United in Ghana's Premier League, had initially joined Young Africans following stints with Simba SC and Bechem United.

The case underscores the impor-

tance of clubs adhering to contractual obligations and highlights FIFA's role in enforcing fair compensation and treatment for players globally.

Despite his talent and promising start at Young Africans, Okrah found it challenging to secure a regular starting role due to stiff competition for the winger positions.

Players like Maxi Nzengeli, Kennedy Musonda, Pacome Zouzoua, and Farid Mussa were regularly favored by head coach Miguel Gamondi, limiting Okrah's playing time.

Nonetheless, during his tenure with Young Africans, Okrah made a notable impact, scoring nine goals and providing two assists in 16 league appearances.

His contributions were crucial in helping the team advance to the quarter-finals of the 2023-24 CAF Champions League.

Okrah's case serves as a reminder of the contractual obligations clubs must uphold, with FIFA stepping in to ensure players receive the treatment and compensation they are entitled to across international borders.

## Junior cricketers shine as Tanzania wins ICC Men's T20 WC Sub Regional Africa Qualifier



Tanzania's senior men's cricket team cricketers jubilate after their teammate Sanjay Bom took a wicket in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A final against Malawi in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA'S senior men's cricket team assistant captain Kassim Nassor has expressed his pleasure over the spirited showing showcased by the side's promising cricketers in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A which climaxed in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The tournament hosts won the regional showdown's silverware following a hard-fought 19-run victory over Malawi in a thrilling final that took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue.

Nassor, an experienced all-rounder, stated: "The junior cricketers promoted to the senior squad have done well. All they need is continue working hard...we thank God they have showcased good game and proved they are talented."

"Today, for instance, we have had two youthful cricketers (Laksh Bakrania and Halidi Amiri) from the national U-19 squad that have turned out for the senior team after featuring in the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 2.

"The good thing is that Amiri has won the Player of the Match prize... I have been truly delighted."

Nassor added that he would have as well handed over the prize to Amiri, had the experienced player been the one that won the honour, given the promising performer deserved the accolade.

The senior cricketer disclosed the youthful performer's scintillating showing helped Tanzania regain control

in the final after the team had started finding the going tough at some point.

Nassor said Amiri had a good game when Tanzania fielded and made it easy for the team to eventually center to victory.

Amiri's crucial bowling stint helped Tanzania defend its 119-run total and lift the top honour in the ICC Men's World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, fending off a stiff challenge showcased by the never-say-die Malawians.

The well-attended final, which took place in the afternoon, witnessed Tanzania bat first, securing 119/10 in 19.4 overs.

A section of Tanzania's trusted top-order players surprisingly crumbled because of a spirited bowling showing by Malawi, forcing gifted low-order batsmen to step up their game.

Skipper Abhik Patwa was the batsman with the most runs having notched 30 runs consisting of two fours and a sixer.

Patwa was compelled to make his presence known following an early dismissal of fellow opener Zafar Khan (10-ball four) - trapped for leg before wicket (lbw) by Malawi's Blessings Pondani.

Two more members of the top order, Mohamed Omary and Amal Rajeevan, had a frustrating afternoon, making their way back to the pavilion in quick succession.

Nassor then made his experience count with well-calculated knocks, making his way back with 22 runs consisting of three boundaries.

Low-order cricketers Harshdeep Chohan (26 runs,

one boundary and two sixes) and Ally Mpeka (20 runs) significantly boosted Tanzania's total after the short stints the middle-order cricketers had experienced.

The youthful Bakrania, moreover, deserved credit for Tanzania's acquisition of the respectable total, given the player made his way back with the bat in hand, notching nine runs not out.

Suhail Vayani led Malawi's bowling challenge given the bowler secured 3-28 in four overs.

Donnex Kansonkho and Pondani made matters difficult for Tanzania's batsmen, having posted two wickets apiece.

Needing 120 runs to emerge victorious, Malawi waded off an early wobble in the form of opener Gift Kansonkho's early dismissal, as opening batting partner Donnex went on to amass 21 runs.

Experienced batsman Sami Sohail improved Malawi's chances of making a successful chase having blasted 38 runs.

Even though Gershon Ntambalika (11 runs, one boundary) did all he could to have Malawi stay within reach of the target, fellow batsmen lost steam and were dismissed in quick succession.

Malawi's chances were ultimately over after the resolute Sohail opted for a big knock in the last ball and was excellently caught by Bakrania at mid-on from Chohan's bowling.

Amiri's excellent bowling spell, which had the promising pacer posting 3-17 in four overs, was the highlight of Tanzania's impressive fielding.

Sanjay Bom's two wickets in

four overs further dashed away Malawi's hopes of securing a successful chase.

Malawi were eventually restricted to 100 runs all out in 20 overs to settle for the second place.

Nassor revealed: "It was a good game...it was tough given Malawi was not a pushover. They were well-prepared and gave us tough challenges, but we made good use of our experience to contain them."

The spinner noted Tanzania is somehow higher than Malawi in the ICC's Associate Members ranking and, for that matter, victory for the latter would have helped the squad improve its ranking.

Nassor added Tanzania's top order had a less impressive showing, but the middle order played excellently, and the remaining batsmen wound up well.

The senior national cricketers, Nassor stated, then went for tight bowling, giving away a few runs, and their coach's instructions helped them topple Malawi.

The finalists - Tanzania and Malawi - have sailed through to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Main Africa Qualifier as the two teams finished with the best Net Run Rates.

Before the regional showdown's final, Tanzania was the leader - boasting a 6.2467 Net Run Rate, whereas Malawi (4.5766 Net Run Rate) was sitting second.

Ghana (0.6776), Lesotho (-1.9125), Cameroon (-2.5147), and Mali (-6.2679) were sitting third, fourth, fifth, and last respectively.

## Naomi Campbell barred from being charity trustee in England

LONDON

BRITISH supermodel Naomi Campbell has been barred from being a charity trustee in England and Wales for five years after the poverty charity she founded nearly two decades ago was deemed Thursday to have been "poorly governed" with "inadequate financial management."

Following a three-year investigation into the financial activities of "Fashion for Relief," the Charity Commission, which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales, said it had found "multiple instances of misconduct and/or mismanagement," and that only 8.5% of the charity's overall expenditure went on charitable grants in a six-year period from 2016.

For example, it said that thousands of pounds worth of charity funds were used to pay for a luxury hotel stay in Cannes, France, for Campbell as well as spa treatments, room ser-

vice and even cigarettes. The regulator sought explanations from the trustees but said no evidence was provided to back up their explanation that hotel costs were typically covered by a donor to the charity, therefore not costing the charity.

Campbell, 54, said she was "extremely concerned" by the findings of the regulator and that an investigation on her part was underway.

"I was not in control of my charity, I put the control in the hands of a legal employer," she said in response to a question from the AP after being named a knight in France's Order of Arts and Letters at the country's culture ministry for her contribution to French culture. "We are investigating to find out what and how, and everything I do and every penny I ever raised goes to charity."

The commission, which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales, also found that fellow trustee Bi-

anka Hellmich received around 290,000 pounds (\$385,000) of unauthorized funds for consultancy services, which was in breach of the charity's constitution. She has been disqualified as a trustee for nine years. The other trustee, Veronica Chou, was barred for four years.

"Trustees are legally required to make decisions that are in their charity's best interests and to comply with their legal duties and responsibilities," said Tim Hopkins, deputy director for specialist investigations and standards. "Our inquiry has found that the trustees of this charity failed to do so, which has resulted in our action to disqualify them."

The charity, which was founded in 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, was dissolved and removed from the register of charities earlier this year. On its website, which is still active, the charity said that it presented fashion initiatives and projects

in New York, London, Cannes, Moscow, Mumbai and Dar es Salaam, raising more than \$15 million for good causes around the world.

The charity had been set up with the aim of uniting the fashion industry to relieve poverty and advance health and education, by making grants to other organizations and giving resources towards global disasters.

The commission said that around 344,000 pounds (\$460,000) has been recovered and that a further 98,000 pounds of charitable funds have been protected. These funds were used to make donations to two other charities and settle outstanding liabilities.

"I am pleased that the inquiry has seen donations made to other charities which this charity has previously supported," said the regulator's Hopkins.



French Culture Minister Rachida Dati, right, awards Naomi Campbell with the medal of "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres", at the Culture ministry, in Paris, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. (AP Photo)

AP

## One-year suspended sentence and ban from soccer for fan who racially abused Vinicius

MADRID

A SPANISH court handed a one-year suspended sentence to a soccer fan for racially abusing Vinicius Júnior and Villarreal's Samuel Chukwueze, Real Madrid said on Thursday.

The incidents occurred at Mallorca's stadium in two games in early 2023 when the defendant insulted the Black players from the stands.

The club said the court in Mallorca also ruled that the abuser is banned from attending any games organized by the Spanish league or Spanish Football Federation for three years.

The one-year prison sentence was suspended after the defendant showed remorse, apologized to Vinicius in a letter, and completed an anti-discrimination program, the club said.

The press office for the courts of the Balearic Islands was unable to immediately share the court's decision when requested by The Associated Press.

Vinicius, a Brazil forward, has been subjected to multiple acts of racial abuse in and outside soccer stadiums in Spain. He recently said Spain should not be allowed to host the 2030 World Cup if things don't change.

In June, three Valencia supporters were given eight-month prison sentences for racist chants against Vinicius in the first conviction for racism-related cases in professional soccer in Spain.

AP

## Everton fans' biggest fears may come true even after takeover announcement

By JAMES ROBSON

THERE was good news for storied English club Everton this week regarding the long-running saga over its ownership.

The proposed takeover by Texas-based Friedkin Group is back on, it was announced, giving hope to the club's long-suffering fans that more stable times lie ahead after such a turbulent period in its history.

"There is a long way to go to get everything to a final point, but the early signs look favorable," manager Sean Dyche said on Thursday.

Turmoil has also marked the club's form on the field that not even 800 million pounds (\$1 billion) of recent spending has solved. And by the time a takeover deal is finally completed, Everton's prospects could look even more perilous.

Only goal difference separates the nine-time English champion from last-placed Wolves, after collecting just one point from five games in the Premier League.

Yet again, Everton looks like it faces a battle to preserve its place in England's top flight and extend a proud run that dates to 1954.

At least it has experience of pulling off escape acts, most recently last season when Dyche steered the club to safety despite two separate deductions of a combined eight points for breaches of league financial rules. Against the odds, Dyche led the team to 15th and 14 points clear of the relegation zone.

But any optimism that provided for the new campaign has been blown away by a chastening start this season that has also seen the team already knocked out of the League Cup.

On Saturday, Everton hosts Crystal Palace at Goodison Park, the famous old stadium that it will vacate at the end of the season to relocate to a new 52,888-capacity venue. But there's danger signs again that Everton's new state-of-the-art home could be hosting second-tier soccer if Dyche cannot turn around his club's fortunes, again.

Everton has battled relegation for the last three seasons, while financial concerns and uncertainty over the ownership have added to the unease.

"It (the club) has been on unsettled ground for some time now, with varying situations and opinions on what was and what is and what should be," Dyche said of the takeover.

"Certainly in its initial spell, should it get over the line, I imagine it will bring the feeling of stability after an up-and-down period for many different reasons."

Everton fans may still greet the news with caution.

Friedkin Group owns Italian soccer team Roma among companies that cover the worlds of automotive, entertainment, hospitality, sports and adventure.

It reached an agreement in principle in June to buy the 94% stake of Everton's majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri. But talks were then called off.

That followed the collapse of a proposed takeover by 777 Partners. And until this week's announcement it was thought Everton was in exclusive negotiations with American businessman John Textor.

AP

# The financial row threatening to derail Fifa's new Club World Cup before it begins

By Miguel Delaney

SOME clubs that have qualified for the new Club World Cup next summer have pushed for Fifa to commit the body's own reserves to fund prize money for the controversial competition, with figures still not confirmed.

The major competitors are expecting revenue of up to \$50m (£37m), given previous assurances from president Gianni Infantino about numbers up to \$80m.

If that came from the reserves, however, it would be totally unacceptable for the national member associations to give it to the wealthiest clubs.

For Fifa's part, that prospect is being played down, with announcements expected over the next few weeks.

A widespread expectation is that the global body will eventually receive financial backing through Infantino's relationship with Saudi Arabia and the Saudi national oil company Aramco, but there is surprise that hasn't been confirmed yet.

Some football figures believe it almost reflects how "transactional" that relationship is, amid a refusal to "blink first". There is a view that Saudi Arabia don't want to commit until the 2034 World Cup is ratified.

Either way, the storyline of how the Club World Cup will be funded is already one of the most important of the entire football season, even if that is largely behind the scenes. It might end up visible on the pitch, and on the calendar.

If Fifa can guarantee the kind of money that makes the clubs treat it with the same importance as the Champions League, it is a potential game-changer that could reshape football.

Should it be Saudi Arabia that provides the backing, too, that could integrate the kingdom into the sport's infrastructure in the same way that has been witnessed in boxing and golf.

Right now, though, the Club World Cup is feeling the effects of football's structure rather than reshaping it. While clubs are expecting money on one side, there is pressure from the European Leagues and players' unions on the other, amid threats of legal action over the sheer volume of matches on the calendar.

While Fifa would fairly point out that none of these bodies are making the same complaints against Uefa's expanded Champions League, the counterargument is that stakeholders were fully included in the planning stage for that.

The specific complaint about Fifa is that it has acted "unilaterally" in devising this competition.

That is a word that has been said again and again through this process. Fifa only confirmed the Club World Cup's host cities in a



New Jersey's MetLife Stadium will host the 2026 World Cup final and is set to hold games in next summer's Club World Cup (Getty)

meeting last Friday - a mere nine months before the competition's planned start on 15 June in the US - and there is still no more clarity on sponsors, broadcasters or prize money.

Fifa is at least closer on venues, with the "reveal" of the trophy and the draw expected to take place in December.

Fifa would argue Friday's meeting was hugely positive, but some executives portray that meeting as "a road show to the broadcasters", since Fifa previously failed to secure deals.

There is an argument that it should set off alarm bells that a competition like this doesn't already have 150 broadcasters lined up. Some clubs were also irritated that this represented the first time Fifa had included them in plans for what is supposed to be a joint venture, and that only when it needed their sway.

Infantino has instead been central to much of this, which has strengthened views that this is his personal project.

Fifa says this is ultimately about its responsibility to the global game. Even the competition's critics would admit there is merit to that broader idea.

An expanded Club World Cup is a great idea in principle, and it's obvious that the immense wealth of western European football needs to be redistributed. The competition can, ideally, be an engine for that.

It's just that those same critics question the process, which has bolstered long-running questions about the motivation.

There is a widespread belief that Infantino merely wants Fifa to have a stake in the hugely lucrative club game, given that he witnessed the value of the Champions League first-hand in his role at Uefa.

That comes amid an ongoing personal rivalry with Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin, who has become personally associated with the new Champions League.

Others have a more

cynical perspective, which is that this is about Infantino raising more money to fulfil election promises to member associations.

Whatever the truth, the major European clubs are still broadly supportive. They signed up because they see it as an exciting opportunity, especially as it allows them to "go global".

This is especially relevant for ownerships with wider financial and political ambitions, such as Chelsea and Manchester City, respectively.

They have offered public and private support, along with other competitors such as Atletico Madrid, FC Porto and Juventus.

City's Ferran Soriano was especially enthusiastic, with the club planning their season to ensure players arrive in top form.

Some officials stressed "it would be the most important competition in football", with Salzburg enthusiastic that the "tournament makes absolute sense".

The European Club Association also reiterated its support through president Nasser al-Khelaifi.

Such clubs don't share the calendar concerns, either, since it is seen as replacing an existing competition while only adding a few games to the calendar for a handful of squads every four years.

One view is that they just won't do pre-season that year, and \$50m prize money represents

a significant increase from the \$20-30m from summer tours.

That prospect is perceived as prompting a particular politically motivated complaint from the Premier League, which has its own summer plans for the USA.

For some clubs, though, this support was predicated on the condition it is well executed. They don't feel that is the case, and talk of "false promises and false dawns" despite almost a decade of politicking on this.

One persistent question has been why Fifa didn't outsource some

of this to agencies in the way these competitions usually do, which comes back to the issue of "unilateral action".

That's all the more surprising given the wealth of knowledge and experience they have at their disposal through the clubs.

Fifa initially spoke of media deals totalling \$5bn but the club expectation is now for little more than \$1bn.

Broadcasters so far don't see it as the "appealing product" that Infantino does, and there is an industry view that it shows how big-club football might have reached

saturation point.

That's an obvious echo of the complaints about the calendar, although there is similarly a frustration that none of Arsenal, Liverpool nor Manchester United have qualified, given their pulling power.

It has prompted other questions over how focused a governing body can be if they're going around looking to secure revenue for one competition.

Even if they secure it, there are then worries that 75 per cent of the revenue will just go to players already the best paid in the world, with the prize money also distorting competitiveness in other domestic leagues - exactly the opposite of what the competition is supposed to promote.

Whatever happens, Fifa know they have to get this big kick-off right. One theory among clubs is that a broadcasting solution may yet come through Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund investing in Fifa's streaming platform, potentially in partnership with a private equity group.

In other words, a lot of the biggest forces reshaping the game.

The Club World Cup itself may prove another. Despite some fears, there is now widespread insistence it will absolutely not be cancelled.

That is partly because the consequences could be so great.

THE INDEPENDENT



Gianni Infantino is determined to push ahead with the competition. AP

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

The financial row threatening to derail Fifa's new Club World Cup before it begins

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## Ken Gold desperate to break winless drought as they host Tabora United

By Guardian Correspondent

KEN Gold will be eager to break their winless drought in the Premier League when they host Tabora United this afternoon at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, with kick-off at 4:15 PM.

The league newcomers have endured a rough start to their maiden Premier League campaign, suffering a fifth straight loss last Wednesday when they were narrowly beaten 1-0 by defending champions Young Africans.

The defeat extended their winless streak to five matches, and their ability to compete at this level remains in question.

Ken Gold have only scored twice in their first five matches, and they have failed to find the net in their last three defeats to Young Africans, Kagera Sugar, and KMC.

Head coach Jumanne Chale will also be concerned with his team's defensive frailties, as they have conceded in every match so far.

Their defensive record is currently the worst in the league, having let in nine goals in five games.

Despite this, Ken Gold's midweek performance against Young Africans gave a glimmer of hope, as they put up a resilient fight against the reigning champions.

This afternoon's clash could finally be an opportunity for Ken Gold to turn things around in front of their home fans.

On the other hand, visitors Tabora United have shown more promise in their debut season.

Although they started their campaign with a loss to Simba at KMC Mwenge Complex, they bounced back with a 2-1 victory on the road against Namungo in their second game.

The Bees have since added another victory against Kagera Sugar, thanks to a first-half goal from Nigerian import Shadrack Asiegbu.

They also secured a point against Tanzania Prisons, placing them in sixth position with four goals scored and seven conceded.

Tabora United's results so far have helped them steer clear of the relegation zone, and they will aim to build on that progress.

However, head coach Francis Kimanzi's side will be looking to recover from a disappointing 3-1 home defeat to high-flying Fountain Gate in their last outing.

The experienced forwards Heritier Makambo and Yacouba Sogne, both former Young Africans players, will be key as Tabora United aim for their third win of the season.

With Ken Gold desperate to get their first points on the board and Tabora United looking to bounce back from their last defeat, this match promises to be an intense battle between two teams striving for different goals in the league.

## Fadlu Davids thrilled with Simba crushing victory over Azam



Simba Sports Club winger Edwin Balua (R) battles for the ball with Azam FC defender during their Premier League match held on Thursday at the New Amaan Complex in Zanzibar. Photo: Courtesy of SSC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA earned a third win from as many Premier League games so far this season as they stormed to a 2-0 success against Azam on Thursday at New Azam Complex in Zanzibar.

After a tense opening, the Msimbazi Reds were handed the initiative and showed no mercy as they punished the erratic Azam defence with a first half goal from Leonel Ateba.

When Fabrice Ngoma grabbed the second two minutes after the restart, it effectively sealed the points even with more than 40 minutes left to play.

Hosts Azam couldn't muster up the mammoth response needed to come back from 2-0 down as they slumped to their first defeat of the season, while Simba maintained their 100% record in the Premier League, with only reigning champions Young Africans and Singida Black Stars matching their form so far.

Simba head coach Fadlu Davids was thrilled by the performance of his players and lauded the execution that was needed to bring down an opponent as good as Azam.

"A huge credit first of all to the players, fantastic application. Huge credit to my technical team, coach Daran, the assistant coach Matola, the analyst and the entire technical team in terms of the work they do behind the scenes.

"The disappointment is that we could not score the second

and third goal in the first half. I think we should have killed off the game in the first half with winning the ball, hurrying up the movements.

"The second half was very interesting to see how we would be able to maintain intensity of the first half keeping in mind that we just came off a very intense match against Al Ahli Tripoli after 60 minutes.

"These CAF matches also help us in how we manage the game. We know that we have to manage our energy knowing we have another match on Sunday," he said.

"Huge compliments and big lessons our team is growing step by step to be able to manage a game of this magnitude. Of course, huge credit to Azam and the coach, unbelievable players

and they gave us a tough match.

"Congratulations to them but I am proud of the players for executing the plan and getting three points," he added.

Simba, who have played a match fewer than table toppers Singida Black Stars, can climb up further in the table again on Sunday when they visit Dodoma Jiji.

## Coastal Union and Pamba Jiji in search of first win of the season

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TWO winless Premier League clubs go head-to-head this afternoon at KMC Mwenge Complex as Coastal Union hosts newly promoted Pamba Jiji.

Both sides are eager to secure their first victory of the season, with Coastal Union languishing in 15th place with just one point from five matches, while Pamba Jiji sit three places higher in 12th spot with four points.

Coastal Union supporters had high hopes at the start of the season after the club recruited six new foreign players, but their changing technical staff has struggled to find the right balance.

The team, nicknamed Wagosi wa Kaya, has yet to secure a win in seven competitive outings this season. Losses to Mashujaa, Namungo, Azam, JKT Tanzania, and Bravos Maquis in the CAF Confederation Cup have dampened spirits.

In their last Premier League match, Coastal Union suffered a 2-1 defeat to fellow strugglers JKT Tanzania, managing just one shot on target throughout the game.

Despite the return of center-back Lameck Lawi and goalkeeper Ley Matampi, the defensive solidity that carried them to a fourth-place finish last season has diminished.

The team has yet to keep a clean sheet, and their attacking woes con-

tinue as they have only scored two goals in their opening five games, tying them for the league's joint-weakest attacking record.

Pamba Jiji, on the other hand, have recorded four draws and one defeat in their five Premier League matches since earning promotion.

They enter today's match following a 2-2 draw against Mashujaa in front of their home fans last weekend.

Despite draws against Tanzania Prisons, Azam, and Mashujaa appearing respectable on paper, Pamba Jiji need a win to avoid slipping further down the table.

Head coach Goran Kopunovic has expressed frustration with his players' decision-making in key moments.

Pressure is mounting on the Serbian coach, and if he fails to lead his team to victory in the next two matches against Coastal Union and Young Africans, his position could become precarious - although a win against reigning champions Young Africans seems highly unlikely.

While Pamba Jiji have played better than their points tally suggests, their failure to capitalize on scoring opportunities is preventing them from securing their first win of the campaign.

Victory today could provide a much-needed boost for both clubs as they look to turn their seasons around before the upcoming international break.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**SPORTS**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Zote Kuntu  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
14:00 SKONGA (r)  
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Akili & Me  
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kali Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SPORTS  
22:00 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

**SSports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on SSports.

**eastAfrica RADIO**

05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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## Flexibles by David Chikoko

