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'Exporting raw cashews set to stop by 2026'

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said that in the next two years Tanzania will no longer export raw cashew nuts as the government intends to build two processing industries in Mtwara.

Addressing Mtwara residents at the Nangwanda Sijaona stadium in the municipality on the first day of a working tour of the region, the president emphasised that transporting cashew nuts outside the country be done from Mtwara port.

She said that using road transport denies value for money invested in improving the port, as the work was done with the cashew nut industry in mind. Using the port for transporting the crop enlivens the port and enables the relevant authorities to account for what has been put in place, she stated.

The government will by 2026 construct two cashewnut processing plants to add value to the crop, enabling the country to earn more from cashewnut exports.

She said the tour was meant for inspecting progress of development projects and listening to people's grievances, addressing challenges being faced in various areas.

The government has expanded Mtwara port to have higher capacity to ease logistics, she said, urging the port management to work on the issues that are impeding transporting cashew nuts through the port.

"Let me congratulate the people of Mtwara for the job well done. Today's Mtwara region is not the same as it

was a few years ago," she said, noting that the government has constructed the southern zone referral hospital to address health challenges.

The hospital will offer specialized services such as dialysis, orthopaedic and heart surgeries, she stated, underlining that completion of the hospital equipped with specialists and advanced medical tools will help the people of the southern regions to obtain specialist medical services.

"All patients with serious problems will come here," she stated, insisting that the job of health workers is to save people's lives. The government has invested in infrastructure, equipment and medicine so medical staff should fulfill their responsibilities, she emphasised.

"Let's inculcate a habit of using appropriate language to patients," the president intoned, intimating that existing challenges of staff shortage were being worked upon by the government. Apart from the medical facility, President Samia launched several development projects including the Mangamba water filter project expected to serve 80-percent of the people in Mtwara.

The Mtwara-Newala road is expected to be operational in 2025, with the Mtwara airport being expanded to ease transport in the region. This will also facilitate business with Mozambique and Malawi, she stated.

In other remarks, the president directed regional and district officials to ensure they work to address a rising incidence of conflicts between pastoralists and farmers.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is on a five-day tour of Mtwara and Lindi regions, inspects a theatre room shortly after launching the Southern Zone Referral Hospital at Mikindani in Mtwara Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Six people die as van hits tree

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SIX people died and nine suffered injuries after their minibus crashed into a tree along the Makunyuni-Arusha section of the Dodoma highway late on Thursday.

ACP Justine Masejo, the regional police commander, said at a press conference yesterday that the accident occurred in the evening in Kisongo area when the drive of a Nissan Caravan T135 DBC enroute to Arusha from Karatu with 15 people on board rammed into a tree.

"In the accident, six people died, specifically two women and four men,

while nine injured people are being treated at the Mount Meru Referral Hospital. Bodies of the deceased are being preserved in the hospital mortuary, as relatives go to identify them," he said.

Denis Mollel, a witness, said the driver of the van was overtaking a truck in a road stretch disallowed for overtaking, while on high speed. He haphazardly met a Mercedes Benz truck and swerved to avoid a head-on collision, lost control and slightly hit the lorry before ramming into a tree on the roadside, he explained.

Regional Commissioner John Mongella visited the injured at the

hospital, asking medical staff to give good care to the injured so that their conditions can quickly improve.

"Drivers should be more careful and make sure that vehicles carrying passengers have undergone thorough inspection to avoid unnecessary accidents that lead to the loss of life," he said.

Dr Frank Shega, the acting medical officer in-charge, said they have received six bodies and nine injured people, two of them in a serious condition, admitted in the intensive care unit (ICU).

They were seriously injured but they are responding well to treatment,

he said.

Joyce Laizer, one of the injured being treated at the hospital, said she was injured in the chest owing to being squeezed between the car seats. The driver was speeding when he passed the truck in front of them without taking any precautions, she said.

"I thank God that I survived," she said, noting that the passengers boarded the Hiace coming from Karatu at Makuyuni area. "We were coming from a graduation ceremony for my brothers' son graduation finishing three-month training with the National Service camp in Makuyuni," she added.

Libya floods: Search for blame starts with thousands of deaths

DERNA

LIBYAN authorities demanded an investigation into whether human failings were to blame for thousands of deaths in the worst natural disaster in the country's modern history, as survivors searched for loved ones washed away by floods.

A torrent unleashed by a powerful storm burst dams on Sunday night and hurtled down a seasonal riverbed

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PM extends support for AMREF's \$458m plan



By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has promised government support to facilitate implementation of a \$458m strategic plan for the Tanzania chapter of the African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) for 2023-2030.

He was speaking at the launch of the plan centered on enhancing primary healthcare and addressing social determinants of health, urging non-governmental organizations to abide by national values and ethics in pursuing various health or other interventions.

"Let me assure you that the government will work with you in implementing this strategy so that we reach the intended goals of providing quality health to the people," he said.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa leads the pack in singing the National Anthem shortly before launching AMREF Health Africa's Strategic Plan for Tanzania for the Year 2023-2030 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him (L-R, front row): AMREF Tanzania board chairman Anthony Chamungwana, AMREF Tanzania Resident Director Dr Florence Temu, Zanzibar Health minister Nassor Mazrui, and Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamilia. Photo: PMO

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Libya floods: Search for blame starts with thousands of deaths

FROM PAGE 1

that bisects the eastern city of Derna, washing multi-storey buildings into the sea with sleeping families inside.

Confirmed death tolls given by officials have varied. All are in the thousands, with thousands more on lists of the missing.

Derna Mayor Abdulmenam al-Ghathi said deaths in the city could already reach 18,000-20,000, based on the extent of the damage.

He was afraid the city would now be infected with an epidemic, "due to the large number of bodies under the rubble and in the water".

The World Meteorological Organization said the huge loss of life could have been avoided if Libya - a failed state for more than a decade - had a functioning weather agency in place.

"If there would have been a normally operating meteorological service, they could have issued warnings," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in Geneva.

"The emergency management authorities would have been able to carry out evacuation of the people. And we could have avoided most of the human casualties."

Other commentators drew attention to warnings given in advance, including an academic paper published last year by a hydrologist outlining the city's vulnerability to floods and the urgent need to maintain the dams that protected it.

Mohamed al-Menfi, head of the three-member council that acts as the presidency in Libya's internationally recognised government, said on X that the council had asked the attorney general to investigate the disaster.

Those whose actions or failure to act were responsible for the failure of the dam should be held accountable, along with anyone who held up aid, he said.

Usama Al Husadi, a 52-year-old driver, had been searching for his wife and five children since the disaster.

"I went by foot searching for them...I went to all hospitals and schools but no luck," he told Reuters, weeping with his head in his

hands.

Husadi, who had been working the night of the storm, dialled his wife's phone number once again. It was switched off.

"We lost at least 50 members from my father's family, between missing and dead," he said.

Wali Eddin Mohamed Adam, 24, a Sudanese brick factory worker living on Derna's outskirts, had awakened to the boom of the water on the night of the storm and rushed to the city centre to find it was gone. Nine of his fellow workers were lost, and around 15 others had lost their families, he said.

"All were swept away by the valley into the sea," he said. "May God have mercy upon them and grant them heaven."

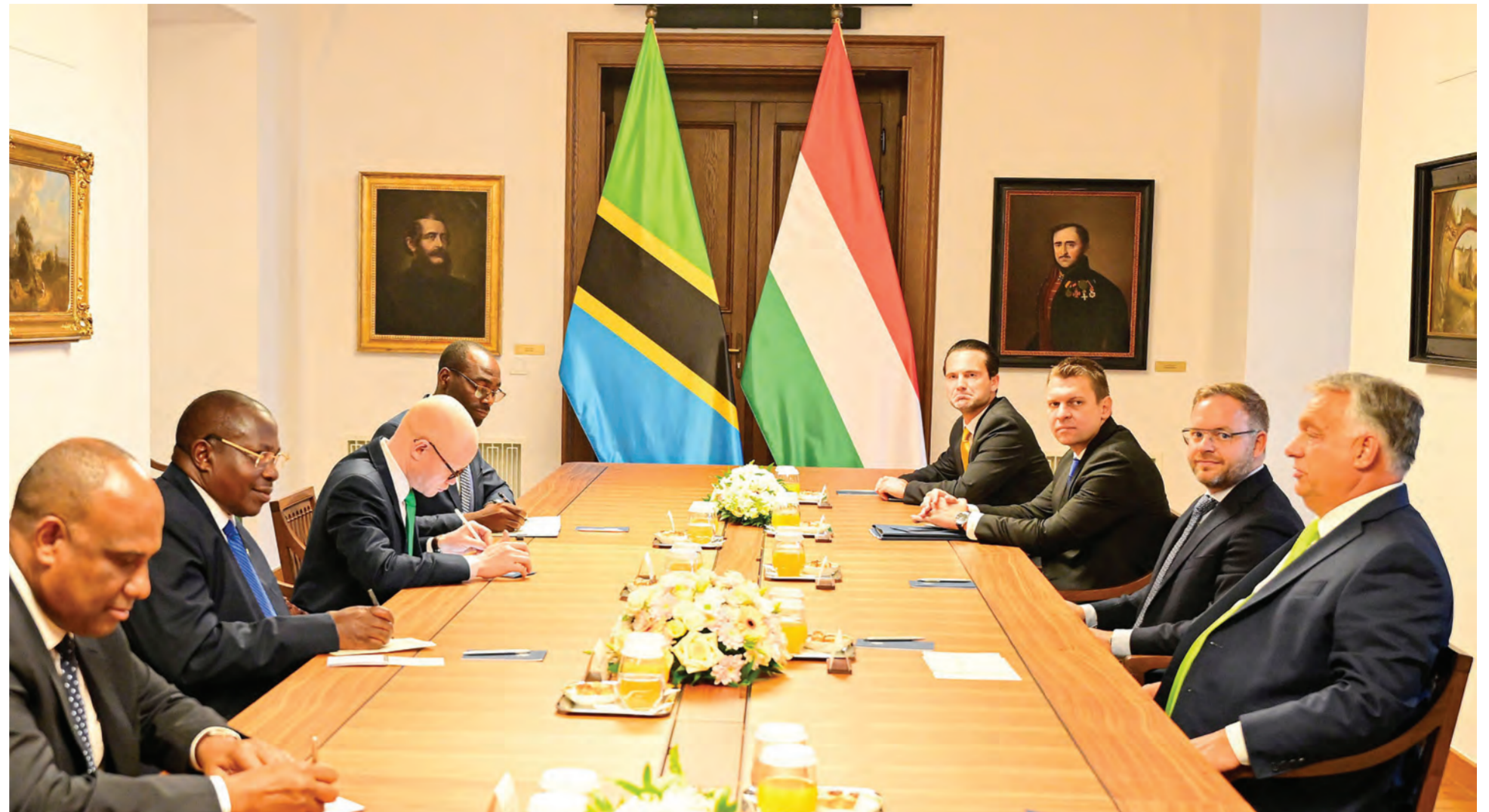
Rescue teams arrived from Egypt, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Qatar. Among countries sending aid, Turkey sent a ship carrying equipment to set up two field hospitals. Italy sent three planes of supplies and personnel, as well as two navy ships that had difficulty offloading because Derna's debris-choked port was almost unusable.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said it would release \$2 million from its emergency fund to support the victims, calling the floods a "calamity of epic proportions". It added it would send trauma, surgical and emergency supplies from its logistics hub in Dubai.

Rescue work is hindered by the political fractures in a country of 7 million people, at war on-and-off and with no government holding nationwide reach since a NATO-backed uprising toppled Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

An internationally recognised Government of National Unity (GNU) is based in Tripoli, in the west. A parallel administration operates in the east, under control of the Libyan National Army of Khalifa Haftar, who failed to capture Tripoli in a bloody 14-month siege that unravelled in 2020.

Derna has been particularly chaotic, run by a succession of armed Islamist groups, including at one point Islamic State, before being uneasily brought under Haftar's control.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-L) leads the Tanzanian delegation during talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (R) and his delegation in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, yesterday. The VP was in Hungary for the two-day Fifth Budapest Demographic Summit. Photo: VPO

South Africa's solar panel imports from China skyrocket

JOHANNESBURG

DURING the first half of 2023, South Africa quadrupled its imports of solar panels from China to 3.4 GW, which at peak production corresponds to the total production capacity of some power plants belonging to the coun-

try's public company.

China's photovoltaic power exports increased by a third, reaching 114 GW in the first six months of the year, according to a study by Ember, a British energy think tank.

Europe is the largest importer, accounting for more than half (52.5%), but the fastest growth in

imports is in Africa and the Middle East. South Africa is the main driver of the growth of imports into Africa which have increased by more than 50%.

South Africa is the main driver of growth in imports of Chinese solar panels into Africa (which have more than doubled, with an increase of 187%).

The country also recorded the second-highest increase (438%), or percentage growth, in imports after Europe.

"Over the past 12 months, South Africa imported 4 GW of solar panels from China, which would produce electricity equivalent to about 3% of its annual demand," the

report reads.

The report also cites "frequent load shedding," or planned power outages, which can reach up to 12 hours per day without electricity, as a contributing factor to the increase in solar installations.



Residents of Kisongo in Arusha Rural District view the wreckage of a car involved in a road crash in the area on Thursday, leaving six people dead and nine injured. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

PM extends support for AMREF's \$458m plan

FROM PAGE 1

He reiterated instructions to local government authorities involved with activities of NGOs to closely monitor their operations to control the threat of moral decay.

The premier praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for prioritizing health care delivery, creating a conducive environment for stakeholders such as AMREF (Tanzania) to operate.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, the Health minister for Zanzibar, said in his remarks that the government recognizes the role that NGOs play in promoting the provision of quality health services.

The government was putting in place initiatives to ensure that the strategic plan is well implemented, he said, with the NGO's country director Dr Florence Temu outlining objectives of the strategic plan.

She said it will give direction to AMREF (T) in its underlying duties of investing in community-led and people-centered health systems for sustainable primary healthcare.

Costs to implement the plan will grow year by year with the year 2023 costs set at \$40m and will be growing by 30% annually, she stated.

Anthony Chamungwana, the board chairman for the local chapter of the international NGO, said that AMREF was committed to complementing government efforts in promoting healthcare.

The NGO was focused on user-friendly services observing the country's guidelines, seeking quality in implementation work at the community level to the national level, she added.

Global aid effort intensifies for Libya after floods kill over 4,000

DERNA

A global aid effort for Libya gathered pace Thursday after a tsunami-sized flash flood killed at least 4,000 people, with thousands more missing - a death toll the UN blamed in part on the legacy of years of war and chaos.

The enormous surge of storm water burst two upstream dams late Sunday and reduced the city of Derna to an apocalyptic wasteland where entire city blocks

"Within seconds the water level suddenly rose," recounted one injured survivor who said he was swept away with his mother in the late-night ordeal before they both managed to cling onto and scramble into an empty building downstream.

"The water was rising with us until we got to the fourth floor, the water was up to the second floor," the unidentified man said from his hospital bed, in testimony published by the Benghazi Medical Center.

"We could hear screams. From the window I saw cars and bodies being carried away by the water. It lasted an hour or an hour and a half - but for us, it felt like a year."

Hundreds of body bags now line Derna's mud-caked streets, awaiting mass burials, as traumatised and grieving residents search mangled buildings for missing loved ones and bulldozers clear streets of debris and mountains of sand.

In one shattered home, a rescue team pumped out the water to reveal a woman's lifeless arms still clutching

her dead child, an AFP correspondent reported.

"This disaster was violent and brutal," said Yann Fridez, the head of the Libya delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had a team in Derna when the floodwaters hit.

"A wave seven metres (23 feet) high wiped out buildings and washed infrastructure into the sea. Now family members are missing, dead bodies are washing back up on shore and homes are destroyed."

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said the scale of the disaster was shocking.

"Entire neighbourhoods have been wiped off the map. Whole families, taken by surprise, were swept away in the deluge of water. Thousands have died, tens of thousands are now

homeless and many more remain unaccounted for."

The floods were caused by hurricane-strength Storm Daniel, compounded by the poor infrastructure in Libya, which was plunged into Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Libya is now divided between two rival authorities - the UN-backed, internationally recognised government in Tripoli, and an administration based in the disaster-hit east.

UN World Meteorological Organisation chief Petteri Taalas said many deaths could have been avoided if early warning and emergency management systems had functioned properly in the war-scarred country.

With better coordination, "they could have issued the warnings and the emergency

management forces would have been able to carry out the evacuation of the people, and we could have avoided most of the human casualties," said Taalas.

He told reporters in Geneva that Libya's years-long conflict meant its meteorological "observing network has been very much destroyed, the IT systems have been destroyed".

Access to Derna remains severely hampered as roads and bridges have been destroyed and power and phone lines cut to wide areas, where at least 30,000 people are now homeless.

The catastrophe's true death toll remained unknown, and officials have provided conflicting numbers.

A total of 3,840 bodies had been recovered by Wednesday, said Lieutenant Tarek al-Khar-

AGENCIES



CCM representative Steven Wassira makes remarks at an event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to mark International Democracy Day. Seated (in cap) is opposition ACT-Wazalendo national Chairman Juma Duni Haji. Photo: Carlos Banda

'Construction of modern fishing port in Kilwa sure to open up new employment opportunities for Tanzanians'

By Correspondent Said Hamdani, Kilwa Masoko

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Abdallah Hamisi Ulega has said that the construction of a modern fishing port in Kilwa District, Lindi Region and the provision of fishing boats will open up new employment opportunities for Tanzanians and increase the national GDP.

Ulega said this yesterday when speaking to reporters, shortly after inspecting the construction of the fishing port in the small town of Masoko, Kilwa District.

He said that the construction is a good sign of change in the existence of the sector, as it confirms a new era of developing better modern fishing, from the small natural one that was used to. He mentioned other benefits that will be obtained including 30,000 Tanzanians who will be able to get jobs and new technology following the existence of the modern fishing port project for the people of the Indian Ocean coastline including Lindi, Mtwara, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Tanga.

Ulega described the construction of the facility as a great

saviour of the sector, due to the large ships that are licensed to work in the country's sea zone, to have opportunities to unload and process their fish before transporting them to their countries.

"Our nation was losing revenues because we didn't have a port that can unload their fish, because the ones that are there are for small cargo," he said, noting that upon completion of the port ten large ships with a length of 30 meters will be able to load and unload their cargo at the same time and as the facility will be able to store 1,300 tonnes of fresh fish.

According to him, the inauguration of the port construction, which will be done by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on September 19, this year. The inauguration will coincide with the distribution of 30 fishing boats to the fishermen of Kilwa District and the entire southern regions. The construction of the Fishing Port in Kilwa District will take approximately 36 months, it is being built by a company called HEC from China and it will cost 262bn/- upon its completion.

Youths around national parks benefit from REGROW project

By Felister Peter, Iringa

A TOTAL of 522 students from villages surrounding the national parks have benefited with education scholarships provided by the government through the Resilient Natural Resources for Growth Project (REGROW).

The project that aims to improve tourism in the southern circuit covers Nyerere, Udzungwa, Ruaha and Mikumi National Parks.

The students have been enrolled at different schools and colleges including those under the Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism—Pansiansi Wildlife Training Institute (PWTI) and

the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM) popularly known as MWEKA.

Deputy Project Coordinator from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Blanka Tengia, said in the 2022/2023 financial year, they have spent 1.8bn/- to pay tuition fees for the students in more than 36 colleges across the country.

Tengia noted that among them, there are those undergoing certificate, diploma and degree courses. She said until now 142 students have completed their studies while 375 others are continuing with studies at different colleges.

"Upon completion of their studies, students are anticipated to provide services to the community and to tourists who are expected to increase in the southern circuit," said Tengia.

According to her, the project also helps to train village game scouts (VGS) where a total of 376 young people from communities surrounding the park have been trained at state-owned colleges on how to deal with fierce wild animals.

Of the number, 120 have completed their training in April this year and 121 completed the training in July 2023, said the deputy project coordinator, adding that a batch of 123 VGS start-

ed their training in July this year, the course that will be completed by October this year.

"We are hopeful that these students will help communities living near RUNAPA by dealing with wild animals, thus reducing incidences of human wildlife conflicts," she added.

Dostia Adam from Tungamalenga village in Idodi ward, Iringa District is one of the beneficiaries of the VGS training programme, commended REGROW for providing him with the important training to help control wildlife invasions and protect the park.

"Before the training I was just a vil-

lager with no job; this training is an opportunity for us to engage in conservation activities and benefit from tourism," she said.

Another beneficiary of the programme, Lonce Mkingule from Tungamalenga village said: "The education we have acquired will help other villagers since we also educate them on how to deal with wild animals."

Shani Richard, a resident of Tungamalenga village said the project has apart from benefiting villagers economically; their children are being taken to school.

"Our children are also benefiting from the project; my daughter has

entered a second year at MWEKA College. There are other students from our village who are sponsored at various colleges including the one in Mwanza—PWTI," she said, noting that villagers have now become conservationists because the park has been providing them with training related to conservation.

She added: "Without the park our lives would have been difficult. We are thankful to the management of Ruaha National Park since they support our development endeavours which includes construction of Idodi High School, houses for police officers and teachers as well as classrooms."



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Sheikh Amri Haruna pictured at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam on Thursday addressing people waiting for services at a three-day free health camp sponsored by the Khoja Ithna-Asher Jamaat. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Court for employees' compensation is important, says director general

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) director general Dr John Mduma has said that court is an important organ in the process of compensating workers who suffer occupational injuries and deaths while at work.

He made the statement yesterday here during the opening of a strategic meeting between WCF and executives of the High Court-Labour Division in Lake Zone and the Directors Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) so as to strengthen awareness on the Workers' Compensation Act.

He said the training was part of the implementation directives of the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, wanting public institutions to increase efficiency and quality of service delivery to citizens where a meeting like this was held on June 9, 2023 in Bagamoyo, Coast Region.

"Therefore, the Court and CMA are important stakeholders in the implementation of the workers' compensation law, but through these meetings, we are also building mutual understanding, thus helping strengthen relations, with the aim of providing better services

to people," Dr Mduma explained. Dr Yose Joseph Mlyambina, High Court Judge (Labour Division) commended WCF for being ready to cooperate with the Court as well as institutions related to the resolution of labour disputes.

According to him, the training will greatly help the institutions to exchange experience on legal matters regarding the payment of compensation to employees who are injured or fall sick while in the course of employment.

The compensation also involves families of employees who die due to accidents while at their workplace.

"The Chief Justice made directed all High Court judges, registrars and Resident Magistrates in all areas that do not have High Court Registries to deal with Labour matters, so I asked the WCF to organize another regional training for us, and I am so thankful for this," Judge Mlyambina said.

CMA acting director, Thomas Malekela said the commission works on addressing violated rights at the workplace.

He said the main objective of the Commission is to enhance, promote and strengthen good industrial relations and rights among employers and employees.

Political stakeholders urge process of constitutional review

By Getrude Mbago

DEMOCRACY and political stakeholders have urged the government to table in the coming National Assembly, a bill for constitutional review so as to enable the process to commence earlier.

The stakeholders said that apart from the government plans to table in the house some bills which will involve amendment of the Political Parties Act and the National Elections Act, it was important also to ensure that the Constitutional Review Bill is also tabled to further strengthen democracy in the country.

Speaking during the commemo-

rations of the International Day of Democracy in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the stakeholders also called for review of the Local Government Elections Act to ensure that the elections are supervised by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

Organised by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the meeting brought together a number of stakeholders to discuss the state of democracy in the country and come up with recommendations for improvements.

During the event also LHRC launched a new book dubbed: Thirty years of Multiparty Democracy in Tanzania examining the historical background to the re-introduction of

multi-party democracy in the country.

Zitto Kabwe, ACT Wazalendo national leader said apart from the current efforts of the government to review various laws to strengthen democracy it was high time also to table in the Parliament the Minimum Reforms Bill for the country to have a free NEC as well as allowing private candidates.

LHRC executive director, Anna Henga said that within the 30 years of the multiparty system, there has been a huge step in democracy growth despite various challenges that have been occurring time to time.

"In the book that we have launched

today we have issued a number of recommendations which also our stakeholders here have rooted, however we need to know that democracy is a clear manifestation of the advancement of human rights and not just in elections, we should consider promoting for growth of democracy in the whole society," she said.

Stephen Wasira, a veteran politician called on stakeholders to ensure that while calling for democracy, it was also important for them to ensure that they utilise the rights and freedoms wisely without going against the country's rules and boundaries.

He said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has shown a great political

will of restoring democracy, freedom of expression and improvement of good governance.

He advised non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to play their roles well of standing for people by promoting democracy and supporting them regardless if they are in politics or not. Catherine Ruge, secretary general of Chadema Women Wing (Bawacha) rooted that low participation of women in various positions including political ones was geared by poor laws and policies.

She said the new constitution should consider putting a conducive environment to facilitate women to vie for various positions without ob-

stacles.

Kijo Bisimba, an activist and former LHRC executive director said that there is a view that in democracy, stakeholders are only politicians forgetting that all people in the society are stakeholders of democracy.

Magdalena Sakaya, Deputy Secretary General of the Civic United Front (CUF) said that there is a need for the nation to have a steady and permanent system to push democracy forward rather than leaving the power to rulers.

She said the nation should also come up with a system to promote women participation in politics for inclusive development.

'Land issues key challenge that needs government intervention'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

MBARALI Parliamentary candidate through CCM ticket, Bahati Ndingo has said that once elected in the next by-election, she will cooperate with her fellow MPs in pushing the GN 28 agenda to find long-lasting solution of land dispute in the area.

Bahati made a promise yesterday when speaking

at a rally in Ubaruku ward during her ongoing by-election rallies in Mbarali District.

"What I want is that people of Mbarali do their activities without fear as it is now," she assured the people of the constituency.

GN 28 is the Government Notice number 28 that allows people of Mbarali District in Mbeya Region not to do any activities including housing construc-

tion and to preserve the environment due to professional reasons.

Bahati said that once elected she will team up with other lawmakers and take the GN 28 as key issue, assuring the public that the current government would work on the matter and find the long-lasting solution.

At the rally the contender was flanked by CCM

top brass including party women chairperson Mary Chatanda, her deputy Zainab Shomary, Mvumi MP, Livingstone Lusinde, Makambako MP, Deo Sanga, Makete MP, Festo Sanga and other officials.

The CCM contender cited land as the key challenge that needed government intervention.

She attested that CCM has done a great job of improving development in Mbarali, but more has to be

done.

According to her, there are many national leaders who chipped in the matter, but the land dispute remained unresolved.

"Last year, farmers in this constituency even failed to do farming because of this matter, that's why I'm asking the people of Mbarali to send me to the parliament and address the matter amicably," Bahati said.

She said the MPs were able to make arguments because they were on the same table with the government that agreed to remove 29 villages out of the protected area, but only five villages which are Mbarali's economy are still there.

She said that the five villages are key due to agriculture, but assured them that if she wins, she will cooperate with her fellow MPs to ensure that a solution is found.

The by-election is scheduled for September 19th, this year and is being held following the death of Mbarali Member of Parliament Francis Leonard Mtega on July 1st, 2023.



Last year, farmers in this constituency even failed to do farming because of this matter, that's why I'm asking the people of Mbarali to send me to the parliament

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CCM Youth Wing (UVCCM) national Vice Chairperson Rehema Sombi (R) receives an assortment of educational materials from Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) CEO Justina Mashiba in Dodoma city yesterday for distribution to universities in Arusha, Dar es Salaam Dodoma, Morogoro, Rukwa and Singida regions. This was in the spirit of a drive meant to support the government's efforts to boost education in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Activists call on govt, development partners to work together to address SDGs inequalities

By Correspondent Pilly Kigome

HUMAN rights activists have called upon government, civil societies, the private sector and development partners to work together to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address inequalities.

National Coordinator of the Southern Africa Human Rights NGO-Network (SAHRINGON) - Tanzania Chapter, Martina Kabisama made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam during an event to commemorate the Global Week of Action by Global Coal to Action Against Poverty (GCPA) Tanzania Coalition.

He said that there are several achievements so far including, good governance and global solidarity adding however that despite progress, inequalities persist such as rural urban disparities, income inequality and unequal access to basic services.

Maro said that Tanzania faces environmental threats, including deforestation, wildlife conservation, and the impacts of climate change.

She said strengthening governance, transparency and accountability is essential for effective SDGs implementation.

"as we look ahead, it is vital to recommit ourselves to the SDGs achievement, we call on the governments and other stakeholders to collaborate," she said.

She called upon the Tanzania government to recognize the role human rights defenders (HRD's) play in advancing the nation's progress towards sustainable development.

An officer from National Coordinator, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) Nuru Maro said that HRDs must be protected from intimidation, harassment and harm.

"It is incumbent upon the government to create an enabling environment where HRDs can work without fear for their safety, we urge the authorities to investigate and prosecute any violations of their rights promptly," she said.

She said her organization will continue to advocate for their rights and to raise collective voices against any injustice they face to recognize their work in ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to achieving the SDGs," she added.



Dr Yose Miyambina (L), Judge in Charge of the High Court of Tanzania's Labour Division, exchanges greetings in Mwanza city yesterday with Workers' Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma. It was at a working session involving members of the WCF management team, High Court Judges in the Lake Victoria Zone and Commission of Mediation and Arbitration commissioners. The idea was to help participants have a greater understanding of the Workers' Compensation Act. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

AfDB and Korea sign US\$28.6m in grant pacts to support Africa

BUSAN

THE African Development Bank and the Government of Korea has signed two agreements for financial support to boost Africa's development agenda. The value of the financing is \$28.6 million.

The funding complements \$600 mil-

lion in co-financing under the Korea-Africa Energy Investment Framework, agreed with the Korean government in 2021. The framework supports African countries to build human capacity and develop their energy sectors.

The agreements were signed in Busan, during the 7th Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Ministerial

Conference (KOAPEC), which is being co-hosted by the Bank and Korea. KOAPEC opened on Tuesday.

The new funding will primarily support energy access, agricultural transformation, and knowledge and capacity-building across a number of African countries. The amount will be disbursed to the African Development

Bank Group in three instalments: \$4.6 million in 2023, and \$24 million in 2024 and 2025. African Development Bank Group President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, and Korea's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, Kyungho Choo, signed the first agreement for \$28.6 million.

Choo described Korea as "a true

partner for African countries", adding that the government would do its best to contribute to Africa's sustainable growth and development.

Adesina said Korea's additional funding was timely, especially as the nation celebrates the 40th anniversary of joining the African Development Bank. He commended the government for its

commitment to a strong partnership between the African Development Bank and Korea.

"Korea's relationship with Africa is unique," Adesina said. "There is a lot to learn from Korea which moved from a poor country relying on aid, to a donor country within a single generation," he added.

By Guardian Reporter

Telecom launches SMEs summit to empower businesses countrywide

TIGO Tanzania has launched the SME hybrid event aimed at fostering growth and providing essential resources to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania.

Launched on Thursday the event, featured a panel of discussion sessions, brought together industry experts, inspirational thought leaders, and innovative solutions to impart knowledge to over 500 SME owners.

The event served as a platform for SMEs to connect, learn, and network with like-minded entrepreneurs. It also featured a showcase of SMEs and partner solutions, and an insightful panel of discussion from influential industry figures which spanned from taxation, branding, connectivity and digital skills for businesses.

The SME's summit was flagged off under the theme: Tigo Business 2023 SME Summit: Empowering SMEs with Knowledge, Innovation, and Information, and showcased how Tigo is committed to empowering SMEs by providing them with the necessary tools, resources, and support to thrive in a competitive business landscape. With this event, Tigo is positioning itself as the leading brand dedicated to supporting the growth and success of over 500 Tanzanian SMEs through targeted development programs and a comprehensive range of services.

Tigo's commitment to supporting SMEs extends beyond the event itself where the company unveiled 'Mjasiriamali Box', the one stop-shop for communication services to empower SMEs with convenient and secure financial transactions, digital marketing solutions, communication tools and access to a broader customer base. The service comes with a router (4G/5G), Tigo Pesa Lipa Kwa Simu number, bulk SMS and SIM cards (loaded with talk time, SMS and GB's).

"SMEs play a critical role in driving economic growth and job creation in any country. We are proud to host this empowering event that brings together the brightest minds and resources in a bid to support the success of SMEs with knowledge, innovation and information. Our goal is to position Tigo as the go-to brand for Tanzanian entrepreneurs seeking to thrive in today's digital driven economy", said John Sicilima, Chief Officer

for Tigo Business.

Entrepreneurs can access the Mjasiriamali Box, by dialing 101 or visit any Tigo shop across the country to transform their businesses.

Tigo SME summit is a further testament to the company's unwavering commitment to empowering Tanzanian SMEs by providing a platform to network and find solutions to enable them flourish in today's cutthroat business landscape.



MABUNDA AUCTIONEER MART CO. LTD

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 Dealers in: Auctioneer & Debt collection
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PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to instructions given to us by AZANIA BANK LIMITED ROCKY CITY MWANZA BRANCH we hereby notify the general public that we shall sell after PUBLIC NOTICE OF (14 DAYS) the Landed Properties AS DETAILED IN THE TABLE BELOW.

SN	NAME OF DEBTOR	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	DATE/TIME
	CONRAD JOHN MFOI	HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 104 BLOCK "A" KISEKE AREA IN MWANZA. CT. NO 24688 LR MWANZA	03/10/2023 03:00 AM
	SOSOKA PAUL MASABA	HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 330 BLOCK "F" IGOMA AREA IN MWANZA	03/10/2023 03:00 AM

TERMS AND CONDITION OF THE AUCTION:

- The Property shall be sold on where is as it basis.
- The successful bidder shall be required to deposit not less than 25% of the bid price immediately after being awarded as the highest bidder at the opening ceremony and the remaining balance of 75% shall be paid within fourteen days (14) or within such other time as we may prescribe; failure of which the offer shall be revoked forthwith and the 25% down payment shall be forfeited and the next highest bidder who meets the conditions may be awarded, or cancel the sale process altogether.
- Bidders are advised to conduct their independent valuation and inspection of the property if the wish to do so, as all the information contained in his advertisement is free from liability.
- All costs regarding the transfer of ownership shall be borne by the successful bidder.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
 MANAGING DIRECTOR; MABUNDA AUCTIONEER MART CO. LTD
 P.O. BOX. 61424, DAR ES SALAAM.
 PHONE NO: 0624 948 058/ 0787 129 539/ 0655 129 539
 EMAIL: mabundacompanyltd@gmail.com



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUPPLY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR MST TECHNICAL AREA Ref: MST -TZ-20230915

Daqing Oilfield Construction Group Co., Ltd. (hereinafter as DOCG), as a CONTRACTOR for Storage Terminal of EACOP Project, invites experienced and reputable contractors that have demonstrable capability, willingness, ability and availability to perform related works to express their interest in Supply of CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS such as STEEL STRUCTURE, Lighting, Electrical and etc. near Chongoleani area, Tanzania.

The EACOP Project development involves the engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of a crude oil export pipeline crossing Uganda and Tanzania and an onshore Marine Terminal in Chongoleani, near Tanga Port in Tanzania.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

The scope of the materials shall include CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS such as STEEL STRUCTURE, Lighting, Electrical and etc.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Company Profile;
- Valid Business Licence
- Valid Tax Clearance certificate
- Valid TIN and VRN certificate
- Copy of ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001 (ISO45001:2015) or equivalent certificate.
- Proven track record experience list for similar services supplied in the last Three (3) years
- Proof on the capacity to manufacture or purchase the required materials in accordance with project standards;
- Evidence of organization HSE Management Systems & policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Industry standards for similar works
- Proof of registration/application to Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with petroleum (local content) regulations, 2017 and local company definition for Tanzania.

Interested companies with the capacity to provide the services listed above should express their interest in English language by sending the above documents to zhaoning@docgi.cn; renhulin@docgi.cn; (not exceeding 20 MBs) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 30th/Sep/2023. Subject of the email should be MST-TZ-20230915 EOI — [COMPANY NAME].

Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive, subject to the signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company.

DOCG reserves the right not to consider companies that submit an incomplete dossier.

Note: Only pre qualified companies will receive invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



College of Business Education rector Prof Tandil Lwoga (R) signs an MoU with JR Institute of Information Technology manager Isack Marandu in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

US CDC and Amref partner to reduce PMCT in Simiyu Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE government in collaboration with other partners is implementing a project to reduce the burden of HIV through the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission.

The project dubbed 'Afya Kamilifu', is part of efforts and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) with funding from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Amref Health Africa in Tanzania.

In the fight against HIV, Tanzania is making significant progress in achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets by 2025.

The programme aims to reduce HIV infection rates by providing easily accessible antiretroviral Therapy (ART), life-saving medication suppresses the virus from the HIV-positive mother and prevents transmission to the unborn baby. During FY 2021-2023, the programme in collaboration with the Regional and Council Health Management Teams (R/CHMTs), reached 151,339 pregnant women in Simiyu Region, of which 652 were diagnosed with HIV and linked to ART services.

Dr Khamisi Kulemba, the Regional AIDS Coordinator for Simiyu, reported that the Simiyu Region has made remarkable strides in combating HIV/AIDS, with a notable reduction in mother-to-child transmission.

"We remain committed to working with our partners to deliver high-quality PMTCT services and educate HIV-positive mothers so that every child is

born without this virus," he said.

One such mother, Zawadi Mulu, age 30, narrates her experience, "I got pregnant in late 2021, and after two months of my pregnancy, I started PMTCT services. I was directed to give birth in a hospital.

"I complied with all the guidance and gave birth at Lagangabillili Hospital to a child without HIV. I stopped breastfeeding when the child was one year old, and an HIV test was performed. I am glad that my baby is still HIV-negative," she said.

Another mother, Letu Pakali, added: "Thanks to the PMTCT program, my son was born healthy, and I have hope for our future. I want him to grow up strong and follow his dreams."

The programme has a strategy to test every pregnant woman who visits the clinic as well as encouraging pregnant mothers to get tested for HIV along with their male partners, and all women who come to give birth are tested. Dr. Edwin Kilimba, Project Director of Amref Health Africa in Tanzania, said the success in achieving the target of PMTCT services is a result of the collaborative efforts between R/CHMT with support from the US CDC, through joint supportive supervision, mentorship, and training.

"This has significantly reduced new HIV infections in children and has contributed to keeping mothers healthy. Together, Amref Tanzania, with its partners, will continue to scale up PMTCT interventions to achieve the global goal of eliminating new HIV infections in children," he said.

24 children with congenital heart problems undergo major surgery

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TWENTY-FOUR children with congenital heart problems have undergone major surgery in a specialised heart treatment camp at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI).

The surgery camp is conducted by JKCI paediatric heart surgeons in collaboration with their counterparts, Saudi Arabian-based King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid in

Dr Godwin Sharau, JKCI head of Cardiac Surgery Unit for children said yesterday about the camp that despite doing the medical camp, they have also had the opportunity to learn new medical methods.

Dr Sharau said that through the

camp, they have succeeded in increasing the efficiency of working quickly in a short period of time, thus being able to serve more patients.

"Today is the fourth day since this camp started, we have managed to perform 24 heart surgery for children and we expect until Thursday which is the last day we will have performed surgery on more than 30 children," he said.

Dr Sharau said some of the children who have been operated on are those born with holes in the heart, children whose valves are not properly formed and others whose blood vessels are not in their order.

"After performing this surgery, many children will recover com-

pletely and continue their lives like other children, but there are a few for whom will pass various step of surgery that are needed in order for them to recover completely," he said.

The King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid has provided medical equipment worth 520m/ which are used for children's surgery.

Dr Sharau also thanked for the support and said that it has helped many children to undergo surgery as there are enough facilities.

"Our colleagues from the King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid in Saudi Arabia have been coming to Tanzania from time to time to provide heart treatment services for children and help with medical

equipment," he said.

A cardiologist from the King Salman Center for Humanitarian Aid, Abdulrahman Redhyan said the camp has been sponsored by King Salman.

He said that the aid has been enabling children to receive treatment and share experiences with JKCI health professionals.

Dr Abdulrahman said a team of 26 people from Saudi Arabia who are sleep specialists, heart machine operators, nurses and doctors have participated in the camp to ensure that many children undergo heart surgery in a short period of time.

"We believe that there are many children who need these heart surgery services, that's why we have

been coming in large numbers so that together we can help our children get treatment quickly and reduce the pain of the disease", said Dr Abdulrahman.

A parent whose son has been operated at the camp, Mwamini Sabimana, from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) said his son has been suffering from heart disease since birth and has been to various hospitals without success.

"I did not find out early if my child had a heart problem, until this year when he was eight years old, it was discovered that he had a congenital heart problem", said Mwamini.

Mwamini said his son had various symptoms, including not being able

to breathe properly, frequent fevers, weakness, inflammation of the body, but despite all symptoms the hospital failed to identify the problem he was having.

"After missing proper treatment in Congo, we went to Rwanda and later got information about JKCI so we arrived here and was given treatment on time," she said.

"I thank God as soon as my child received treatment, he is doing well, not like the beginning, I thank the health professionals at JKCI for their exceptional services, my fellow people from Congo, I advise you when you have heart problems come to JKCI because the medical services are there and good", she said

Government suspends funds to unqualified TASAF beneficiaries

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

GEORGE Simbachawene, Minister of State, President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance has ordered the suspension of funds given to unqualified beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

The minister issued the instruction yesterday after receiving information on the implementation of the TASAF programme in Geita Region, where he has asked regional heads and coordinators across the country to stop payments when they identify gaps in the beneficiaries' information.

He instructed the TASAF leadership to find a good payment system for the beneficiaries so as to avoid facing fraud challenges, allegedly committed by some relatives of the beneficiaries in collaboration with agents of payment services by mobile telephone.

"TASAF's plan to make payments by phone was aimed at reducing operating costs, but there has been a financial challenge of not reaching the beneficiaries, especially those who cannot use the phones due to fraud done by some relatives and service providers and because of this we really need to work hard so as to find a way to control the problem," he said.

He further noted that the government provides money through the program to help poor families where for Geita Region alone, more than 100bn/- has been given, so it is the Govern-

ment's mission to see that all the money reaches the intended beneficiaries.

According to the Assistant Administrative Secretary (Planning and Coordination), Deodatus Kayango, 220, 666 beneficiaries from 46,749 households in the region have already received more than 35.4bn/- from TASAF.

He said that in the period from 2021 to 2023, the region has received more than 8.09bn/- billion for the implementation of poverty alleviation projects through the construction of education infrastructure, health, temporary employment projects and projects for TASAF beneficiary groups.

He has mentioned some of the achievements of TASAF projects as enabling primary and secondary school students to get the needs of the school, the guarantee of two meals and the construction of better housing for the beneficiary families.

He further added that other achievements are the beneficiaries being able to get basic needs including being able to get two meals a day from the one meal they were getting before as well as being able to roof the house with tin from the grass houses that were there.

Despite the success, he said there are still various challenges, including some beneficiaries, especially the elderly and the disabled, not receiving their money properly due to a second receiver on their behalf.



Wamalwa Kusundwa, national Vice Chairman of the Pastoralists Association of Tanzania, has a word with livestock keepers at Magungu village in Bahi District yesterday on ways to resolve disputes associated with the use of presumed pastureland. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Govt set to revise national health policy to curb NCDs

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government is set to revise the national health policy to create a strategy to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which is the leading cause of deaths in the country.

Chief government spokesman, Gerson Msigwa made the remarks during a meeting that was organised by the Tanzania Non-communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCD) in collaboration with PharmAccess.

Msigwa said the process has reached the level of permanent secretaries adding that soon it will go to the level of ministers for im-

plementation, noting that NCDs have been on the rise saying patients pose challenges for treatment because it takes a long time with most of the patients coming to hospitals when they are 70-percent affected.

He said the statistics of the Ministry of Health show a large increase in NCDs where 7-percent of Tanzanians are suffering from kidney diseases while 9-percent are suffering from diabetes.

Msigwa said the statistics show that 29 percent of Tanzanians suffer from high blood pressure and low blood pressure, a disease that has been causing many deaths in Tanza-

nians.

He said the statistics of the Ministry of Health show that in every three deaths, one death is caused by non-communicable diseases such as kidney, blood pressure and diabetes.

Msigwa said 40 percent of the funds of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) are used to treat people suffering from non-communicable diseases, noting that the statistics show that in the last five years alone, the government has spent 5bn/- to treat non-communicable diseases patients.

"These diseases have been causing a huge burden to the government but we can reduce

them by changing our lifestyle such as creating a culture of exercising regularly and being careful with the foods we eat," said Msigwa.

Alphoncine Nana, who is an expert in non-communicable diseases with the World Health Organization (WHO), said that global statistics show that 41,000,000 people die from non-communicable diseases every year in the world.

She said WHO is making great efforts to ensure that it reduces one third of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases until the year 2030, noting that among those people who die from NCDs, 17,000,000 people die before

reaching 70 years and three quarters come from developing countries.

She said along with various measures, WHO has also been providing education to the community about how it can protect itself from these diseases by exercising and changing the lifestyle and eating habits.

Dr Omary Ubuguyu, Assistant Director in the Ministry of Health, responsible for NCDs said cervical cancer has been afflicting many women even though it is preventable, stating that for the country to win the battle against NCDs, a change of mindset, lifestyles and taking a preventive approach is inevitable.

MAT: A crucial tool in the battle against HIV/Aids among PWID

By Carlos Banda

AMREF Health Africa in Tanzania has embarked on a new project dubbed: 'Afyā Kamilifu' aimed at relieving persons with injected drugs (PWID) who are at risk of contracting HIV/Aids.

Funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the project has a number of interventions that will be addressed including the medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in Tanga Region.

The intervention is implemented by the Tanga Free Drug Foundation and the Gift of Hope, which are local civil society organizations (CSOs), at Tanga Regional Referral Hospital, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA).

The MAT programme significantly advances the battle against HIV in Tanzania. The programme offers MAT services to PWID and has become an essential tool for HIV prevention and treatment.

To prevent HIV and other adverse effects from injection opioid use, the MAT program aims to reduce or end opioid use. The MAT clinic provides PWID with integrated treatment, such as opioid replacement therapy (methadone), HIV testing, counseling and linkage to care, tuberculosis, and hepatitis screening and treatment, psychosocial counseling, and behavior change programs. These interventions are all provided free of charge will the aim to re-

duce the risk of contracting and transmitting HIV.

According to Dr Selemani Msangi, the Tanga Regional AIDS Coordinator, as of April 2023, there were more than 500 people receiving MAT services at the clinic, and more than 40 are HIV-positive.

"The number of people newly diagnosed with HIV in the region has significantly decreased since they began providing MAT services. By giving PWID a safe and supportive environment, we can educate them on the significance of HIV prevention and provide them with access to testing and treatment," says Dr Selemani.

Comprehensive MAT services at Tanga Regional Referral Hospital (TRRH) include Comprehensive MAT services at Tanga Regional Referral Hospital (TRRH) include counselling, daily methadone doses, and involvement of the client's family. This is achieved through community engagement by CSOs who identify PWID from hot-spot areas in the community. These PWID are then referred to drop-in centres for PrE MAT services enrolment. CSOs using Community Volunteers (COVs) at the drop-in centers refer eligible PWID to TRRH for physical reassessment and enrolment into MAT services, following the National Guidelines.

Once enrolled in MAT services, individuals continue to attend the drop-in centers for Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), counselling, and participation in social groups. Additionally, there are income-generating activity groups overseen by site manag-



Segerea constituency legislator Bonnah Kamoli (3rd-L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of the Mtamba-Majichumvi road in Kisukuru ward. Second right is Kisukuru councillor Lucy Lugome and left is the Ilala engineer of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura), Reginald Mashanda (L). Photo: Correspondent Pilly Kigome

ers, with some funding currently provided by Tanga Councils.

Amref Tanzania, with funding from PEPFAR through CDC, provides technical assistance to healthcare providers (HCPs) and community outreach volunteers (COVs) through on-the-job training, mentorship, and joint supportive supervision. In addition to technical assistance, it facilitates the availability of MAT supplies such as disposable cups, safe and clean drinking water, urine drug test/screening (UDS), and osmotic water machines. Other forms of support include extra duty allowances for HCPs, incentives for COVs, rent and utilities for the drop-in centres, HCPs participating quarterly in the Technical Working Group (TWG), and monthly stakeholder meetings. Amref Tanzania also engages with the friends of PWIDs to trace missed doses or follow-ups.

In the battle against HIV in Tanzania,

Dr Edwin Kilimba, Project Director for Afya Kamilifu stressed the significance of these services. "We offer technical assistance for HIV testing, TB screening and treatment, psychosocial counseling, and behavior change. The project also funded the refurbishment and operationalization of the previous MAT service rooms and training for 12 MAT service providers and CSOs," according to Dr Kilimba.

Tanga Regional Referral Hospital MAT clinic's site manager, Dr Wallace Karata, notes that the facility offers PWIDs a secure and encouraging atmosphere. "Clients are linked to the clinic through the two CSOs operating in Tanga District. As soon as they begin treatment, they sign the contract and pledge to abide by its guidelines. The clinic keeps an eye on them and encourages them to adhere to treatment," Dr Karata said.

"The idea is to assist these people in

changing, learning about their health status, and achieving social acceptance. Since the clinic began offering MAT services in June 2020, 15 patients have graduated in treatment and are now successful contributing members of society," he said.

Bakari Mwindad, Tanga Free Drug Foundation chairman claimed that the foundation has effectively reached PWIDs in their neighborhoods, saying: "This has been accomplished through speaking with, teaching, and connecting them to MAT clinics. The success stories of program participants who have overcome addiction and are now leading healthier lives, like Otu Oka and Menci Rali, demonstrate the program's effectiveness."

Otu Oka, a client of the MAT clinic, states that he had been battling addiction for more than 20 years before visiting the facility. His life has improved sig-

nificantly because of the MAT services. Now that he has recovered, he is more knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS prevention strategies for himself and others.

Another former PWID, Menci Rali, said it took the Tanga Free Drug Foundation seven years to find her and introduce her to methadone treatment at the MAT clinic.

She decided to begin the treatment, and as a result, she is now a better person, conscious of her health, living with her spouse, married, and taking care of her kid at home.

MAT clinics are an essential part of Tanzania's HIV response. The clinics' effects are seen in every aspect of the community. By reducing new HIV infections, MAT interventions will contribute to eliminating AIDS by 2030. Therefore, using methadone is one of the HIV-preventative strategies for attaining HIV epidemic control.

Adesina to Korean investors: Africa is top market frontier with huge untapped potential

BUSAN

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Akinwumi Adesina has called on Korean investors to seize untapped investment opportunities in Africa, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors.

"Africa is a continent that cannot be ignored by investors," Adesina said at a business forum attended by CEOs of Korean corporations, heads of financial institutions as well as ministers and business leaders from Africa.

The business forum was held at the 7th Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference, held in Korea's second-largest city, Busan.

Adesina highlighted the potential for Africa to become a leading market frontier, boasting enormous potential in agriculture and renewable energy sources.

The bank chief assured Korean investors, "Africa is not as risky as you hear. It is a continent of opportunities,

waiting to be tapped."

He cited Moody's analysis of global infrastructure default rates which shows that the continent ranks better at 5.5%, compared with 8.5% in Asia and 13% in Latin America.

AfDB uses partial risk and credit guarantees to reduce the risks faced by the private sector.

Adesina observed that bilateral trade between Korea and Africa was important and growing, but said its volume needed to be improved. He said Korea's trade with Africa in terms of exports and imports stood at only 2% of its total trade with the world. This, he said, must change given the huge economic opportunities and investment potential in Africa.

Adesina said: "The size of consumer expenditures is estimated to be \$2.5 trillion by 2030. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is the largest in the world in terms of numbers of countries, is estimated at a \$3.5 trillion market size.

With a population of 1.3 billion, of which 600 m are young people, rapid urbanisation and rising incomes of the middle class, Africa is the leading emerging market frontier."

Adesina listed several sectors that he said offered huge opportunities, including energy and agriculture, which is expected to grow to \$1 trillion by 2030. This includes the development of special agro-industrial processing zones in which the bank and partners have invested more than \$1.5 billion in 11 countries.

In the energy sector, Adesina said Africa has enormous renewable energy potential, including 11 TW of solar, which is the highest in the world, but only one percent is utilised. With 350 GW of hydro, only 7% is utilised; 115 GW of wind potential of which only 2% is used; and 15 GW of geothermal power of which only 2% is utilised.

Korea's 1st Vice President, Minister of Economy and Finance, Byoung Hwan Kim, acknowledged that de-

spite global shocks, African countries were experiencing higher growth rates.

Kim shared his strong conviction that there are enormous opportunities for investment in Africa compared to other continents and highlighted the important role of the private sector in harnessing these opportunities. Kim recalled that Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world but was able to overcome this largely by focusing on its small businesses and the private sector.

"We hope to share those experiences with our African counterparts," he said, adding, "We support the private sector to boost investment and provide guarantees tailored to private sector needs."

Kim said that the Korean government would work with the African Development Bank to identify opportunities and use the KOAFEC Trust Fund to enhance the capacity of the private sector.

The meeting identified the African Continental Free Trade Area as a platform for mutual trade and investment.

The Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, Hee-sung Yoon, said Africa's population and vast resources offered enormous opportunities for growth. "The AfCFTA will connect Africa with the rest of the world," Yoon said. "It will be an opportunity for Korea to build strategic partnerships," he added.

The forum also heard how Africa offers strong investment opportunities in green metals that could drive global market growth in clean renewable energy technologies, where countries can create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

Adesina said Africa is the perfect place to build batteries for electric cars and lithium-ion batteries.

He invited Korean investors to its 2023 Africa Investment Forum (Af-

ricaInvestmentForum) in Marrakech, Morocco, from 10 to 12 November. The Africa Investment Forum has attracted \$142 billion in investment interest in Africa over the past four years, including in energy, agribusiness, roads and transport, health, and digital technology.

During a subsequent panel session on Just Energy Transition in Africa, the CEO of Neo Themis (www.NeoThemis.com/), Tas Anvaripour encouraged Korean investors to consider investing instead of only selling equipment. She assured the gathering that the African Development Bank was a trusted risk guarantor on the continent.

"In several of our business ventures in some African countries, the African Development Bank was there to support us. Its credit guarantee helped us reassure our foreign investors and acted as an honest broker when it mattered most. Institutions like this make investing in Africa easy," Anvaripour said.



Charles Fungo, manager of the Catholic Relief Service's Early Childhood Development Programmes, contributes makes remarks during a panel discussion held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday as part of a conference attended by various stakeholders including religious leaders and university students. He is with Dr Saleh Abdallah (L) from the Muslim Supreme Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) and Pastor Esther Muhagachi from the Christian Council of Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Gender-based violence remains an embarrassing predicament in Africa'

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

AFRICA is over many years into democracy yet gender-based violence (GBV) continues to thrive and women continue to suffer violence at the hands of men. The statistics show rising levels of femicide, rape, assault and many forms of gender-based violence with men being the culprits. GBV does not only put women and children in a vulnerable position but creates a dilemma for the entire society. This is no longer about what men should and should not do, it has become another pandemic that the authorities and societies have turned a blind eye to.

The trend of some men abandoning their spouses who gave birth to twins for various reasons, has been cited as one of the gender-based violence (GBV) that has not been given the impetus to deal with it.

Diana Mbena, chairperson of Twins Foundation made the observation in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking about the lives of some mothers who have been abandoned by their husbands.

She said that there are many women who are facing difficult situations, and that they need help.

"There is ongoing fight against rape, sodomisation and beatings, but this group has been forgotten. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups needs to intervene and stop the trend," said Diana.

There are some men who abandon their wives, claiming that their tradition does not allow the birth of twins or claim that it is unacceptable for a woman to give birth to twins, triplets or quadruplets.

"In that environment, some women with twins, especially those who are not well off economically, find themselves in a difficult situation in raising twins without help from their partners," she said.

She said that in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions where her organization does most of the work, it has revealed the presence of such women who suffer with children without the help of their husbands.

Diana said that it is not only the Coast and Dar es Salaam, but there are women with similar problems in other regions, and that they have been receiving phone calls to ask for financial support so that they can afford living expenses.

"The government needs to make follow up to determine the extent of the problem, because in the monitoring of the Eden Foundation, it was found that many families with twin children are those with less economic power," she said.

Diana explains that one female with twins, a resident of Mbagala Charambe in Dar es Salaam, was abandoned by her co-parent for giving birth to a blind child.

"In general, this is GBV, so I should continue to ask the government, especially the relevant ministry, that this should also be recognized as violence and can be dealt with fully," she said. He said that if the ministry intervenes, it can help to fight against stereotypes that are used as a shield to abandon their wives with excuses, and that children can settle down when they are on the streets.

She explained that it is not that all women who give birth to twins are economically incapable, but that those she has been visiting to give them help are economically insufficient.

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Fuel import premiums cut tough, gas use shifting more promising

CHANGES could well be in the air in the wake of a directive upon regulatory agencies to sit down and review premium prices set in importing fuel, so that fuel reaches the end user at affordable prices. That formulation suggests that there is some legroom for this effort, but it might be a hard climb, judging from efforts in the past two years. The government had few options either in premium prices or in taxes and resolved to set up a price stabilisation fund put at 100bn/-.

This is one of avenues of action mooted by deputy premier Dr Doto Biteko, doubling as Energy minister, though the scope of battles to be engaged is wider than purely the price regulatory sphere. There are challenges of blocking flows to cause limited panic in this or that part of a city or region, which many think is an administrative issue that can be handled. As oil is a big money commodity, there will be limits to action and narrow margins in what ought to be rectified.

Other suggestions that were raised in the DPM meeting with top fuel industry regulatory officials hold more promise to cut on fuel demand and partially rein in price spirals especially fake shortages. DPM asked for innovative action from the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), in another sphere, that they coordinate establishing of more stations to fill in compressed natural gas in vehicles.

The preliminary requirement is conversion of vehicles, and DPM said government vehicles need to be converted en masse, to start with.

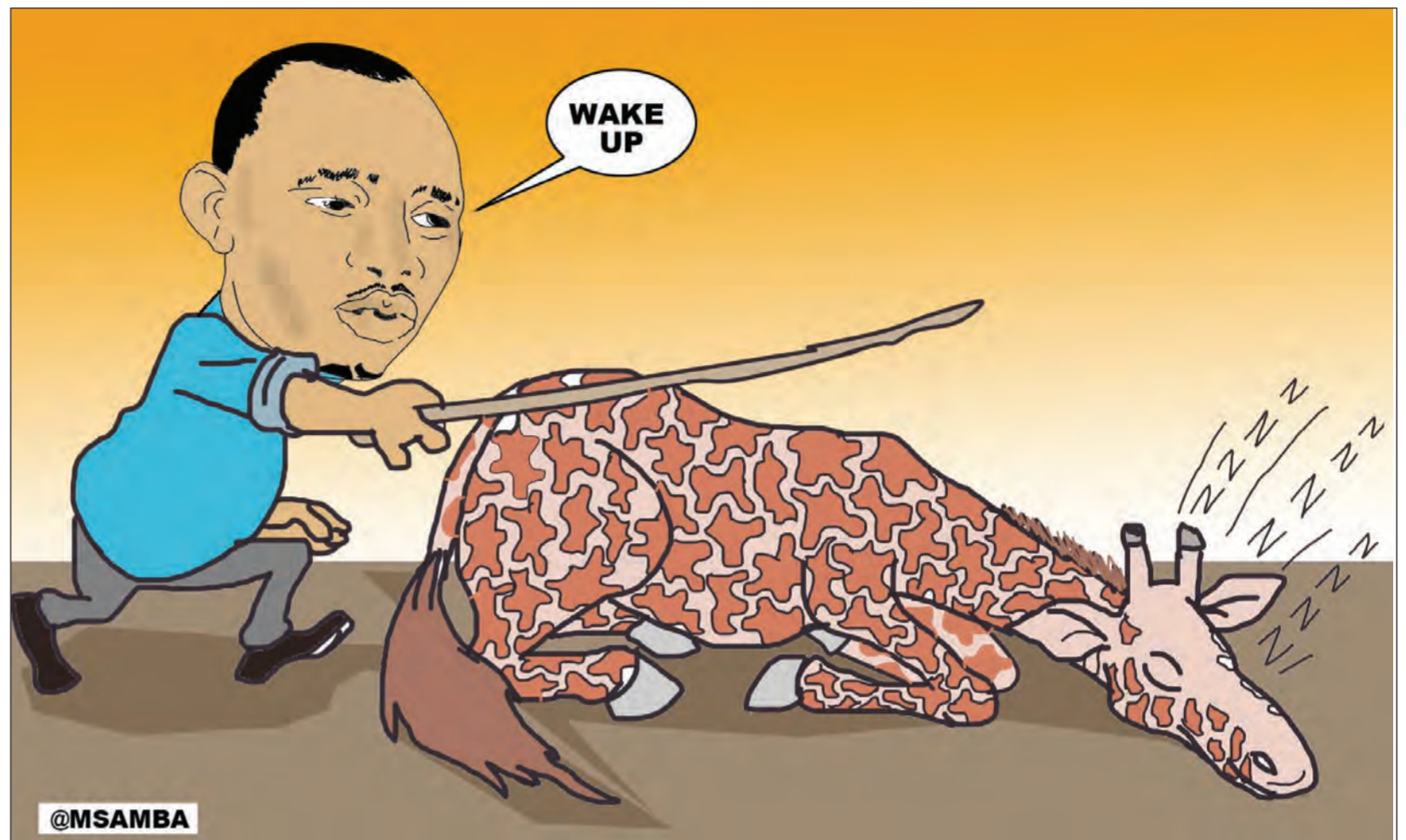
Experience shows that efforts to track down the behaviour of traders are not

useful means of stabilising markets, just another opportunity for robust law enforcement and impairing the climate of doing business. As the top executive official noted, shifting to compressed natural gas is an alternative to petroleum as it diminishes costs and lessens petroleum import needs. The trouble is that it is unclear how far this can rapidly be put to effect, if by EWURA or TPDC.

Even the vehicle conversion business seems tied to just a few institutions, so far the public has largely heard of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, the principal Vocational Training Institute and at workshops of the University of Dar es Salaam. Both in the vehicle conversion business and in setting up gas use in filling stations there appears to be some stifling bureaucracy where some agencies wish to keep these things to themselves. Why can't other garages do it, or any fuel station set aside a tank pit for CNG without special licensing given?

For one thing, it will be easier of the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) and EWURA to take up the task of reviewing the premiums and focusing on to actual costs in pricing with a significant reduction in demand.

The greater the push for more fuel each day the poorer the chances of effective control of prices and the greater the effort in that direction, the more there are opportunities for side routes, shortcuts. And then it boils into political life, with a fuel importation or distribution scandal that would be difficult to pin down. Making vehicle conversion more market driven or reserving tank space for CNG availability should be done more rapidly.



Are the balances of the world evolving with the Brics Summit? Where is Africa in that?

By Cem Perdar

The eyes of the whole world were turned to the BRICS summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa on August 22-24. Because, in the changing world dynamics, the idea of activating a strong alternative platform against the G7 is a project put on the table by several countries. The messages given at the 15th BRICS summit, the steps planned to be taken, provide us with data for the new potential polarizations that this world will evolve into. BRICS is an association of five major countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Distinguished by their emerging economies, the group has sought to improve diplomatic coordination, reform global financial institutions, and ultimately serve as a counterbalance to Western hegemony.

According to the data of the United Nations Trade and Development Organization, & of the world economy is produced in the BRICS countries (this rate was in 2010), where B of the world's population lives. It is clearly predicted that this share will increase in the coming years. It is obvious that especially China, India and Brazil will take the lead in this regard. With the new participants in 2024, the distribution of the BRICS countries in the world population will also change significantly.

The BRICS platform, which holds regular meetings at the level of state officials every year, stands out as an important forum for the development of economic, political and cultural cooperation among member countries. For now, the community is following a path based on economic cooperation. However, the BRICS community, which has expanded with the recruitment of members from a wide geography, is expected to come to the fore as a stronger actor in the global system in the future.

The two most important main items of the summit in 2023 were the expansion of the platform with the participation of new countries and the project of using common currencies against USD / Euro.

Many countries attended the summit at the level of heads of state and government, to which nearly 70 countries from around the world were invited. This year's forum came to the fore as a historic summit in terms of accepting new members.

So far, 22 countries have made official applications to become a member of the BRICS. A number of countries have also unofficially shown their interest in BRICS membership. In the



first 2 days of the summit in Johannesburg, the leaders of the BRICS countries discussed the current applications and membership criteria and decided that 6 countries, Argentina, UAE, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, should become official members of the community. With the new members joining the community as of January 1, 2024, the number of BRICS members will increase to 11 as of next year.

Another critical agenda item of the summit was the BRICS common currency, as this issue has been talked about for a long time and everyone is waiting for concrete steps. The idea of common money, which was put forward by China, which wanted to create a rival against the power and hegemony of the USD in the world, was not accepted by countries with a relatively small economy and population, such as South Africa, although it was supported by Russia as well. According to the result, it seems unlikely that this will happen in the near future. Instead of adopting a common currency, the view of trade in local currencies among member states was accepted. One of the highlights during the meetings was the necessity of a financial system that would ensure fast and secure money flow between members in local currencies. In my personal opinion, while there are clear differences in inflation rates between countries, the use of a common currency can create serious problems in the economic adaptation of countries, and even lead to monetary losses. For example, while inflation is 4.2% in Brazil, which is one of the founding members, this rate is 114% in Argentina, which will join the union as of 2024. In a scenario where both countries switch to the same currency, it is clear that serious financial disputes would arise for Argentina.

Another interesting point is the

improvement of BRICS members in terms of economy and local production. When we compare the global GDP's between the G7 and BRICS countries, we see that the G7 has lost altitude significantly over the years. A major contributing factor to BRICS' rise is Chinese and Indian economic growth.

Today, despite the fact that petroleum products are gradually trying to be replaced by electricity, solar energy and alternatives in different derivatives, the BRICS platform seems to come to a serious point in the world oil market, especially with the participation of Saudi Arabia.

This year's summit was attended by significant numbers from the African continent as well. South Africa, the host country, invited nearly 70 countries, 53 of which were African countries, to the summit held under the title of "BRICS and Africa: Mutual Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Partnership for Inclusive Multilateralism". Participation in the BRICS Plus meetings held on the last day of the summit was attended by high-level delegations from all over the world, especially from African countries. While Namibia, Burundi, Chad, Zambia, Comoros, Senegal, Republic of Congo and Djibouti from the African continent attended the meeting at the level of heads of state, many other countries were represented on the platform by their foreign ministers. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also attended the summit.

On the last day of the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa met with the leaders of the Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Zambia, Burundi, Namibia, Libya, Comoros and Chad, and discussed trade and economic issues between China and Africa.

In my recent visits to Africa, it is

very obvious to see that the commercial and political relations, especially in the Sub-Saharan geography, have moved away from the European Union and the US, and have evolved into the triangle of China, India and Brazil. Especially with the large Indian population living in the eastern part of Africa, there has been a serious convergence towards India. China, on the other hand, has strengthened its effectiveness in the continent with construction and infrastructure projects, and has come to a position where it continues serious activities in many fields including education and trade.

There is one thing that seems crystal clear, BRICS countries which are increasing their power day by day in terms of population, technology and economic transactions, have turned into an indispensable ally and business partner for the African continent. It seems that we will enter a period in which bilateral relations with Africa will reach a peak, especially with the participation of countries such as Egypt, UAE and Arabia.

The writer is a Turkish businessman with keen interest in Rwanda.



Many countries attended the summit at the level of heads of state and government, to which nearly 70 countries from around the world were invited. This year's forum came to the fore as a historic summit in terms of accepting new members

Cyber security policy for African countries is of huge importance

According to experts cyber security is the practice of defending computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks. It's also known as information technology security or electronic information security.

The objective of the Tanzania's Cybercrimes Act, among other things, is to criminalise offences related to ICT and computer systems, such as computer-related forgery, illegal data interference, and illegal system interference, as well as to provide for investigation, collection, and use of electronic evidence.

Therefore cybersecurity and digital forensics call for sustainability public awareness programmes to make people avoid cyber-attacks.

As the country approaches the cybersecurity awareness month in October, governments in Africa through ministry responsible need to create the awareness for people to use the information communication technology in the proper way.

The country may also take advantage of international events like 'Cyber security awareness month' and 'Data privacy day' to run a national level awareness programmes.

The previous cyber-attacks in many of African countries should serve as a wake-up call and all African countries should enact cybercrime legislation.

However, the continent needs to put a strong and workable institutional framework first so as to be fully involved in the war against global cybercrime.

The cyber security policy and effective cybersecurity awareness for any country

especially, those who have embarked on ICT development is very important.

The policy protects information and builds the capability to prevent cyber-attacks through developing cyber security skill sets, cyber crisis management, critical infrastructure protection, public and private partnership security issues and other related policy issues.

The general objective of the cyber security policy is to make the country safe on the cyber space, by taking care of different aspects, including strengthening regulatory control, promotion of research and developments and securing the critical infrastructure.

The document can be updated and changed to suit the advance in technology and counter new cyber-attack techniques, he said.

The computer security incident response team in Tanzania is a dedicated technical team with the responsibility of coordinating response to cyber security incidents at the national level and cooperate with regional and international entities involved in the management of cyber security incidents.

The learning institutions need to include the cyber security in their curriculum to enable lawyers, advocates, regulators, IT professionals, policy makers, managers and other people involved in security to be able to combat the cyber security in their organizations.

It is through security awareness programmes that organisations can develop, grow and maintain the culture for their employees, vendors, and suppliers as well.



The computer security incident response team in Tanzania is a dedicated technical team with the responsibility of coordinating response to cyber security incidents at the national level and cooperate with regional and international entities involved in the management of cyber security incidents

Incest: Relationship prohibited by law yet living on

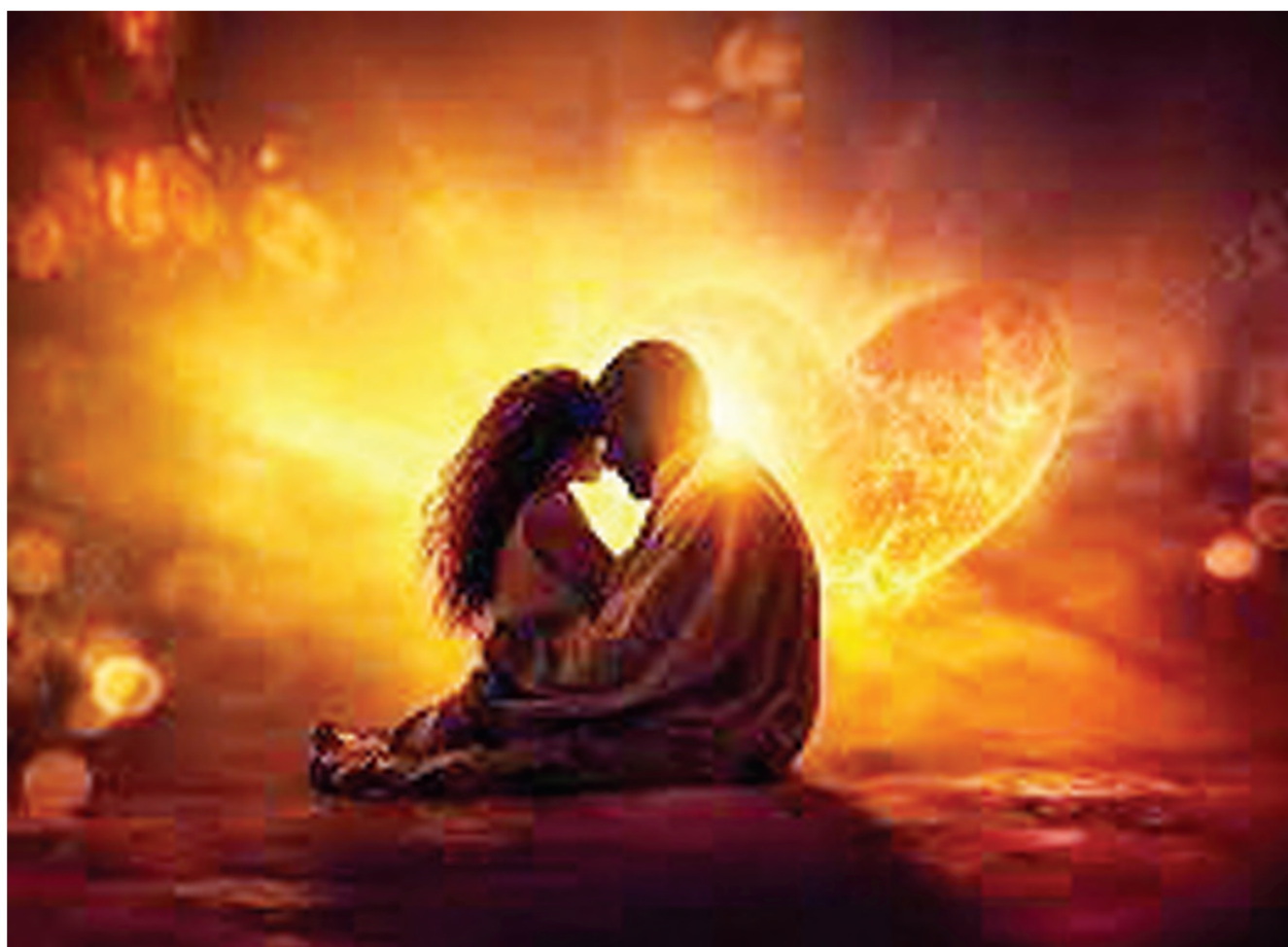
By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we briefly looked at the right to non-discrimination. We cited some provisions in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 (as amended until 2005). The provisions include Article 13(1) which states that: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law."

We said by virtue of Article 13(5) no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of "nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, colour, religion, sex or station in life such that certain categories of people are regarded as weak or inferior and are subjected to restrictions or conditions whereas persons of other categories are treated differently or are accorded opportunities or advantage outside the specified conditions or the prescribed necessary qualifications..."

We also cited Article 23(1) which prohibits discrimination in terms of remuneration. It states that "Every person, without discrimination of any kind, is entitled to remuneration commensurate with his [her] work, and all persons working according to their ability shall be remunerated according to the measure and qualification for the work." Other provisions we cited included section 3(2) of the Land Act (Chapter 113), section 66 of the Law of Marriage Act (R.E 2019) and sections 7 and 8 of the Employment and Labour Relations Act (R.E. 2019).

We said further that if discrimination creeps in society then people start seeing each other as unequal or that some people are more equal or have more rights than others. As we are becoming more



and more global citizens discrimination fails us to consider each other as interdependent and that together we can create a fairer and better world for all of us to live in.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at incest. Backstone's Law Dictionary defines incest as "The crime of sexual intercourse or cohabitation between a man and woman who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law."

A few months ago, I met a builder and as we were talking, he related to me a puzzling story about his sexual relationship with his aunt - his mother's younger sister - but he was unaware that they were related. He said one day he entered a contract with a certain person to build him a house. As he was on site, there was a girl he didn't know who was a food vendor and he and his assistants used to buy food from her.

He said when he saw her for the first time, he liked her because she was polite. As she continued going to the building site to sell food, the builder started seducing her. He said one day he approached her and proposed to her that they become lovers and she accepted.

In their relationship, the food vendor became pregnant. When a baby was born, the builder took the mother to his house and started providing necessities to her and to her newly born baby. Some relatives too started going to see them, but they were surprised to find that the builder

and his lover were related. He said because of that the clan decided that they undergo a traditional ritual to mend the broken taboo and the builder and his lover were sorry for what had happened because they didn't know they were related.

A month ago, I travelled to the Lake Zone and there too I came across another puzzling story of a brother and his younger sister who live together as husband and wife, but they know that they are related (born of the same parents).

When they had the first baby, relatives and neighbours thought it was by mistake because they were both still young, but after sometime his younger sister was pregnant again and gave birth to the second baby and they both still live in the same house despite the clan's efforts to separate them.

The brother denied having any sexual relationship with her younger sister and decried that the clan had decided and succeeded in tarnishing his image. He claimed he was only taking care of her younger sister and her baby out of love and care because her boyfriend had deserted her. This was what he said when he was at a clan meeting.

As relatives and neighbours continued pressing him, he left home and went to a certain island where he was involved in fishing, but would come back secretly to sleep with his younger sister. At the beginning the relatives and

neighbours gave him the benefit of the doubt, but they later discovered even the two clinic cards his younger sister had borne the name of the brother as the father of the two children.

You too might have heard of stories of incest or perhaps might have come across cases of incest and be puzzled as I did. What does the law say about it? The Law of Marriage Act (R.E 2019) in section 14 provides for prohibited relations. Section 14(1) states that: "No person shall marry his or her grandparent, parent, child or grandchild, sister or brother, great-aunt or great-uncle, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, as the case may be."

Other persons within the prohibited relationships (subsections 2-6) include the grandparent or parent, child or grandchild of a person's spouse or former spouse, former spouse's grandparent or parent, child or grandchild, adopted child or the child who was adopted by him or her.

Subsection (5) states that "For the purposes of this section, the relationship of the half-blood shall be as much an impediment as the relationship of the full-blood and it shall be immaterial whether a person was born legitimate or illegitimate." Subsection (6) states that: "For the purposes of this section grandparent, grandchild, great-child, great-uncle and great-aunt include, as the case may be, grandparent, grandchild, great-uncle and great-aunt of any degree whatsoever."

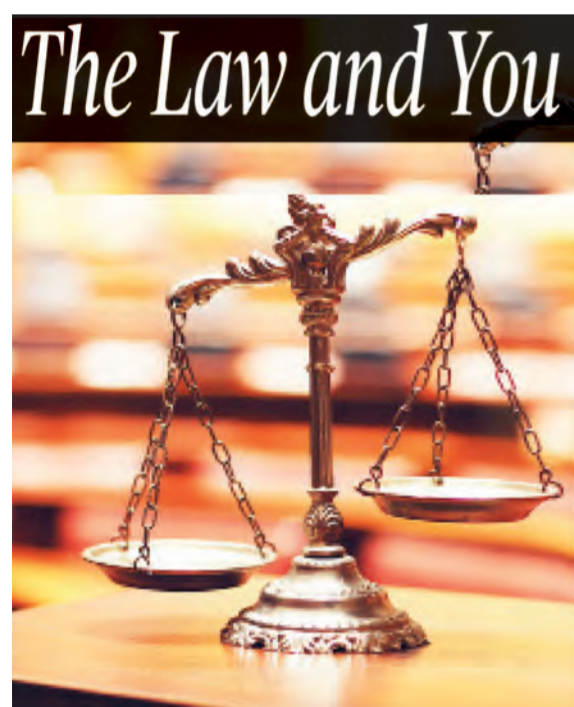
The Penal Code (R.E. 2022) provides for punishment for both incest by males in section 158 and incest by females in section 160. Section 158(1) states that: "Any male person who has prohibited sexual intercourse with a female person, who is to his knowledge his granddaughter, daughter, sister or mother, commits the offence of incest." Subsection (2) provides that it is immaterial that the sexual intercourse was with the consent of the female relative.

On the one hand, if the male person is guilty of the offence of incest with a female relative who is aged less than 18 years, he will be liable to imprisonment for not less than 30 years. If the female relative is aged 18 years or above, he will be liable to imprisonment for not less than 20 years.

On the other, as provided for in section 160, if a female person aged 18 years or above who with consent permits a relative in prohibited relationships to have sexual intercourse with her is liable to imprisonment for life or for imprisonment of not less than 30 years and "shall, in addition, be ordered to pay compensation of an amount determined by the court to the victim in respect of whom the offence was committed: provided that, if the male person is below the age of eighteen years, to imprisonment of not less than thirty years."

Today's proverb: "Misfortunes never (seldom) come singly."

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



Tourism stakeholders in Kagera dangle cultural, Lake Victoria hotspots

By Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

WHENEVER the word tourism is mentioned in Tanzania, one quickly thinks of the breathtaking plains of Serengeti National Park, home to the big five game namely elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhino or Kilimanjaro National Park, home to Africa's highest mountain. Obviously, another would think of the spice islands of Zanzibar, the capital of beach tourism and captivating historical sites.

But for tourism and leisure connoisseurs, there are little-known hotspots in other regions with the potential to give 'Kili' and 'Zenzi' a run for their money if well developed and packaged for both local and foreign visitors.

In Kagera Region for instance, efforts are being made by industry stakeholders to ensure that tourist sites here are accessible to visitors. In fact, there is an active tourism expo.

Mary Kalikawe, the East Africa Business and Tourism Expo Bukoba 2023 sustainability director said in an interview recently that Kagera Region, the land of the legendary Chief Rumanika, has a lot of potential for cultural tourism aside Lake Victoria beaches and islands.

The managing director of Bukoba-based Kiroyera Tours who doubles as the chairperson of Association of Women in Tourism Tanzania and an ambassador of the African Tourism Board and the organizer and director of tourism awards ceremony held in Bukoba District in July this year.

This was the second awards ceremony she organised in Bukoba after the one in 2016 which was held on the World Tourism Day at the shores of Lake Victoria. The tourism awards of 2016 were also accompanied by a tourism expo which explored cultural hotspots.

Areas with highly acclaimed sites like Bukoba District, awards have made considerable contribution to promote innovative actions alongside protecting the environment, she said.

Through awards, tourism has been encouraged in a way that sees the integration of local people into a responsible travel chain and transforms livelihoods through earnings.

Twelve people and organisations were recognized with awards for their contribution to the sector. They are President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Cuthbert Ncube who is executive president of African Tourism Board, Tanzania Tour Guide Association, Agnes Rwegasira who is tourism industry stakeholder, University of Dar es Salaam and Remigius Nshange who is a prominent businessman based in Bukoba.



Recipients of tourism awards at a ceremony held in Bukoba District, Kagera Region, in July this year pose for a souvenir photo. Photo/ Mutayoba Arbogast

Others were Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation, Tanzania National Parks, Young African Sports Club, Yoas Zachwa who is a prominent businessman, Amina Kashoro who is an environmentalist and Air Tanzania Corporation.

"If we get more partners and sponsors of this awards ceremony that serves to promote cultural and Lake Victoria sites, the event can gain the prominence it deserves," she said, adding that another ceremony is scheduled for July 2024.

Tanzania National Parks-managed Rubondo Island National Park won the award for its nature conservation role in Lake Victoria.

During his time as a tour guide, Superious Kalemela who was popularly known as Super Kalemela, Rubondo Island National Park was the only developed tourist attraction in Bukoba District, Kagera Region.

The iconic attraction offers an incredibly unique adventure experience in a pristine sub-tropical ecosystem on which elephants and

chimpanzees roam.

Kalemela made many trips to the park in adverse conditions since the road from Bukoba to Muganza where one branches off the main road to the lake was not tarred then. He had to pass through part of Biharamulo Game Reserve which at that time was a hideout of bandits who were notorious for hijacking vehicles and robbing occupants.

According to the tourism records here, Kalemela faced another danger in his endeavour to boost tour-

ism as he had to carry forex in cash since the current card payment system was not available.

His nonresistance to serve tourists in these adverse situations is one of the reasons he has been recognized with an award dedicated to his name and to Lake Victoria which he served so well until his retirement in the 2020 and died of cancer in 2022, according to the records which show that the gallant adventurer had served as a tour guide for 18 years in the Lake Victoria before

his retirement. In recognition of people who did all in their power to boost tourism, the awards event has since provided opportunities to reward innovations in responsible tourism while providing information on best practices.

Among the values emphasized by these awards are innovations that take care of the environment, local people and cultures, impact on women and youth empowerment, and positive contributions to sustainable development goals while practising tourism business.

Joas Zachwa, a prominent businessman in Bukoba who is in hotels and entertainment business supports the Miss Kagera beauty pageant in which winners receive a number of awards, including cash and vehicles.

Zachwa also owns a radio station in Bukoba called Kasibante FM which is credited for promoting local tourism in Bukoba particular and Kagera Region in general.

This year's awards in Bukoba had a continental flavour as awardees were drawn from as far as South Africa. Among the attendees was Mr. Francis Mugoga who a prominent tourism figure in Uganda who is also a global ambassador of the African Tourism Board.

There was also Miss Tourism Rwenzori from Uganda by the name of Sarah Rusoke. There was also one Papa Ngai from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Baloch girls remain stranded at the school gates

By Mariyam Suleman Anees

TEN years ago I ran an academy for girls in Dohr Gatti, a small slum on the outskirts of Gwadar, a coastal city in Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan. Most of the girls were between the ages of eleven and fifteen and had the little opportunity to receive a formal education.

Plagued by tradition and poverty, their desire to learn was often thwarted by the tradition of marrying as soon as they reached puberty and spend the rest of their lives raising children, as their mothers had.

At the academy I tried to raise awareness in the community about how crucial it was for girls to receive an education. That worked, at least a little.

Years later, some girls in Dohr Gatti managed to enroll in local public schools. In 2021, one of my students got the highest score on the district's annual eighth-grade exam.

But even that couldn't change her destiny. Soon after her triumph on the test, which showed her potential to continue studying, she had to stop. She was married off and sent to a remote village, where she still lives with her in-laws and a husband much older than her.

I often wonder how far students like her could have gone if their right to education was protected and if they only had one chance to pursue their dreams.

The question often raised in such cases is "who exactly is to blame?"

Religion and tradition intermingle in Balochistan, a region of Pakistan which has its own language and culture but where, as in the rest of the country, Sunni Islam is hegemonic.

Parents, tradition, patriarchy, poverty, political unrest in the region, the education system itself, the government, all come under scrutiny. But the state of access to education for girls remains largely unchanged.

A luxury good

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest yet most underdeveloped province. According to a World Bank report, the overall literacy rate in the province is 41 percent. It's half that for women, 19 percent.

It's no surprise that only two out of ten women can read in Balochistan, when UN data suggests that 78 percent of Baloch girls of school age do not go to school. For those who do manage to attend, the dropout rate among female students is much higher.

Despite these stark obstacles, some have made progress. Some Baloch women have not only completed their education and begun successful careers, but have also actively contributed to improving girls' education in the region.

Anila Yousuf is the principal of a girls' school in Pishukan, a small fishing village in southern Balochistan. She has recently been selected for Postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom, and recently published a collection of stories of women from Gwadar, her hometown.

But she's aware she's the exception:

"There's lower enrollment among girls and many of them drop out of school as soon as they reach secondary school. This means that the number of



In class at the public school in Lasbela, in Pakistan's Balochistan province. The low quality of government schools has turned private education into a luxury accessible to only a few. Credit: Mariyam Suleman Anees/IPS

women both in higher education and in the working sector is much lower," Yousuf tells IPS.

Long-standing political tensions between Pakistan's central government and Balochistan often takes some of the blame for the problem, with budgets for local education often treated as a political football.

However, a 2010 reform in Pakistan's constitution transferred responsibility for education to lo-

cal provinces, and led to increases in provincial public funding for education.

International agencies including the World Bank, UNICEF, US Partnership, and British Council have also been working through local organizations focused on reducing gendered disparities in provincial education.

Provincial ministers receive an annual 'development fund' to allocate towards various projects,

including education initiatives, within their respective constituencies. Critics say the money does not appear to have chipped away at the problem much, however.

"There is no proper planning for effective use of funds. Not even public-school teachers enroll their children in them," says Yousuf. "They choose private schools or send their children outside the province."

Private schools have become a thriving business in the towns and cities of the province. But with 60% of the population living below the poverty line, private schooling for girls is a luxury inaccessible to the majority.

The lack of women with formal educations in Balochistan has affected the local labor market, and limited many Baloch women's ability to start careers. According to Yousuf, most of the few

women who enter the workforce are usually teachers or healthcare workers.

"I fear that we are going backwards throughout the country. Women are increasingly locked up at home. There are still specific markets for them and more and more Koranic schools are seen, more women hidden under a burqa," says the activist.

Gender roles

Zaitoon Kareen, a university professor in Uthal, Balochistan, tells IPS that educating a daughter is always more expensive in Balochistan.

"Baloch girls need assistance, especially for higher education when they have to travel and live in a different town or city. They need better shelters and someone to accompany them when traveling to schools or universities for safety reasons," explains Kareen.

She will be leaving the province herself soon, after being accepted for a Postgraduate study in the UK.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) suggests that girls only attend school if there is one close to home. But with only 26 percent of primary schools, 42 percent of lower secondary and 36 percent of upper secondary schools accepting girls, it's often hard for families to find a neighborhood school their daughters can attend.

"When parents can only afford to invest in the education of a single child, they tend to prioritize the boy, as he is more likely to get a paid job and live with his parents in the future," Hafsa Qadir, an activist with WANG - a local NGO - tells IPS.

In 2020, the Baloch provincial government attempted to address the problem, claiming a new educational plan, the Educational Sector Plan 2020-25, would address the disparity.

But COVID-19 and the devastating floods of 2022 wiped out hundreds of schools and roads in the region, the plans were derailed.

Zakia Baloch, a local woman who attended school and now works as a physical therapist - one of the first women to work in the field in the region - said part of the problem is the schools themselves often dissuade girls from continuing their education.

"Instead of providing proper education, there is often a heavy emphasis on traditional gender roles, preparing girls primarily for domestic roles rather than equipping them for careers and empowering them as independent individuals," she says.

She called the government-funded education system "negligent" in its teacher selection process, resulting in "inadequately trained educators with very limited skills and exposure."

"In 2023, when technology has opened many avenues of learning, our system is still locked in a cocoon," laments the Baloch woman.



Anila Yousuf (L) with her students in the library of the school she runs in Pishukan. Education in Pakistan is segregated and there are fewer schools for female students. Credit: Mariyam Suleman Anees/IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJJA 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 UMJUVYO 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 Radio One



Radio One

Sea sponges offer lifeline to women in Zanzibar

By Special Correspondent, Zanzibar

A gentle morning breeze blows across the Zanzibar shore, Hindu Simai Rajabu walks through knee-deep water to reach a shallow lagoon off the coast of Jambiani, Tanzania, where her floating sponge farm is located.

Sporting shiny goggles and with a snorkel placed on top of her headscarf, Rajabu wades through the Indian Ocean, her laughter at the experience of being filmed mingling with the sound of the crashing waves.

As the tide rises, the 31-year-old mother of two swims and submerges to the depth of the buoys which hold the floating sponge farm in place.

The quest for prosperity has led Rajabu and 12 other divorced women and single mothers from Zanzibar's Jambiani village into the Indian Ocean to grow climate-resilient sponges.

Farming sea sponges has become a lucrative business for these women in recent years. Many women in Jambiani farm seaweed, but low yields due to rising sea temperatures have started to make it to earn a living. In 2009, some women began switching to growing puff-like soft sea sponges: primitive aquatic animals that, when harvested, are used for bathing and cleaning.

Sea sponges are more resilient to warmer temperatures and filter pollutants such as sewage and pesticides out of the water.

Local women's rights activists say sea sponge farming is helping to improve gender equality in Zanzibar and has lifted these women out of poverty. The farmers themselves say their quality of life has improved.

When Rajabu reaches the buoys, she adeptly propels herself forward to inspect the juvenile sponges on the ropes. She briskly starts scrubbing a thick polyethylene rope with a clasp knife and removes lurking bacteria from baby sponges bobbing there.

"The sponges are delicate animals; if I don't clean them well they will die," says Rajabu, as she handles them carefully, taking care not to squeeze them.

To prevent the sponges from becoming overheated by the sun or damaged by motorboats, Rajabu ensures they always remain underwater.

She spends four hours every day in the ocean, tending to the farm. In the afternoon, she goes to the office to sort and label dried sponges for sale.

Rajabu dropped out of school when she was 17 because her mother could no longer afford to pay for her studies, crushing her dream of becoming a doctor. When her husband left her after nine years, Rajabu refused to be defined by her circumstances. She started seaweed farming to support her two children.

But she barely earned enough to support them - a mere 70,000 Tanzanian shillings (£22/\$28) each month.

In 2020, Rajabu approached Marine Cultures to explain her difficult situation and seek a job. She was swiftly taken on board and started earning a higher income.

"It is a tough job, but I enjoy doing it and it pays quite well," she says. She now earns a monthly salary of 250,000 Tanzanian shillings (£80/\$100).

"I earn a stable monthly income, enough to meet my family's needs," she says.

Sea sponges, which are technically animals but grow, reproduce and survive like plants, are comprised of a shell-like layer, riddled with tiny pores which allows water to flow in and out. The marine creatures are thought to have existed for over 600 million years and may well have been Earth's first animal. Scientists have identified over 15,000 species globally.

Marine Cultures, a Swiss non-profit, established sponge farming in Zanzibar in 2009 to enable poor

women to earn a better income and help protect the region's natural resources.

"I thought it is a good thing to cultivate the sea, not only to take things out, without giving something back," says founder Christian Vaterlaus.

Until the early 2000s, the seaweed industry was a backbone of Zanzibar's local economy, employing 20,000 women farmers, lifting their standard of living and social status. But the seaweed industry has been battered by rising temperatures, says Vaterlaus, threatening the livelihoods of thousands of farmers in Zanzibar.

A 2021 study by researchers at the University of York in the UK found seaweed yields and quality had dropped drastically in the area due to rising temperatures, stronger winds and erratic rainfall.

Despite early gains, the production of seaweed fell by 47% between 2002 and 2012 due to climate change, disease and the decrease of the number of farmers due to low prices, the researchers concluded.

"I found the prices of seaweed are low and the people don't earn good money," says Vaterlaus.

In his bid to help cash-strapped seaweed farmers in Jambiani, Vaterlaus introduced the idea and method of growing sponges to the area.

Seaweed is highly vulnerable to climate change, but sponges can tolerate warmer temperatures, allowing them to thrive in hot conditions, Vaterlaus adds.

"During the hot season, it is hard to produce seaweed but sponge farming is still possible," he says.

Aziza Said, a marine biologist at the University of Dodoma in Tanzania, agrees that sponges are more resilient to hotter temperatures, adding that they also require less maintenance and fetch a higher market price than seaweed.

By providing an alternative to fishing, sponges also reduce pressure on natural resources and protect the environment, Said says. And they enrich the sea bed by spitting out fatty and amino acids for other organisms to absorb, she adds.

Research has also shown that the spongy creatures play an important role themselves in combatting climate change. Sea sponges exist in all oceans around the world and make up 20% of the global silicon biological sink. Their skeletons break down into microscopic pieces of silicon, which helps control the carbon cycle in the ocean and reduces the greenhouse effect, experts say. Dissolved silicon is critical for the growth of diatoms, tiny organisms which absorb large amounts of CO2 in the ocean using photosynthesis.

According to Said, diatoms grow well when there's a large enough supply of dissolved silicon in seawater.

"When diatoms die, their shells sink to the ocean floor, effectively absorbing carbon in the form of organic matter and silica," she says.

Sea sponges also effectively filter sea water and reduce marine pollution, according to another study. A single sponge can pump thousands of litres of water per day through a maze of channels and pores that trap impurities and organic substances, the researchers note.

According to another study, up to 24,000 litres (5,300 gallons) of sea water can be pumped through a 1kg (2.2lb) sponge in a single day.

The women in Jambiani are trained by Marine Cultures before they start harvesting sea sponges.

Since 2009, 13 women have been trained, according to Ali Mahmudi Ali, who manages the farm.

"We train farmers for one year to ensure they have [the] necessary skills and knowledge to cope with the changing sea conditions," he says.

The training involves teaching the women to swim, dive, use the equipment and gear, how to clean and care for the sponges, book-keeping, marketing and grading the sponges for sale, he says.



Each sponge is sold for 37,000-74,900 Tanzanian shillings (£12-£24/\$15-\$30), depending on its size and quality. They are sold to souvenir shops, tourists and hotels in Zanzibar and abroad.

The farmer receives 70%, while 29% goes to the shop and 1% to Zanzibar's Sponge Farmers' Cooperative, a women-led organisation which oversees the recruitment of the farmers and production activities.

Sponge farming is helping to redefine traditional gender roles in the Jambiani community of more than 1,400 women who are traditionally confined to childcare and domestic chores, and has ushered in a financially stable future for the women involved, says Nasir Hassan Haji, a female sponge farmer and chair of the farmers' cooperative.

"[It] has improved farmers' incomes significantly. We are very proud of this initiative," says Haji, a 48-year-old mother of four.

She says that sponge farming has helped the women to break free from financial dependence on men, which made them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. "As women, we should take charge of our own lives. We should not just wait for our husband to bring food on the table," Haji says.

Now that they are earning a steady income, their influence in family decision-making has increased, she adds.

Rajabu's hard work as a sponge farmer has paid off. In just two years, she has earned enough money to buy a plot of land on which she is building a three-bedroom house.

"I want to stay with my children in my own house," she says.

Rajabu says her rapid economic rise has sparked curiosity among her neighbours. "I was a laughing stock when I started, but now those who were laughing ask me how I managed to build a house," she says.

Like Rajabu, Haji finds sponge farming far preferable to the seaweed farm-

ing she used to do. For 15 years she hauled heavy seaweed from the sea, facing a harsh reality of extreme weather.

"It was hard to walk through strong winds, carrying seaweed on my head," she says. "The dripping salty water irritated my eyes."

However, sponge farming has brought in money and made her smile, she says. "The only secret is to work hard. Hard work pays."

Zulfa Abdalla says she was struggling to eke out a living.

She was left to care for two children after her husband divorced her when she was 23.

Abdalla's former husband remarried and never supported his children, leaving her to raise them singlehandedly, she says.

She turned to hat weaving to earn money. However, the monthly income of 40,000 Tanzanian shillings (£13/\$16) was insufficient to meet her growing family's needs.

When Abdalla found a job as a sponge farmer, she had to learn to swim.

"I was scared of the sea, but I learned how to swim," she says.

Within three months of starting as a sea sponge farmer, Abdalla produced a bumper harvest, which earned her 1,600,000 Tanzanian shillings (£513/\$639). This success enabled her to buy a bed, dressing table and wardrobe.

Her income also allowed her to renovate her mother's house.

The global sea sponge market extends well beyond Zanzibar, with thriving cultivation and harvesting in various regions worldwide, including the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Greece, Turkey and Indonesia. These sought-after sponges, valued for their natural beauty and sustainability, serve as natural alternatives to synthetic sponges and are widely used in households globally.

Marine Cultures plans to expand sponge farming to other regions in Zanzibar and across Tanzania, says Ali. Due

to its lucrative nature, sponge farming offers an alternative to fishing and helps reduce stress on coastal ecosystems, he says.

It can also provide an eco-friendly alternative to harmful synthetic sponges, which contain microplastics that may harm aquatic life, he adds.

In some areas of the world, however, there are concerns around overharvesting of the natural sea sponges found in the ocean. Sea sponge farming offers an alternative but scaling it up also presents challenges.

Vaterlaus says the growth of the sea sponge industry faces obstacles due to a lack of financial resources for research and investments as well as limited expansion of hatcheries to grow baby sponges. "As long as we cannot cultivate a lot of small sponge babies we cannot scale up," he says.

The real economic impact of the sponges is low due to scalability problems, he adds. "It was slow [initially] because for every farmer we need 1,000-1,500 sponges so they have their own brood stock to cultivate the seed for their independent production."

Despite the environmental benefits of sponge farming, production and distribution is challenging due to high costs, says Leonard Chauka, a molecular biologist from the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

While synthetic sponges are cheap and widely available, natural sponges are expensive, costing up to 75,000 Tanzanian shillings (£24/\$30). Chauka suggests that increased public awareness about the environmental risks of plastic products will help promote the use of natural sponges.

Growing sea sponges is also a lengthy process, however. Farmers must wait a full year for the sponges to grow to maturity and are very reliant on the availability of natural seeds. "Sponge farmers rely only on the collection of seeds from

the natural environment. I think research efforts should focus on developing fast-growing and high-quality sponge varieties," says Chauka.

Research has also indicated that some sea sponges are susceptible to marine heatwaves.

Despite these challenges, the market for Zanzibar sponges is good, Vaterlaus says. He says that Marine Cultures plans to introduce sponge farming on Pemba Island and the coastal city of Tanga later this year.

"We have many potential customers worldwide," he says.

As a call for prayer from a nearby mosque echoes in the air, Mkasi Abdalla says sponge farming has caused ripples of excitement in her community.

"I am very grateful for this opportunity. The income I get helps me to solve my problems," says Abdalla, who earns 270,000 Tanzanian shillings (£87/\$108) every month from selling sponges. With her savings, she has bought a plot of land to build her dream home.

Like Rajabu, Abdalla's life has been a rollercoaster. After her first husband died, Abdalla, a former seaweed farmer and mother to seven children, became the breadwinner for her family.

But her situation improved when she remarried a pottery artist who supported her cause.

"I am happy to bring together my new husband and all my children," she says.

The story of Abdalla and other women shows the power of sponge farming, providing economic independence and gender equality, while conserving marine ecosystems.

"I work tirelessly to earn money so that my children can receive better education and succeed in life," says Rajabu. "I want to break the cycle of ignorance in my family."



Gabon: The end of a dictatorship and the beginning of another?

By Inés M. Pousadela

ON 26 August, Gabon went through the motions of an election. Official results were announced four days later, in the middle of the night, with the country under curfew. Predictably, incumbent President Ali Bongo, in power since the death of his father and predecessor in 2009, was handed a third term. Fraud allegations were rife, as in previous elections. But this time something unprecedented happened: less than an hour later the military had taken over, and the Bongo family's 56-year reign had ended.

In Gabon, people welcomed the military with open arms, thanking them for liberating them from the authoritarian yoke they'd lived under, most for all their lives. But overturning an oppressive regime isn't the same as achieving democratic freedom. Studies show that although democracies are occasionally established in the wake of coups, too often it's new authoritarian regimes that emerge, bringing even higher levels of state-sanctioned violence and human rights abuses.

A predatory autocracy

Omar Bongo gained power in 1967 and kept it for more than 40 years. He only started allowing multi-party competition in 1991, after making sure his ironically named Gabonese Democratic Party would retain its grip through a combination of patronage and repression.

His son and successor retained the dynasty's power with elections plagued by irregularities in 2009 and 2016. In both instances it was widely believed that Bongo wasn't the real winner. The constitution was repeatedly amended to allow further terms and electoral rules and timetables were systematically manipulated.

In 2016, blatant fraud sparked violent protests that were even more violently repressed. In 2018, Bongo suffered a stroke that took him out of the public eye for almost a year, fueling concerns that he might be unfit to rule. But a 2019 attempted military coup failed and was followed by a media crackdown, arrests of opposition politicians and a hardening of the Penal Code to criminalise dissent.



In Gabon, people welcome the military with open arms, thanking them for liberating them from the authoritarian yoke they'd lived under, most for all their lives. Credit: AFP via Getty Images

Under the Bongos' dynastic reign, corruption, nepotism and predatory elite behaviour were rampant. A small country of 2.3 million, Gabon has vast oil reserves, accounting for around 60 per cent of its revenues. In terms of per capita GDP, it's one of Africa's richest countries - but a third of its population is poor; a stark contrast with the incalculable ill-gotten wealth of the Bongo family and their inner circle.

Why now and what next?

The coup was presented as a reaction to an undoubtedly fraudulent election. Upon seizing power, the self-appointed 'Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions' announced the annulment of the vote and the dissolution of executive, legislative, judicial and electoral institutions.

Bongo was placed under house arrest along with his eldest son and advisor before being released and allowed to leave the country on medical grounds. Several top officials have been arrested on charges of treason, corruption and various illicit activities, and large quantities of cash have been reportedly seized from their homes.

Coup leader General Brice Oligui Nguema is now the head of the supposedly tran-

sitional junta in power. He's assured that the dissolution of institutions is only 'temporary' and that these will be made 'more democratic'. There'll be elections, he's said, but not too soon. First a new constitution will have to be drafted, along with a new criminal code and electoral legislation.

But while celebrations broke out in the streets, the international condemnation was swift, starting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. The African Union suspended Gabon until constitutional order is restored, as did the Economic Community of Central African States.

Condemnation came from the European Union and several of its member states, and the Commonwealth, which Gabon was allowed to join in June 2022 despite not complying with minimum democracy and human rights standards. The president of Nigeria, Bola Tinubu, expressed concern about the 'autocratic contagion' spreading across Africa. Tinubu is currently leading efforts by the Economic Community of West African States to reverse the recent coup in Niger.

Some observers argue that this coup is different from others in Central and West Africa since it wasn't based on security concerns but rather the absence of democracy,

focused on election fraud and the corruption and mismanagement that stopped institutions meeting people's basic demands. This is the position many in Gabonese civil society are taking, placing them at odds with the international institutions they accuse of having tolerated the Bongos for so long.

But others disagree, even if they're happy to see the Bongos go. The opposition candidate widely believed to have been the real election winner, Albert Ondo Ossa, expressed his disappointment at what he described as a 'palace revolution' and a 'family affair'. He'd hoped for a recount, which could have placed him at the head of a new, democratic government. What he saw instead was a transitional government that could be seen as a continuation of the ousted regime, not least because of the family links between the Bongos and General Nguema, also the happy owner of a fortune of unknown origins. Some of the new government appointments appear to confirm Ossa's suspicions.

Beyond its composition, there's the key question of how long this government intends to last. The pomp of Nguema's inauguration ceremony belies its avowedly temporary tenure.

This is the eighth successful military coup in West and Central Africa over the past four years. Nowhere have the military retreated to the barracks after implementing what were invariably described as 'corrective' and 'temporary' measures.

On taking over, the military has seized not only political power but also control of the economic wealth that sustained the Bongo kleptocracy. They're unlikely to let go willingly, and the longer they stay, the harder it will be to unseat them.

The coup government has so far shown a moderate face, but there's no guarantee this will last. If the people who took to the streets to celebrate the coup ultimately do so again to protest at the lack of real change, repression will surely follow.

The international community must continue to urge the military to commit to a plan for a rapid transition to fully democratic rule. Otherwise, the danger is that the Gabonese people will merely move from one dictatorship to another, and nothing will remain of that fleeting moment when freedom seemed within reach.

Inés M. Pousadela is CIVICUS Senior Research Specialist, co-director and writer for CIVICUS Lens and co-author of the State of Civil Society Report.

RADIO One

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BUSINESS

Foreigners record 213m/- net outflow in four days

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign investors recorded 213mn/- net outflow during the first four days of this week, following the block trade arrangement of NICO shares sold on Thursday.

The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) market reports show that during the reviewed period, foreign investors entered into the market by selling shares valued 226.32mn/- against shares buying value, which amounted to 13mn/-.

Analysts say they expect a series of foreign investors selling shares due to ongoing global economic landscape as many were shifting to fixed income investments in developed world, specifically US due to higher interest rates.

The market report shows, since the start of this quarter in July to September 14, foreign investors have so far sold shares valued to 10.9bn/-, but they have bought shares valued 805mn/-, which translated into net outflow of 10bn/-.

The amount was almost 70 percent of total net outflow recorded by foreign investors during similar quarter of last year.

However, analysts say local investors have the highest absorption capacity to cover the foreign investor exits at the DSE, both individual and institutional investors.

The Monday's daily report shows a total turnover of 62mn/- was recorded of which foreign investors bought shares valued 1.05mn/- and sold shares valued 4.94mn/-. However, the market was dominated by local investors in both selling and buying activities.

On Tuesday, the market report shows a total turnover of 497.28mn/- was recorded of which foreign investors bought shares valued 12.36mn/- or 2.49 percent of total value of shares bought and sold shares valued 1.1mn/-.

The report shows during the day, lo-



T-Bill auction results record mixed trends

By Guardian Reporter

The Treasury bills auctioned by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) on Wednesday this week for government funding and monetary policy purposes was generally undersubscribed, although they showed mixed trends based on their maturities.

The auction report released after the auction showed that a total of 116bn/- were tendered for different maturities, lower than 142.3bn/- offered.

According to the tender notice issued few days before the T-bills auction, the central bank targeted to raise 172bn/- of which 72bn/- were intended for government financing activities, while 100bn/- were for liquidity purposes, based on the current monetary policy stance.

Through the ongoing less accommodative monetary policy stance, the central bank targeted to mop up 100bn/- from the market to contain liquidity within the desired levels.

In its statement after its 227th ordinary meeting on 31st August, the BoT's Monetary Policy Committee said monetary policy measures will be implemented to align liquidity with the foreign exchange demand.

This also in response to the spillover effects of the global economic shocks caused by the war in Ukraine, the residual effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and domestic economic conditions.

The auction results shows the six and one year maturities were oversub-

scribed, while 35 days and 91 days were undersubscribed.

The auction result report shows the central bank targeted to offer 72.6bn/- for one year maturity with the yield of 7.3 percent, but a total of 123.3bn/- were tendered from 57 bidders.

The highest price for one year maturity was 93.5619/100 while the lowest price was 92.5300/100. The minimum successful price was 92.53/100, which indicated a discount auction.

The report shows the central bank targeted to raise 69.9bn/- from 182 days maturity with an average yield of 6.9 percent, of which, at the end of the auction, a total of 82.25bn/- were tendered at highest bid of 96.7438/100 and lowest bid of 95.5000/100.

The auction result shows at the end of the day, 17 bids out of 18 tendered valued 80.25bn/- were successful with minimum successful price of 96.47/100.

The central bank also targeted to raise 19.9bn/- on 91-days maturity at the yield of 5.6485 percent, but only 5.5bn/- were tendered by two bidders of which were all successful. The highest bid price was 98.6134/100 while the lowest bid price was 98.5900/100.

The auction results shows the 35-days maturity, the central bank targeted to raise 9.9bn/- but at an average yield of 4.9 percent, but only 5.5bn/- were tendered by four bidders of which were all successful at a minimum successful price of 99.45/100.

Oil hits 2023 high on tight supply outlook

LONDON

Oil price has rebounded, with Brent crude topping \$93 a barrel for the first time this year, as expectations of a tighter supply outlook for the rest of 2023 overshadowed concerns over weaker economic growth and rising US inventories.

Saudi Arabia and Russia's extension of oil output cuts will result in a market deficit through the fourth quarter, the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday before a bearish US inventories report prompted a brief pullback in prices.

"That this genuinely bearish stock report only led to a brief temptation to sell speaks volumes and underlines the market mentality," said Tamas

Varga of oil broker PVM.

Brent crude was up \$1.45, or 1.58 percent, at \$93.33 by 1336 GMT after touching \$93.38 for its highest since November 2022.

US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) gained \$1.38, or 1.56 percent, to \$89.90, having also hit a 10-month high of \$90.06 during the session.

Both benchmarks had slipped on Wednesday after a U.S. supply report showing rising crude and refined product stocks.

Priyanka Sachdeva, senior market analyst at Phillip Nova, said supply fears are underpinning oil prices as producers "adamantly stick to restricted production".

A day before the IEA report, the Organization of the Pe-

troleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) issued updated forecasts of solid demand and also pointed to a 2023 supply deficit if production cuts are maintained.

The European Central Bank, meanwhile, raised its key interest rate to a record peak but signalled that this is likely to be its final move in its lengthy fight to tame inflation.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that the ECB was set to raise its inflation forecast for next year to more than 3 percent, bolstering the argument for higher interest rates.

Meanwhile, US retail sales rose by 0.6 percent on the month in August driven by higher gasoline prices, above a 0.2 percent rise forecasted by Reuters-surveyed analysts.

Jobless claims in the week to Sept 9 meanwhile rose by 3,000 to 220,000, but fell short of economists' 225,000 forecast.

But investors nonetheless see a 97 percent likelihood that the Federal Reserve will hold interest rates steady in its next meeting on Sept. 20, according to the CME FedWatch Tool.

This week, the International Energy Agency warned that continued supply cuts by the two OPEC+ leaders are likely to create a "significant supply shortfall" and threaten further price volatility.

That report came a day after OPEC said the market is facing a deficit of more than 3 million barrels a day next quarter, potentially the biggest in more than a decade.



Dollar hits 6-month high after data, ECB announcement

NEW YORK

The dollar index hit its highest level in six months on Thursday, as economic data was mostly stronger than anticipated and the European Central Bank (ECB) signaled it was finished with its rate hike cycle.

US retail sales increased by 0.6 percent in August, more than the expected 0.2 percent rise, boosted by higher gasoline prices while weekly initial jobless claims rose to 220,000 but were below the 225,000 forecast.

Rising gasoline prices also affected the latest inflation data, as the producer price index for final demand rose by 0.7 percent last month, the most

in more than a year, and higher than the 0.4 percent estimate.

The dollar index was last up 0.5 percent at 105.18, just off the 105.31 level hit earlier in the day, its highest since March 10.

The euro slumped against the dollar after ECB raised its key interest rate to a record high of 4 percent on Thursday but indicated this was likely to be its final move in a more than year-long fight against inflation as the euro zone economy continues to stagger. The euro was down 0.64 percent at \$1.0655 after falling to \$1.0651, its weakest since May 31.

"(ECB President Christine) Lagarde is hinting that this could be the last hike because she's saying if we keep rates

here for a certain period of time this will do the job sort of thing," said Erik Bregar, director, FX & precious metals risk management, at Silver Gold Bull in Toronto.

"And then I think every data point this morning out of the US was better than expected - jobless claims, retail sales, headline PPI - so it's kind of like a double boost for the dollar here."

Despite the US economic data, views for the Federal Reserve remained largely intact, with expectations the central bank will hold rates steady at the conclusion of its Sept. 19-20 policy meeting at 97 percent, according to CME's FedWatch Tool, up slightly from the 96

percent on Wednesday. Expectations for a 25 basis point hike at the November meeting have shifted back down to 32.2 percent from 41 percent the prior day.

Sterling traded at \$1.2418, down 0.58 percent on the day after falling to \$1.2411, a three-month low, while the dollar was down 0.11 percent at 147.28 against the yen.

China's offshore yuan weakened on Thursday after the People's Bank of China said it would cut banks' reserve requirement ratio by 25 basis points.

The dollar rose to as high as 7.2969 against the yuan traded offshore, and was last up 0.29 percent at 7.2936 on the day.



Developing PPPs for developing Africa's energy transition

By Special Correspondent

PUBLIC private partnerships (PPPs) have become a widely embraced approach for the implementation of sustainable energy projects. However, PPPs are intricate arrangements that demand expertise and effective communication for their success. When executed correctly, they hold the potential to contribute significantly to establishing sustainable energy security in Africa.

The Green Energy Africa Summit 2023 is scheduled to take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC2) from the 10th to the 11th of October 2023. This prominent event, renowned for its advocacy of policy reforms and the alignment of Africa's natural resources, plays a crucial role in paving the way for an equitable energy transition. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that Africa remains an attractive and competitive destination for global financial investment. Diverse stakeholders and leaders will participate in PPPs to facilitate discussions during the summit.

Under the overarching theme of "Unlocking Africa's Sustainable Energy Potential," the Green Energy Africa Summit 2023 offers a unique platform for stakeholders across the energy value chain to collaborate, propose innovative solutions, and establish partnerships that will unlock Africa's extensive socio-economic potential. A crucial focus of this summit will be addressing the regulatory frameworks necessary to attract investments in clean energy in Africa. If Africa is to truly unlock its sustainable-energy potential and achieve energy security for its people, it cannot do so by working alone. The continent's physical and social structure, the needs of its citizens and the nature of global energy markets mean it will have to build partnerships. And one of the defining energy partnerships of our time is that between public and private sectors.

PPPs will be fundamental to achieving a just energy transition in Africa. This is acknowledged in many of the most important energy agreements. Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) announcement at COP 26, between South Africa and the International Partners Group of the UK France, Germany, the US and the EU, is but one example.

The agreement recognised that the \$98 billion in financial requirements over five years to begin South Africa's 20-year energy transition would need to come from



both public and private sectors. The deal involves mobilising \$8.5 billion to initiate the first phase of the programme, which will also involve extensive PPPs. The mechanism of the funding will include loans and guarantees as well as "patient investments" by governments which seek to crowd-in private sector investment to new areas.

As German Chancellor Olaf Scholz noted, "This is an ambitious start. More needs to follow, particularly in collaboration with the private sector."

This approach to the energy transition acknowledges the sheer transformative power of PPP relationships. Since the financial crisis of 2008, cash-strapped governments in developed and emerging markets have looked to PPP agreements to finance infrastructure that will help their economies grow.

In Africa, these needs are significant. New estimates by the African Development Bank suggest that the continent's infrastructure needs are already around \$130 - \$170 billion a year, with a financing shortfall of about \$68 - \$108 billion.

However, addressing such shortfalls is not the only advantage of PPPs. The World Bank notes that PPPs hold numerous benefits, besides providing governments with private-sector partners to help them bridge the funding gap.

They allow for the introduction of

international private-sector technology and innovation, while also enabling skills transfer through private domestic sub-contractors and state departments.

Governments can also incentivise the private sector to deliver projects on time and within budget to minimise cost overruns.

Ultimately such projects - be they in the area of construction, infrastructure, support services or transition towards a renewables-based energy economy - are aimed at making the host country more competitive, and providing a boost to businesses various sectors. In the JETP context, PPPs

also look to stimulate development as a means of minimising job losses to legacy industries.

PPPs have already been deployed across the energy sector in Africa, with some success. However, the continent continues to suffer from a yawning energy gap. Two out of three

households in Sub-Saharan Africa - around 600 million people - have no electricity.

The rollout of renewable-energy PPPs must therefore not only match the energy outputs of legacy projects, but significantly improve on them, if the continent is to meet its aspirations for the upliftment of its people.

The track record of PPPs in Africa offers many encouraging signs.

Kenya has around 11 IPP energy projects, worth around \$2.4 billion, and generating 1 065 MW, and representing more than one-third of Kenya's total installed generation capacity.

In Nigeria, an ongoing reform of the electricity sector has seen a new power market being established, and several classic, project-financed IPPs taking shape.

South Africa has been slow to restructure the generation components of Eskom, its national electricity utility. However, that tardiness has meant it is now well placed to facilitate private investments in renewable energy through its Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP). Today, renewables make up about 10% of the country's electricity capacity, representing 6 200MW of 58GW of installed capacity.

To support its PPP programmes South Africa's National Treasury has enlisted the support of experienced PPP advisers, as well as various transaction advisers to establish a highly effective procurement group.

This has proved a wise move, and it underscores a critical aspect of the PPP process. These are complex arrangements that require wide consultation and specialised expertise to be implemented effectively. Broad cross-sectoral engagement between private enterprise, government and parastatals is essential to make PPPs work.

African countries and their energy policymakers should look to create these conditions. Ongoing engagement, consultation and sharing of expertise can help to build partnerships that will help to overcome the continent's power deficit.

Once this is achieved, PPPs can help accelerate Africa's transition to more sustainable energy systems, providing energy security, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting economic development for all the people of the continent.

Morocco unveils rehousing help programme for quake-hit areas

RABAT

MOROCCO announced the launch of an aid programme on Thursday to support and rehouse the residents of about 50,000 buildings damaged in last week's devastating earthquake.

The magnitude 6.8 earthquake -- Morocco's strongest ever -- has killed nearly 3,000 people and injured more than 5,600 since it hit last Friday in Al-Haouz province, south of tourist hub Marrakesh.

Those left homeless will be provided with temporary shelter in "structures designed to withstand cold and bad weather, or in reception sites equipped with all the necessary amenities", the royal office said in a statement following a meeting chaired by King Mohamed VI.

The Moroccan authorities have also ordered urgent aid of 30,000 dirhams (nearly \$3,000) to house-

holds affected by the disaster, the statement added.

It said this would form the first stage of a programme covering some 50,000 homes that had fully or partially collapsed in the quake.

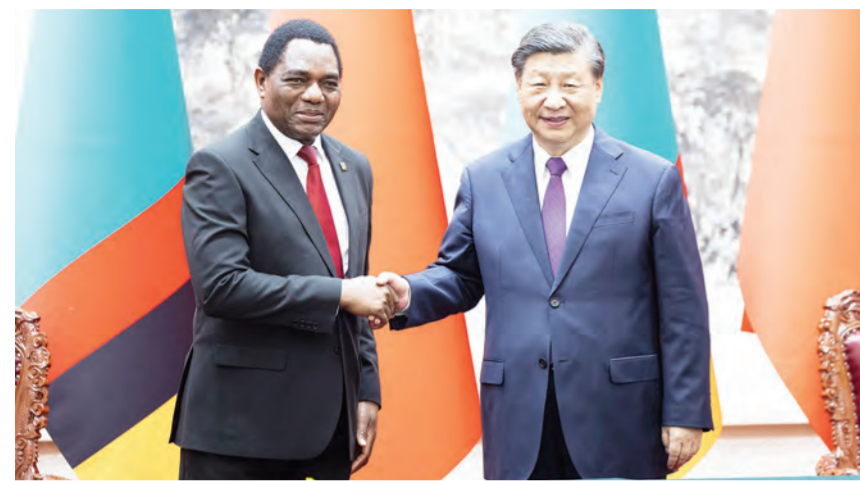
The number of people left without homes by the quake, which has devastated numerous entire villages in Morocco's Atlas mountain region, is not known.

The royal office said 140,000 dirhams (about \$13,600) would be allocated for homes that were completely collapsed, in addition to 80,000 dirhams to rebuild partially collapsed structures.

Morocco has allowed rescue teams to come to its aid from Spain, Britain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, but so far declined offers from several other nations, including the United States, France and some Middle Eastern countries.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
SATURDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: FAO	10:05 Shika Bamba 5	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
SUNDAY 9 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
MONDAY 10 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle
13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera		
TUESDAY 11 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle
13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera		
WEDNESDAY 12 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle
13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera		
THURSDAY 13 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle
13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera		
FRIDAY 14 July	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha	7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle
13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen
22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:20 Al Jazeera		
MONDAY 16 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
TUESDAY 17 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
WEDNESDAY 18 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
THURSDAY 19 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
FRIDAY 20 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
SATURDAY 21 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			
SUNDAY 22 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 HABARI	7:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	10:05 Shika Bamba	10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawawani lakini wamo	12:50 Usafiri wakio	13:20 Art and Lifestyle	13:50 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Maphisi rpt	18:30 Kipindi maalum: Mlaka 60 JKT	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 HABARI	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:15 Igizo: Slay Queen	22:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera			

WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with his Zambian counterpart Hakainde Hichilema during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

Chinese, Zambian presidents announce elevation of relations

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with his Zambian counterpart, Hakainde Hichilema, in Beijing yesterday.

The two heads of state announced the elevation of the China-Zambia relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.

Xi said that the traditional friendship forged by the two countries' older generations of leaders has stood the test of the changing international landscape, and the Tanzania-Zambia Railway has become a symbol of China-Africa friendship.

Xi said China has always viewed and developed China-Zambia relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and stands ready to work with Zambia to transform the profound traditional friendship into a strong driving force for win-win cooperation in the new era and push bilateral relations to a new level.

The Chinese president said China supports Zambia in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests and exploring a development path suited to its own conditions. He expressed China's willingness to strengthen inter-party exchanges and exchanges of state governance experience with Zambia. The two countries should support each other on issues related to their respective core interests and major concerns.

The success of Chinese modernization shows the diversity of modernization models in the world, and China's high-quality development and modernization process will continue to bring new opportunities to all countries including Zambia, Xi said.

China hopes to jointly build the Belt and Road with Zambia and expand cooperation in infrastructure construction, agriculture, mining and clean en-

ergy to achieve common development and revitalization, Xi said.

Xi said China encourages more quality Zambian products to enter the Chinese market and supports more Chinese enterprises in investing in Zambia.

He called on the two sides to make a success of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties next year, and step up exchanges and cooperation in education and training, health care, culture, tourism and other fields.

Noting that the collective rise of developing countries and their increasing international influence have become an irreversible trend of the times, Xi said China and Zambia need to strengthen solidarity and coordination, practice genuine multilateralism, firmly uphold international fairness and justice, strive to increase the voice of developing countries, and safeguard the common interests of the two countries and other developing countries.

Hichilema said Zambia cherishes the friendship forged by the older generations of leaders of the two countries. China's development has led to the progress of countries in the Global South, increased their representation and voice in international affairs, and promoted the development of international order in a more just and rational direction, Hichilema said.

Hichilema said Zambia thanks China for supporting the African Union's entry into the G20 and China's positive role in resolving the Zambian debt issue. The Zambian side abides by the one-China principle, highly appreciates the guiding philosophy and principles of Chinese modernization, and hopes to learn from China's development experience.

Hichilema is paying a state visit to China from Sept 10 to 16 at the invitation of Xi. Xinhua

Russia ready to meet with papal envoy to discuss Ukrainian crisis – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE Russian side is ready to meet with Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, the papal envoy for the Ukrainian settlement and the president of the Italian Bishops' Conference, to discuss the Ukrainian crisis, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"The Vatican is continuing its efforts. The papal envoy will come back [to Russia] soon. We are ready to meet with anyone, we are ready to talk with anyone," he said at a roundtable discussion on the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

The top diplomat recalled that Rus-

sia has held meetings on Ukraine with representatives of Turkey, "who also have different ideas." "We appreciate the non-public efforts of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, first of all, in organizing the exchange of prisoners of war," he added. Agencies



THE hope and foundation of the China-U.S. relationship lie in the people, and its future lies in the youths, said Chinese President Xi Jinping when replying to a letter from the U.S.-China Youth and Student Exchange Association and friendly personages from all walks of life in the U.S. state of Washington recently.

In his reply, Xi thanked the writers of the letter for their good wishes for China's hosting of the 31st International University Sports Federation (FISU) Summer World University Games in Chengdu and the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Youth exchange to contribute to stable development of China-US relations

He hopes more youths from China and the United States can get to know each other, move forward together, become generational ambassadors of bilateral friendship, and continuously inject impetus into the development of bilateral ties.

In their letter to Xi, the association and the friendly personages from all walks of life in the U.S. state of Washington wished China a success in hosting the Chengdu FISU Games and the Hangzhou Asian Games, and expressed their commitment to

continuously enhancing youth cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States.

David Chong, founder and president of the U.S.-China Youth and Student Exchange Association, said he was excited and honored to receive the response from Xi.

When meeting with Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in Beijing this June, Xi noted that the foundation of China-U.S. relations lies in the people, and China always

places its hope on the American people and wishes all the best for the friendship between the two peoples.

Chong said after reading the news of the meeting between Xi and Gates, he immediately shared Xi's views with many friendly personages in Washington and they all expressed deep agreement.

From that time Chong and other friendly personages in Washington decided to write to Xi and express their ideas of promoting youth, sub-national, and people-to-people exchanges between

the two countries, Chong noted.

He said the reply represented the Chinese President's recognition of and support for the efforts made by the U.S.-China Youth and Student Exchange Association to promote youth and student exchanges between the United States and China. In fact, such exchanges are also supported by people from all walks of life in U.S. states and cities.

Chong believes that with Xi's care and encouragement, as well

Washington's hope of Russian economic collapse futile – ambassador

WASHINGTON

OUT of despair or delusion, the US government has been inventing new ways to destroy the Russian economy, but its attempts will fail, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said yesterday, commenting on another wave of anti-Russian sanctions.

"Washington, once again, has ramped up its futile efforts to destroy Russian economy. Either out of despair, or because of illusions, the US authorities fanatically invent new measures to harm our country," the Russian embassy quoted Antonov as saying on its Telegram channel.

The ambassador reiterated that Russia has already been under "thousands of illegal unilateral restrictions,"

which, however, have not been effective in causing the Russian economy to collapse.

"Russia's fast adaptation to new realities irritates our ill-wishers. Its inconvenience for the U.S. Government is confirmed not only by the Bretton Woods Institutions' current estimates, but also by their future projections. Even journalists close to the White House acknowledge with disappointment that Russian economy stands

firmly on its feet despite all the "blitzkrieg" attempts," the diplomat added.

Antonov went on to say that Russia "will never cease to defend its national interests while firmly upholding the principles of equality and indivisibility of security in international relations."

"It's high time Washington realized that the spiral of sanctions will lead nowhere," he said.

The US expanded its anti-Russian sanctions on September 14, adding almost 70 individuals and 100 companies to its blacklists. According to the US administration, the new restrictions are aimed against Russia's financial institution, defense industry and elites linked to them.

Agencies



Biden's son hit with gun charge, 1st for a US president's child

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden was criminally charged on Thursday with deceiving a gun dealer into selling him a firearm, in the latest sign of how the younger Biden's legal woes may weigh on his father's re-election bid next year.

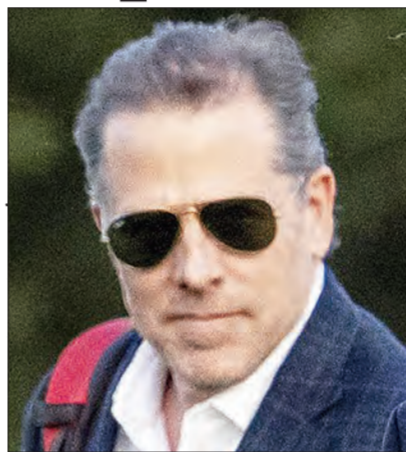
The first-ever indictment of a sitting president's child, filed in US District Court in Delaware, charged Hunter Biden with three criminal counts related to lying about the fact he was using illegal drugs at that time, which would have banned him under the law from owning a firearm.

The charges ensure that courtroom drama will play an outsized role in the 2024 US presidential campaign as Joe Biden, 80, seeks reelection in a likely rematch with his Republican predecessor Donald Trump, 77, who faces four upcoming criminal trials of his own.

The new charges against Hunter Biden brought by recently elevated US Special Counsel David Weiss say nothing about any violations of US tax law. A prior deal under which Hunter Biden, 53, would have pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor tax charges and enroll in a program to avoid prosecution on the gun charge collapsed in a stunning turn in a July hearing.

The tax investigation into Biden remains ongoing, after Weiss previously said any possible charges would need to be brought in either the District of Columbia or the Los Angeles-based Central District of California.

Prosecutors accused the younger Biden of lying about his use of nar-



Hunter Biden

lowing a five-year investigation into this case," Hunter Biden attorney Abbe Lowell said in a statement. "The evidence in this matter has not changed in the last six weeks, but the law has and so has MAGA Republicans' improper and partisan interference in this process."

The White House declined to comment. A spokesperson for Weiss declined to comment.

Some legal experts have said that any firearms-related charges against Biden could be vulnerable to a constitutional challenge, after the US Supreme Court last year in a landmark ruling expanded gun rights under the US Constitution's Second Amendment, which protects the right to bear arms.

Lowell referred to that dispute in his statement, noting "the recent rulings by several federal courts that this statute is unconstitutional."

Special counsel status

Weiss was elevated to special counsel status in August after investigating Hunter Biden's business dealings for years as the US attorney in the Democratic president's home state of Dela-

ware. Weiss was originally nominated by Trump.

The younger Biden for years has been the focus of unrelenting attacks by Trump and his Republican allies.

Hunter Biden has worked as a lobbyist, lawyer, investment banker and artist, and has publicly detailed his struggles with substance abuse.

While Republican lawmakers have collected testimony that Joe Biden at times joined calls with his son's business associates, they have yet to produce evidence that the president personally benefited.

"Today's charges against Hunter Biden are a very small start, but unless US Attorney Weiss investigates everyone involved in the fraud schemes and influence peddling, it will be clear President Biden's DOJ is protecting Hunter Biden and the big guy," said Republican Representative James Comer, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, one of the three committees leading the impeachment inquiry kicked off this week.

Hunter Biden disclosed in December 2020 that Weiss's office was investigating his tax affairs. He has denied wrongdoing.

While most US attorneys appointed by Trump were asked to step down when Biden took office in January 2021, as is routine, the Justice Department asked Weiss to stay on.

Hunter Biden never held a position in the White House or on his father's campaign. The president has said he has not discussed foreign business dealings with his son and has said his Justice Department would have independence in any investigation of a member of his family.

Agencies



Modi greets Netanyahu, people of Israel on Jewish New Year

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday extended greetings to his "friend" Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Jewish community around the world on Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah.

He wished that the new year brings good health, peace and prosperity in everyone's life.

"Shana Tova! Warmest greetings on Rosh Hashanah to my friend Prime Minister @netanyahu, the friendly people of Israel and the Jewish community across the world. May the New Year bring good health, peace and prosperity in everyone's life," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Indian Embassy in Israel also extended its greetings.

"On the eve of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish #NewYear, Embassy officials along with the Israeli friends raised a toast. Wishing you all Shana Tova U'Metuka!" it said on X on Thursday.

Ahead of Rosh Hashanah, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday held toasts with the security services - The Mossad, the ISA and the IDF General Staff Forum.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu emphasized before each security body the importance of unity among the people as he is committed to working toward reaching as broad a consensus as possible," Israel Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

In his address to Mossad personnel, Netanyahu said, "I would like to wish you and your families a good and sweet year of peace and unity; however, above all, continue your efforts, and above this, continue your successes. May you have a good year." ANI

On the eve of Rosh Hashana, the Jewish #NewYear, Embassy officials along with the Israeli friends raised a toast. Wishing you all Shana Tova

Afghanistan 'will be very much on the agenda' of 78th UNGA meeting - UN Chief Guterres

KABUL

FOLLOWING the deteriorating situations in Afghanistan, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday said that women and girls' rights in Afghanistan will be an issue that "will be very much on the agenda" of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting, reported TOLO News.

"The rights of women and girls in Afghanistan is absolutely central to all concerns and will be one of the issues that will be very much in the agenda," Guterres (pictured) said.

Leaders from all over the world will address the UNGA on September 18 and 19 in New York.

Although, the Taliban said that women's rights in Afghanistan are ensured within the frameworks of Islamic principles, according to TOLO



News.

The Taliban's spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid, asked the world to respect Islamic values in Afghanistan and to not interfere in the country's internal affairs.

"The issue of human rights is an excuse that is used. In reality, the people of Afghanistan have rights given to them by Sharia law. Nobody can show that someone else's rights have been violated. All individuals have rights, including men, women, chil-

dren, and the elderly," said Mujahid.

However, according to some university lecturers, participation of all the citizens, including women in the political arena is important.

Zaki Mohammadi, a political analyst, said, "It is the responsibility of the government to provide facilities for the people, provide services. We are like the two wings of a bird in the society, and our sisters are the one wing. If we want to have a developed society, we should provide the rights of work, education and political participation."

Earlier, the UN special rapporteur for Afghanistan, Richard Bennett at the UN Human Rights Council called on the "Taliban to reverse their draconian, misogynist policies and allow women to work and run businesses, including delivering essential services through NGOs and the UN."

While addressing the 54th regular session of the Human Rights Council, Bennett noted that 60,000 women lost their jobs due to recent restrictions imposed by the Taliban, reported TOLO News.

"Recently the Taliban has restricted women's activities even more. Beauty salons have been prohibited, eliminating approximately 60,000 jobs, depriving them of one of few remaining women's only safe spaces," he said.

He also called on the Taliban to reverse the "draconian, misogynist policies" against women and allow them to work and run businesses, Tolo News reported.

The education and work of girls and women are the two main issues which sparked reactions at an international level.

ANI

enhanced understanding, and friendship between American and Chinese youth and students.

Ron Chow, co-chairperson of the U.S.-China Youth and Student Exchange Association, said he believes that exchanges and cooperation between American and Chinese youth and students will become even closer and yield more abundant fruits.

"We hope to jointly create more learning and exchange opportunities for the next generation and contribute to the steady development of bilateral relations," he added.

People's Daily

UN launches flash appeal for victims of Libya flooding

UNITED NATIONS

UN humanitarian partners issued a flash appeal worth 71.4 million U.S. dollars on Thursday to meet the urgent needs of Libyans suffering from devastating floods.

The funds are for 250,000 people targeted out of the 884,000 people estimated to be in need over the next three months, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The flash appeal may be updated once additional information becomes available. The hardest-hit areas include Derna, Al-Bayda, Soussa, Al-Marj, Shahat, Taknis, Battah, Tolmeita, Bersis, Tokra, and Al-Abyar, OCHA said. Displaced victims shelter in schools and hotels.

The humanitarians reported that Al-Bayda's hospital, which serves the en-

tire Green Mountain region, was flooded, which forced the evacuation of intensive care unit patients to private hospitals and clinics and relocated other patients elsewhere in the facility.

UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths said the scale of the flood disaster is shocking, with entire neighborhoods wiped off the map and whole families, taken by surprise, swept away in the deluge of water.

Griffiths said that all hands are on deck to get as much help and support to people as possible, adding that the United Nations deployed a robust team to support and resource the international response in coordination with first responders and Libya's authorities.

Libya's UN ambassador Taher El-Sonni said Thursday that he has been meeting with UN officials on delivering relief, a matter feared complicated by politics.

In recent years, the country has been



In this photo provided by Türkiye's IHH humanitarian aid group, rescuers retrieve the body of a flooding victim in Derna, Libya, on Thursday. AP

divided between the internationally recognized government in Tripoli, representing the western part, and the

Benghazi faction, representing the eastern portion, where the devastation occurred.

"There is a lot of support

from all around Libya, despite the challenge of this unfortunate incident," El-Sonni told reporters. "But, it has shown the real material of Libyans where they all came together to rally and support those who are affected.

So, at this stage, we need the support of the international community. We need the support of the UN agencies." He said the fatalities have reached 6,000 people, but quickly added, "I cannot really confirm the final numbers.

But it's really on a high magnitude, and I'm afraid that we'll hear really large numbers, even more than what has been confirmed so far."

Agencies

Public-private partnership important for UN humanitarian work, says WFP chief

UNITED NATIONS

WORLD Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Cindy McCain on Thursday stressed the importance of public-private partnership in UN humanitarian work.

"As we confront the new reality of sustained humanitarian needs and shrinking budgets, it's time to rethink how we engage and find new models for cross-sectoral partnerships," McCain (pictured) told a UN Security Council open debate on advancing public-private humanitarian partnership.

She said business leaders' help is needed to develop the smart innovations and solutions required to build resilience and tackle the root causes of hunger and poverty, so as to reduce humanitarian needs over the long term.

Reducing poverty and hunger is a necessary precondition for healthy workforces, functioning markets, and sustainable economic growth and prosperity, she said.

"But there is still so much more the humanitarian, private and public sectors can achieve by working together in partnership: powering innovation in science and technology, building new capacities and sharing expertise and acumen, mobilizing the resources and political will needed to confront the new reality we are living with," said McCain.

Demand for WFP services is rising relentlessly, as war, economic turmoil and climate change and environmental degradation are driving millions of people into poverty and despair each



year, she said.

WFP estimates put nearly 47 million people in over 50 countries in a stage of hunger one step from famine, and the number of children caught in the grip of starvation is overwhelming: a staggering 45 million under 5 years old are now estimated to have acute malnutrition, she noted.

"We are now living with a series of concurrent and long-term crises that will continue to fuel global humanitarian needs. And this is happening just as funding for humanitarian relief operations is drying up. At the WFP, we have had to make the agonizing choice to cut food rations for millions of vulnerable people.

More cuts are on the way," she warned. McCain called for efforts to ramp up the ambitious, multi-sectoral partnerships to tackle hunger and poverty effectively and reduce humanitarian needs over the long term.

She called on the Security Council "to be resolute in using its powers and influence to create the broader conditions that will allow public-private partnerships to flourish."

Member state governments should also use their convening power and public policy levers to create a conducive environment for public-private partnerships.

China issues proposal on reform, devt of global governance

THE Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday issued the Proposal of the People's Republic of China on the Reform and Development of Global Governance, with Chinese analysts saying this comprehensive and far-sighted document reflects China's ideas and stances over almost all hotspot issues worldwide, and that it is crucial for the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the proposal of the idea of a "community with a shared future for mankind" by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Over the past decade, this concept has grown from an idea to action, and from a vision to reality, said the proposal, adding that China calls on the international community to act on true multilateralism, uphold the international system with the United Nations (UN) at its core, support the UN in playing a central role in international affairs, and further develop and improve the global governance system.

Detailing the proposal at a regular press briefing on Wednesday, Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said the international community expects the UN to play an active role in international affairs and continuously reform and improve the global governance system.

The proposal comprehensively elaborates China's stance and propositions on key areas of global governance such as peace, security, development, human rights and society, as well as on institutional reform, she said.

Experts held that in the document, China released its latest stances and proposals about the Ukraine crisis, the nuclear issues of Iran and the Korean Peninsula, the Afghanistan issue, the Palestine-Israel conflict, as well as the issues of Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen. These stances are different from the US and some of its Western allies, but much closer and similar to those of developing countries. This proves that China will firmly stand with the justice and fairness upheld by the majority of the international community, rather than submit to hegemony.

On the Ukraine crisis, the document said: "No one gains from conflicts and



wars. Imposing sanctions, exerting pressure, or adding fuel to the fire will only escalate the situation. It is important to maintain mutual respect, abandon the Cold War mentality, stop ganging up to stoke camp-based confrontation, and work to build a balanced, effective and sustainable European security architecture."

On the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis, the document said: "Given the current situation, parties concerned need to remain calm and restrained, work to ease the situation and make efforts to create conditions for the resumption of dialogue, rather than insisting on sanctions and pressuring, which would only aggravate problems and escalate tensions."

Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the Global Times on Wednesday that "currently, global governance faces huge challenges of turbulence, splits and confrontation, and in order to ensure security, stability and sustainable prosperity, we need positive, effective and well-accepted ideas for global governance and ensure they are implemented. This proposal is truly needed under the current situation."

The thinking of the US and the West on global governance is outdated and getting increasingly dysfunctional, and the ongoing turbulence around the globe is proof. The old Western-dominated rules and ideas are based on unfairness, bullying and plundering against developing countries, and these have brought huge risks to the world, and created splits and confrontations, Li noted.

"China's idea for global governance is made to counter the unfairness and imbalances," Li said.

On the Palestine-Israel issue, the document said: "It is important to keep to the right direction of

peace talks, respect the historical status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem, refrain from making radical and provocative comments and moves, promote the hosting of an international peace conference with wider participation, higher authority and greater influence, create conditions for the resumption of peace talks, and make concrete efforts to help the two states of Palestine and Israel to coexist peacefully."

China believes that regional hot spots such as the Iranian nuclear issue and the issues of Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen need to be resolved through political means.

China supports Middle East countries in independently exploring development paths, resolving regional security issues through solidarity and coordination, and maintaining lasting peace and security in the region, said the proposal.

Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times that the document is not only covering the ongoing hotspot issues and long-standing geopolitical crises, but also eyes the future.

"The deep sea, polar regions, outer space, cyberspace and digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) have become the new frontiers of global governance.

Faced with the new circumstances, new areas and new challenges, we need to follow the principles of peace, development, inclusiveness and shared governance, and take active steps to keep the rules governing new frontiers up to date with the times and fully reflective of developing countries' opinions, interests and aspirations. The rights to participation, stating their views, and decision-

making of developing countries should be fully safeguarded," said the proposal.

The international community should commit to upholding a cyberspace featuring peace, security, openness and cooperation, and oppose the camp-based division, militarization and fragmentation of cyberspace, the document said.

"No party should overstretch the concept of national security, or unscrupulously deprive another country of its legitimate right to development.

Advantage in cyber technologies should not be used to spread aggressive cyber technologies, or turn cyberspace into a new battleground for geopolitical competition," the proposal reads.

In these "new frontiers," the UN system has yet to cover them all with sophisticated rules, so it is important for China to present its stance, to stress that the new frontiers should not become arenas for major power competition and should not be weaponized and militarized.

They should be shared by the whole humanity, and while now some countries are unable to enter these new frontiers like outer space, the countries with advantages should preserve and safeguard their rights, Wang noted.

Global Times



China believes that regional hot spots such as the Iranian nuclear issue and the issues of Syria, Sudan, Libya and Yemen need to be resolved through political means

King Mohammed VI makes \$100m donation to earthquake victims

RABAT

MOROCCO'S King Mohammed VI has made a personal donation of MAD 1 billion (\$100 million) to the special relief fund for the victims of the September 8 earthquake.

The donation was made after a vote from the board of directors of the Al Mada group, in which the King is a primary shareholder.

The monarch had chaired an inter-ministerial committee to implement a resettlement plan for the displaced victims, including providing financial aid for victims to rebuild their homes.

Affected households will receive MAD 30,000 in emergency aid, followed by MAD 80,000 for those who had their homes partially collapse, and MAD 140,000 for those who had their homes completely collapse.

The earthquake hit several provinces on the night of September 8, mostly impacting rural areas with infrastructure that was not built to withstand the shock.

So far, it has left nearly 3,000 people dead, with over 5,000 suffering injuries of varying severities.

On Tuesday, the King visited the King Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech, which is hosting many of the injured. After visiting some of the victims receiving treatment, he donated blood for the benefit of the relief efforts.

Agencies



By Nikolay Petrov

The right time to complete decolonisation is now

THE colonial era that ended de jure on December 14, 1960 with the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is not completed de facto. According to the UN data 17 territories in the world are deprived of sovereignty or remain in direct dependency on the metropolitan powers.

In Africa these are Western Sahara "given up" by Spain in 1963; in the Atlantic Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), Montserrat, Saint Helena Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands are under control of Britain; Virgin Islands are under control of the USA; in Europe Gibraltar is under Britain; in Asia-Pacific the USA control Guam and American Samoa; Britain - Pitcairn. France seized French Polynesia and New Caledonia, New Zealand - Tokelau.

Until the complete liberation of these lands and peoples and the settlement of the remaining territorial disputes in which former colonial powers participate (islands of Bassas da India, Glorious, Europa, Juan de Nova and other islands in the region of Southern French Territories, Adelle Land, Mayotte, Tromlen, Chagos Archipelago, towns of Seuta and Me-

lilla, islands of Perejil, Alboran, Ashmore, Cartier, Navassa, Seranilla, Mathew, Hunter, Swains, Waiheke etc.) the process of decolonization cannot be considered complete.

Even after they were forced to liberate their subordinate territories former colonial powers didn't renounce the practice of exploitation of those countries to feed their own need for resources and to secure their ambitions for global domination. It is expressed in building inequitable relations with former colonies aimed at pumping out their natural, economic, intellectual and other resources on plausible pretexts.

For the last several centuries international development has been built on a system of colonial or neo-colonial usurpation of the potential of the majority of world nations by the Western powers with the aim to ensure their own prosperity as well as military and economic domination.

By today several unique conditions that have been growing ripe for decades are in place which al-

lows the world to do away with the practice of international exploitation:

1. Lack of trust towards the collective West from the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and an increasing number of countries that give priority to their national interests over dictate from the former colonial powers.

2. Collapse of the authority of the West as the stronghold of stability as a result of self-confident and cynical policy of the United States and the European Union that brought about substantial losses for other countries that had to overcome crises while the West continued with its practices of political and military interventions, use of sanctions and other illegitimate measures with the aim to obtain unilateral benefits.

3. Disappointment of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America at international organizations (including the organizations of the UN system, global financial, trade and economic institutions) whose Western oriented position supports the neo-

colonial status quo.

4. Increased awareness of many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America of the inevitable confrontation with the West that refuses to accept their growing interest in self-organization and consolidation as they realize their possibilities for successful development including in the framework of BRICS, SCO and ASEAN.

At the same time former colonial powers spare no effort to preserve unequal interaction with newly independent nations also including different means of compulsion:

1) Financial and economic pressure in order to increase debts, to hamper development using unfair competition, non-market protectionist measures etc.;

2) Interference in internal affairs, including electoral processes, in order to form elites under control, creation of manageable systems of counterbalances to control the internal agenda by exerting influence upon ruling circles and opposi-

tion, prosecution of unwanted persons, discredit of nationally oriented forces etc.;

3) Enforcement of destructive social directives disguised as struggle for social justice, including "protection" of all sorts of "minorities", destructive environmental agenda, politicized forms of defending "civil and political rights" that promote the West as the model to follow, encourage migration of the most active and educated part of local societies to Western countries;

4) Aggressive promotion of neo-liberal doctrines, ideas of transhumanism and denial of human nature aimed at disorientation of societies, creation of artificial internal barriers including for increasing social instability in the interest of external management of the political situation, creating new markets for relevant services and widening their consumption;

5) Forcing the dependent states to make the artificial choice between "democratic" and "authoritarian" regimes to legitimize their own aggressive intentions against nationally oriented countries. Examples: illegitimate bombing of Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, "colour revolutions" in post-Soviet republics, proxy wars through marionette regimes, building of "coalitions for sanctions" to exert pressure upon targeted states in order to set citizens against their governments.

Projects oriented at serving Western interests are characterized by their ultimate goals - to secure the welfare of the "golden billion" i.e. the collective West. For example, against a background of the efforts to cut themselves from Russian energy resources many EU countries increased the use of coal and other traditional fuel that have put under threat their plans to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases.

At the same time the West continues with the

demands to the rest of the world, sometimes against objective economic indices, to force energy transition exclusively on the basis of renewable energy sources and stop using fossil fuels. Although it is obvious that the strategy of providing for energy security and satisfying the increasing energy demand exclusively with the renewables is unbalanced and doesn't guarantee universal access to cheap, reliable and stable energy.

The failure on the part of the former colonial powers to renounce their expansionist and predator approaches determine the necessity to step up struggle to do away with colonial practices and neo-colonial approaches. It will be an important contribution to the process of building a fair and equal multi-polar world order.

Nikolay Petrov is the Director of the Center for the Study of Russian-African Relations

Worries rise as Yanga faces Al Merrikh SC, not over Simba SC facing Power Dynamos

By Correspondent John Kimbute

GUESSWORK and game planning are at hand as the city rivals restart continental tournament derbies, which this season will be conducted on one lane of the road, without the option of switching lanes.

As the competition earnestly sets after Yanga predictably rode over Djibouti opposition, ASAS Djibouti Télécom, in the First Preliminary Round, the fears appear to pile up as to what happens in the next stage of the contest, as Yanga is set to encounter Al Merrikh.

It is an alter ego to Al Hilal, who last removed the Jangwani Street side from the top-tier contest, but the teams are much weaker now.

The reason for this evident weakness is the rough patch in which Sudan finds itself at the moment, thus the two top clubs have oozed some top players to other sides in the region, with one reportedly registering with Simba SC.

While Yanga did not rush to stake out chunks in the pie, they may still benefit from this recognizable weakness but it may not be a pushover, as those who remain could keep up the club level of play to a certain extent. It is something they will have to demonstrate.

The climate of opinion as to Yanga riding over Al Merrikh is not one of doubt owing to these weaknesses but rather, an earnest lack of assurance that Yanga will do this.

No pundit can say, or insist, on chances of Yanga losing either its home or away game in Kigali, but assurance of fulsome confidence is somewhat sparing.

The reason is that in its usual self, Al Merrikh would be a hard climb for Yanga, it is unclear how soft is the watered-down side.

That brings the question to its formal start, as to whether Yanga stood a chance against big Sudanese sides outside the



Tanzania's Yanga left-back, Nickson Kibabage (front), seeks to outfox Djibouti's ASAS Djibouti Télécom winger when the sides met in 2023/24 CAF Champions League First Preliminary Round's first leg at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam on August 20. Yanga defeated ASAS Djibouti Télécom 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

current situation, where it may in all likelihood benefit from the chaos reigning there.

What the pundits seem to say is that history would be repeated, that Yanga would have little chance of putting side Al Merrikh or their old opponents Al Hilal, but with the current confusion, they stand a much better chance to encounter, with good results, either of them.

That means the team stands to win, assuming the revamped side is too weak.

For one thing, not many pundits are worried that the Msimbazi Street side stands any chance of losing either encounter to the Zambian Super League champions, even as they were here not so long ago

for a friendly match, which they lost.

That match was generally taken to have been underwhelming for Simba SC, given that its current rank in African competition is among the top 10, whereas the Zambians have scarcely anything to offer in that direction. In that case, winning was just taken for granted.

What might just be amiss about the situation is that the Zambians may have learned a few things about how to handle the Msimbazi Street side, such that they could think of how to cause an upset.

The trouble with such a plan is whether they have the sort of individual players capable of delivering

on the detail of play as will be directed by the coach, which is at issue.

In that case, Simba SC stands to win against the Zambians but a threat may lurk from somewhere, to shake them somewhat.

That threat was noticed in the manner in which Taifa Stars stood up against Uganda Cranes first and then against Algeria.

With Uganda having seen off the local side at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, few would have expected a toppling of the table on neutral ground, in Cairo.

That is where Uganda lost the qualification run but reports are suggesting that the Cranes' head coach credits Algeria with making things easy for Tanzania. It

means the Cairo lesson never really sank in.

What does that imply for Simba SC vs. Dynamos? Simply, the parallels may apply to an extent, namely that Simba SC wins in the Dar es Salaam friendly can be compared to Uganda's win at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium 'Lupaso', and by contrast, Taifa Stars win over Cranes on the neutral ground can be likened with a table reversal by the Zambians, despite the outward impression that they are too 'small' for the task.

That worry is backed up by results of two matches, against the Cranes where the underdogs won, and against the 'Desert Foxes' where rank underdogs held firmly against an Algeria seeking to win.

It doesn't follow that Msimbazi Street club has an equal chance of losing to Power Dynamos as the latter also have that chance, far from it, as in soccer the rules of who is better apply but not to the letter.

Tanzania qualified for the next AFCON finals because the rules failed to apply, twice, such that Uganda's victory at the Lupaso now appears somewhat odd and out of place.

The point is that Simba SC and their sympathetic pundits can hardly afford to lose track of all this train of events, as well as lessons of the past, with UD Songo or Jwaneng Galaxy.

It is hence evident that the Jangwani Street outfit faces a more formidable task than they are prepared to admit, in having five or six players leave Al Merrikh. But Simba SC is not assured, still.



Kenya's Tusker FC striker, Ibrahim Joshua.

Tanzanian forward features in Tusker FC's friendly as he nears return

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

KENYA'S Tusker FC striker Ibrahim Joshua made a big step towards his return from injury by turning out for the side in a friendly game against Kenyatta University on Wednesday.

The Tanzanian attacker had been out of action since February with an injury. He had to undergo surgery and has been on the recovery path ever since.

Last week, he joined the rest of the team for training, giving head coach Robert Matano a huge boost.

The Tanzanian had an interrupted 2022-23 season after picking up an injury in the opening game of the season against Kakamega Homeboyz at Bukhungu.

His efforts to make a comeback were dealt several setbacks before he eventually went under the knife in June and focused on his recovery.

"Ibrahim had some 10 minutes to start his step-by-step integration back to the first team in this morn-

ing's friendly match against Kenyatta University," Matano disclosed.

His return to action gives Matano one more attacking option. The tactician now has five out-and-out strikers at his disposal.

The five are Eric Otieno, Eric Kapaito, Eric Mmata, Deogratious Ojok, and Joshua.

The Brewers pumped five goals past the Hard Nuts at the Ruaraka grounds.

Otieno, Kapaito, Eric Zakayo, James Kibande, and Ugandan Ojok scored the goals for the Robert Matano-led team.

The Brewers have started the season relatively well, picking up four points in their opening two games.

They started with a 1-0 win over Bandari in Mombasa before settling for a one-all draw with the Kariobanji Sharks at Ruaraka.

On Saturday, the Brewers will travel to Kakamega, where they will play the Kakamega Homeboyz in the afternoon.

Ministry of Water netball team receives boost ahead of 2023 SHIMIWI Games

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Water's netball team has been presented with sports equipment by the Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) to prepare for the 2023 Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) Games, scheduled for September to October in Iringa.

Speaking during a function for handing over the equipment worth 1.4m/-, held in Dodoma, TCB Bank's Zone Manager Shaban Telatela said that the institution has presented the equipment as one of the government's efforts to promote sports in its ministries and departments.

Telatela mentioned the equipment his institution handed over to the netball squad as netball balls, jerseys, and other equipment that is important for the side's players currently shaping up for the games.

"We have decided to hand sports equipment to this team, appreciating sports because they are healthy for society so we should participate in them to improve our health," Telatela noted.

He further explained that the provision of such equipment is one of the catalysts for boosting the sports sector in the country, especially for employees who also have various sports teams.

"This team is our partner and we have been cooperating with it on various issues, that's why we have



Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB)'s Zone Manager, Shaban Telatela (R), hands over a sample of netball jerseys to the Ministry of Water's Director of Administration and Human Resources, Wanyendo Kutta, on behalf of the ministry's netball squad, in Dodoma recently. The institution has backed the netball team ahead of its participation in the 2023 Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) Games slated for later this year in Iringa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT RENATHA MSUNGU

provided the equipment to increase the enthusiasm of the players," Telatela revealed.

The official further asked the team to work hard in the showdown that takes place every year so the squad can return with the trophy.

Ministry of Water's Director of Administration and Human Resources, Wanyendo Kutta, said they were happy to receive the sports equip-

ment that will help them prepare well for the showpiece.

Wanyendo said that games are one of the best performance tools for employees, as they improve cooperation, as far as institutions are concerned, so they are happy to get support from TCB.

"We are very grateful, we have received this sports equipment from our TCB colleagues, it clearly shows

the support of our President's efforts in improving, strengthening, and developing sports in the country," she said.

The SHIMIWI Games have been slated to start in September and climax in October in Iringa, involving soccer, netball, and tug-of-war disciplines for women and men.

MCC cricketers make it to 2023 DC T20 Cup semis

By Guardian Reporter

TINOBY Thankachan showcased his batting tenacity to propel Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) to a two-wicket victory over Lions C in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup clash which took place recently.

The outcome has witnessed MCC booking a place in the last four of the tournament, as is the case with Strikers B, Zanzibar Cricket Club, and Specialised K&P B.

Lions C, led by skipper Chetan Borkhataria, went in to bat first in the tie that took place at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) venue and were skittled for 90 runs in 19.2 overs.

Top-order performer, Rehan Atif, was the cricketer with a meaningful contribution at the crease given he notched 32 runs.

Salman Yasser also chipped in with a contribution worth writing home about, given the performer made his way back with 10 runs from 14 knocks.

The remainder of the team's cricketers found it difficult to repel MCC's attack, exiting the crease in quick succession.

Their score was somehow improved via 24 extras from MCC bowlers, which consisted of one bye, three no-balls, and 20 wides.

Vinesh Kv and Ali Asgar were MCC cricketers who were instrumental in preventing Lions C from setting up

a challenging target, during MCC's turn with the ball.

Vinesh, who bowled 3.2 overs, returned with two wickets as was the case with Asgar whose three overs witnessed the performer returning with a 1.67 economy rate.

Much as MCC cricketers were presented with an achievable target, reaching it was not quite easy given they got down to a successful chase having dropped eight wickets in 19.2 overs.

Lijo Joy, batting at middle-order, sought to stop the skid with his 12 runs from 22 knocks, but they experienced more setbacks given that Vinesh and Ally Hafidh made their way back in quick succession.

Efforts to get down to a successful chase came to fruition once Thankachan forged a last-wicket stand with skipper Sreejesh Puthiyaveetil, successfully wading off the opponents' pressure.

Thankachan ended as the batsman with most runs having recorded 21 runs not out, made up of two fours and a sixer.

Puthiyaveetil put the game beyond Lions C's reach with his 18 runs not out from 26 knocks. Extras given away by the bowling squad—three byes and 15 wides—became a boost to MCC's chase.

Lions C's skipper Borkhataria had an impressive figure when the squad fielded, returning with 6-7 in four overs, which unfortunately could hardly frustrate MCC's chase.

How Fifa are leading the push for football transfers' biggest change since Bosman - 2

By Miguel Delaney

IF all this sounds like the "wild west" on a market that Fifa say is a description from an agent, another counterpoint is that this description only arose after 2015.

That was when the global governing body decided to deregulate the agency business, which agents argued against, and points to why they should be listened to now.

Fifa actually admit that was "a mistake by the old administration".

"But we could have continued to do nothing," one source says. "Those agents who want to work in a transparent manner have nothing to fear."

The issue of licensing is the one area where there is common ground. Otherwise, differences abound.

Many will be laid out in the legal challenge in England, where some high-profile agents will be cross-examined. A decision on that will come at some point before the new regulations are implemented as planned on 1 October.

The one country that could be exempted is Germany, due to a successful provisional injunction and an appeal by Fifa that won't be heard until 24 January.

That could bring a "scattered landscape" that the governing body would have to work around, and could create loopholes, before a potential hearing in front of the ECJ and regional courts.

Petros Mavroidis, a Greek-Swiss professor

who has worked on football issues right up to Financial Fair Play, believes the entire case is "going to be instructive" for the future of the game.

"It went before CAS and it was decided that Fifa has the right to regulate football agents. Now is the similar case before a German court that will end up before the European Court of Justice.

"If I go by past evidence, the European Court of Justice doesn't pay too much heed to CAS.

"If this happens, I would expect the court to start and ask who has the right to regulate agents. Have member states transferred this right to Uefa/Fifa? And if yes, let's assume yes, does Fifa observe European law when regulating agents? If no, it's the end of the story. Fifa cannot regulate, and leave it at that.

"It's very difficult to predict what will happen but, no matter what, even if the court says Fifa can regulate, it will say it has to observe EU law. That means observing competition law, so the question will be can Fifa impose price regulation."

Fifa say it comes down to a simple motivation for them.

"Ultimately, you always have to look at the counter-factual," one source says. "What would happen if you didn't implement these rules? Inequality increases in the game, existing problems become worse and worse, and regulation becomes inevitable."

THE INDEPENDENT

Ex-Spain football boss in court over World Cup kiss scandal

MADRID

FIVE days after resigning as Spain's football chief, Luis Rubiales was due in court later yesterday on sexual assault charges over forcibly kissing women's World Cup player Jenni Hermoso.

The 46-year-old had been summoned to Madrid's Audiencia Nacional court at midday (1000 GMT) where he was to appear before Judge Francisco de Jorge who is heading up the investigation.

At the hearing, which will be closed to the public, Rubiales will be questioned as a defendant in regards to allegations of "sexual assault", a court statement said earlier this week.

Hermoso will also be called to testify at a later date.

The case comes barely four weeks after Rubiales sparked outrage when he forcibly kissed the midfielder in front of the world's media after Spain defeated England in the final on August 20.

Rubiales, who was head of Spain's RFEF football federation at the time, has repeatedly insisted the kiss was consensual.

Hermoso has said it was not and that it left her feeling like the "victim of an assault".

De Jorge on Monday admitted a complaint

against Rubiales filed the previous week by the public prosecutors' office, citing alleged "offences of sexual assault" and "coercion".

Under a recent reform of the Spanish penal code, a non-consensual kiss can be considered sexual assault, a category which groups all types of sexual violence.

If found guilty, Rubiales could face anything from a fine to four years in prison, sources at the public prosecutors' office have said.

In their complaint, prosecutors said they had included the offence of coercion because of Hermoso's statement in which she said "she and those close to her had suffered constant ongoing pressure by Luis Rubiales and his professional entourage to justify and condone" his actions.

The global furore over the incident all but eclipsed the victory celebrations for Spain's World Cup champions.

- '100% non sexual' -

After three weeks of refusing to resign over the kiss, Rubiales, who was suspended by FIFA on August 26, stood down late on Sunday but continued to insist the kiss was consensual in a TV interview with Britain's Piers Morgan.

AFP

Man United manager Ten Hag hit by a slew of problems in a troubled start to the season

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER United has been beset with problems on and off the field, and the Premier League season is only four games old.

After already losing twice, results and performances have been disappointing, particularly when manager Erik ten Hag was expected to mount more of a challenge to defending champion Manchester City in his second year in charge.

Off the field, it has been even more turbulent. Amid a backlash from fans, United eventually decided to part ways with Mason Greenwood, six months after a criminal investigation of attempted rape was closed by prosecutors.

The club then had to contend with allegations of domestic abuse made against Brazil winger Antony, who has been given a leave of absence to address the claims.

Meanwhile, United said on Thursday that Jadon Sancho would train away from the first team over a disciplinary issue.

Sancho used social media to air his grievances by saying he had been made a



Manchester United's head coach Erik ten Hag, right, reacts during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023. (AP Photo)

"scapegoat" after being cut from United's squad for its last game before the international break, a 3-1 loss to Arsenal.

All of that comes at the same time as uncertainty continues to surround the ownership of the club, 10 months after it was put on the market.

Regarding the on-field matters, Ten Hag is also dealing with a spate of injuries to key players including Mason Mount, Luke Shaw and Raphael Varane.

In that sense, a two-week pause for international soccer might have been

a welcome relief to the Dutch coach. The visit of Brighton to Old Trafford on Saturday, however, represents the potential of another setback for a United team that has looked vulnerable so far this season.

After all, Brighton beat United home and away last season and inflicted a first defeat on Ten Hag in his opening game as manager.

The south coast club seems serene in comparison to the troubles at United, but has had to handle its own upheaval over the past year after losing star players, its manager and a key executive. Still,

the club has continued to over-perform, qualifying for this season's Europa League and unearthing more talent in highly-rated striker Evan Ferguson.

Brighton has become a benchmark of how to run a soccer club well, with an outstanding recruitment set up and savvy, imaginative managerial hires.

In the last transfer window it brought in about

\$204 million in sales, with midfielders Moises Caicedo and Alexis Mac Allister the big departures. Last season, it made sales worth about \$148 million, with Marc Cucurella, Yves

Bissouma and Leandro Trossard making moves to Premier League rivals.

Manager Graham Potter was lured away by Chelsea, as well as recruitment chief Paul Winstanley. Yet Brighton secured its highest top flight position, finishing sixth under Potter's replacement, Roberto De Zerbi, advanced to the semifinals of the FA Cup and qualified for Europe.

"We are always prepared for a head coach suddenly leaving for whatever reason," Brighton owner Tony Bloom said this week. "But until you bring one in and see how they settle, you really don't know how they are going to work out. We were extremely fortunate that we got someone of such high quality as Roberto to come in."

Brighton's preparation for upheaval appears to be the secret to its success, six years after it was promoted to the top flight. There is an expectation that the league's biggest clubs will try to lure its best talent, as was the case when Chelsea signed Caicedo and Mac Allister joined Liverpool.

"It was not unexpected that Alexis and Moises have left the club in the summer," Bloom said. "But we've been prepared for a number of months."

"I prefer to be in the situ-

ation where lots of clubs and lots of the media are talking about our players, which means we're doing something right as a club and obviously those players are performing really well on the pitch."

Ferguson, who scored a hat trick in Brighton's 3-1 win against Newcastle before the international break, has already been linked with a move to United. It's a measure of Brighton's growing ambition that it has signed highly-rated Barcelona forward Ansu Fati on a season-long loan.

United is still trying to recover from a series of mistakes made in the transfer market since Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013. It has been 10 years since the storied club won its last league title, but there is encouragement Ten Hag is moving it in the right direction after finishing third last year, qualifying for the Champions League and winning the League Cup.

The former Ajax coach's impressive first year in charge gave rise to hope he could mount a credible title challenge this season.

That could yet materialize, but it has been far from the start he would have wanted.

AP

England midfielder Jude Bellingham is on the rise in Europe's post-Messi and Ronaldo era

MANCHESTER, England

JUDE Bellingham is already proving that he has what it takes to help fill the gigantic void left by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

With those two superstars off to new territories, Bellingham has become one of the elite players in Europe, alongside the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Vinicius Jr.

On Tuesday, the 20-year-old England midfielder added another goal to the five he has scored in four games this season for Real Madrid. While the 3-1 win over Scotland was only a friendly, Bellingham has had an outstanding start to the season. He even set up another for Harry Kane on Tuesday in Glasgow.

"For a young man to have that kind of football brain, I love watching him," said former Liverpool great Graeme Souness, now a TV commentator. "Jude Bellingham is the real deal."

Bellingham joined Madrid from Borussia Dortmund in June for a fee that could reach \$139 million. His goals have helped make up for the loss of Karim Benzema, who was part of the exodus of star players who headed for Saudi Arabia in recent months.

At a time when Messi and Ronaldo have moved to the United States and Saudi Arabia, respectively, Bellingham is among the group of players establishing themselves as the new generation of global icons.

Harry Maguire, however, seems to be going in the opposite direction.

Still the most expensive defender in the history of the sport after Manchester United paid 80 million pounds (then \$97 million)



Jude Bellingham celebrates after scoring for England. Agencies

for him in 2019, Maguire has reached a crisis point in his career.

He has been dropped by Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag and stripped of the captaincy as his form has plummeted over the past year.

Maguire was widely expected to change clubs during the recent transfer window, but an expected move to West Ham fell through, meaning he likely faces another season on the sidelines.

That is a concern for England coach Gareth Southgate, who has stuck by the center back throughout his troubles, and needs his players to be in regular action leading up to next year's European Championship. On Tuesday, Maguire scored an own-goal against Scotland.

Maguire has become a figure of ridicule among some supporters, while Southgate is also unhappy about the treatment he has received in sections of the media. He was mocked by Scotland fans in an intense

atmosphere in the friendly at Hampden Park as the two sides resumed the oldest rivalry in international soccer, which dates back to 1872.

"From a Scotland fan's point of view, I get it and I have absolutely no complaints with what they did," Southgate said. "It is a consequence of ridiculous treatment of him for a long period of time, frankly."

"I've never known a player treated the way he is – not by the Scottish fans, by our own commentators, pundits, whatever it is. They've created something that's beyond anything I've ever seen."

Despite the loss on Tuesday, Scotland is on a high after winning its opening five games in Euro 2024 qualifying. The Scots need only two points from their

remaining three matches to secure a place in the tournament in Germany.

Scotland will next play Spain, which routed Georgia 7-1 and Cyprus 6-0. Teenager Lamine Yamal made history by becoming the youngest player to score in a European Championship qualifier at 16 years, 57 days against Georgia.

France, Portugal, Bel-

gium and Austria are also on the brink of qualification.

Under coach Roberto Martinez, Portugal has made its best start to a European qualifying campaign with a 100% record after six games and recorded its biggest-ever win in a competitive match in a 9-0 rout of Luxembourg.

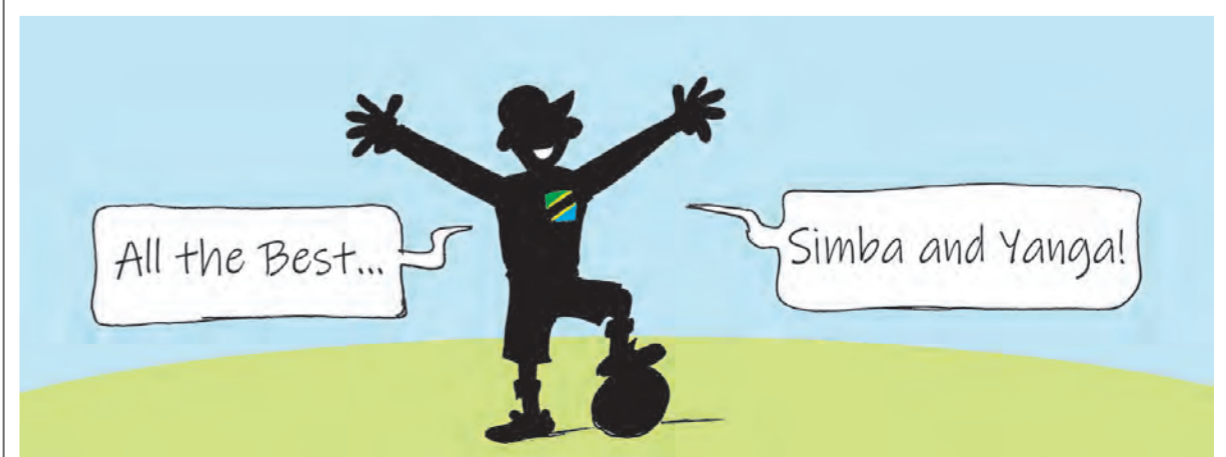
Germany, meanwhile, can only be thankful that it has automatic entry to the tournament as the host nation. Hansi Flick was fired as coach after a 4-1 loss to Japan in a friendly.

Flick was already under pressure after the Germans were eliminated in the group stage of last year's World Cup – the second straight time the four-time champions had gone out in the first round.

The loss to Japan extended a five-game winless streak and prompted jeers from the home crowd in Wolfsburg. But there was an immediate reaction to Flick's departure as Germany beat World Cup finalist France 2-1 in another friendly on Tuesday.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Man United manager
Ten Hag hit by a slew of
problems in a troubled
start to the season**

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Arusha center sends young footballer to Madrid for trials

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is about to produce another professional soccer player to field for European teams.

A young Tanzanian soccer player, Razack Bashiri, aged only 17, has just flown from Arusha to Madrid for trials at the Spanish Football Institute.

Bashiri, who was being groomed at the Future Stars Academy (FSA), was selected during the East Africa Youth Soccer Tourney, known as Chipkiz Cup, usually held in Arusha every December.

He will be practicing in Spain for two weeks. The young footballer hails from the Milongo area, quite far from the urban center, and used to hitch-hike his way from the village to the sporting institute in Arusha.

"Razack essentially is on the fast track to play in major European Leagues," the Director of Future Stars Academy, Alfred Itaeli, disclosed.

According to Itaeli, the Future Stars Academy has already produced an international footballer, Novatus Dismas, again from Arusha.

The gifted midfielder had started in Israel and was thereafter signed by Belgium's Zulte Waregem but now plays in Ukraine, turning out for Shakhtar Donetsk.

Dismas, a professional soccer player, also turns out for Tanzania's senior national team, Taifa Stars.

Now from the Chipkiz Cup tournament outfit, Tanzania has just produced a new candidate for international sporting events.

The country was among the three countries that have produced qualified young footballers for soccer trials in Spain.

"I am overwhelmed, this is my first international trip abroad," Bashiri stated.

The 24 youth soccer candidates were chosen from the Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe teams.

Apart from Razack from (FSA) Tanzania, others are Blessed Maposa and Mafios Chihweta from PE Academy of Zimbabwe.

They happened to be part of the 28 young soccer players who displayed remarkable skills during the previously held East Africa Youth Soccer Tourney, the 2022 Chipkiz Cup showdown held in Arusha.

During the annual tournament, soccer agents from Spain, including the Spanish Premier League (La Liga) and Spanish Football Institute (FSI), turned up in Tanzania to scout for new talents from East Africa.

The Spanish scouts who were in Arusha for the tournament included the FSI Director Pablo Verdejo, who was attending Chipkiz Cup to mainly recruit new players who will be taking on special sponsorship for sports trials in Spain.

Among the recruits were six players from Azam FC, five from Fountain Gate of Dodoma, four players from Eclat FC from DR Congo, and three players from the Future Stars Academy of Arusha.

The list also has three players from Saint Soccer of Kenya, two players from Amarigo of Uganda, and two players from JKU SC of Zanzibar.

Even though a total of 24 young soccer players were recruited for the journey to Madrid, only six have managed to fly to Spain so far.

According to Itaeli, players who have flown to Spain are those from Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Kenyan envoys have not been able to travel due to some problems related to visas, which means they may travel later this year or early 2024.

Kenya, on the other hand, is sending to Spain three young soccer players namely Charles Junior, Adrian Orig, and Chori Choul from A3T Soccer Academy of Nairobi.

Yanga, Al Merrikh braced for tense CAF Champions League first-leg battle

PAGE 19



Tanzania's Yanga midfielders, Khalid Aucho (R), and Maxi Nzengele are pictured participating in their club's training in Dar es Salaam recently, preparing for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round's first leg versus Al Merrikh of Sudan to be held in Rwanda today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC and Al Merrikh of Sudan will meet for the first leg of their CAF Champions League's Second Preliminary Round at Kigali Pelé Stadium, Kigali this afternoon.

The Tanzanian representatives, alias Yanga, will approach the game well aware they were bumped down to the second tier of continental football courtesy of a 2-1 aggregate loss to Al Merrikh's rivals, Al Hilal SC, in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round.

Al Hilal SC held out for a 1-1 draw in Dar es Salaam before winning 1-0 in the rematch that took place in Khartoum.

However, Yanga prospered in the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup where the side finished as runner-up behind Algeria's USM Alger.

This time round, they have set sight on qualifying for the CAF Champions League

Group Stage for the first time since 1998.

They made light work of ASAS Djibouti Télécom in their First Preliminary Round of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League, achieving a dominant 7-1 aggregate victory over the team from

Djibouti.

Al Merrikh is a far tougher test than the Djibouti side, though Yanga will be confident of registering positive results by banking on their supporters who have crossed the border to Rwanda.

After a successful start to the 2023-24 campaign, Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi is also expected to select a familiar lineup, but one change will be enforced- Bakari Mwamnyeto is out of the game due to family issues.

The expected absence of Mwamnyeto could see Ibrahim Abdullah 'Bacca' partner with Dickson Job at center-back in between full-backs Lomalisa Mutambala and Kouassi Yao.

Under Gamondi, Yanga looks lethal despite losing their best player from the last season as Congolese striker Fiston Mayele moved to Egyptian giants Pyramids FC.

Kennedy Musonda, Stephane Aziz Ki, Max Nzegele, and Clement Mzize have distributed the goals among them.

On the other side, the Sudanese giants are honouring their home game in the Rwandan city of Huye due to political unrest in their country which has so far left hundreds of people dead and many others displaced.

The team has been in Rwanda for the past month and has played friendly games against Rayon Sports and Kiyovu Sports to keep their players in shape.

To set a date with Yanga, Al Merrikh edged out the Republic of the Congo's Congo' AS Otoho in the First Preliminary Round.

The two teams played out a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Brazzaville on August 20 before settling for a goalless draw in the return leg in Rwanda that enabled Al Merrikh to go through on away goals rule.

Al Merrikh fans will no doubt be hoping that their team can repeat what their arch-rivals, Al Hilal, did to Yanga last year, but the manner of their two-legged success against AS Otoho was hardly convincing.

Against Yanga, they can count on history, they have qualified for the CAF Champions League Group stage in the last three seasons.

However, they finished at the bottom of the table in each of their three previous continental campaigns.

Taifa Stars eye successful spell in 2026 WC qualifying showdown

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team "Taifa Stars" assistant coach Hemed Suleiman said they have begun rigorous preparations, seeking to qualify for the FIFA World Cup finals to be played in Canada, Mexico, and the USA in 2026.

Taifa Stars has, under the tutelage of Belgo-Algerian Adel Amrouche, already qualified for 2023 AFCON slated to take place in Ivory Coast next year.

The country's envoys have a big task to ensure that they stamp a remarkable new record that is yet to be achieved.

Suleiman, nicknamed 'Morocco', voiced his remarks that the squad's technical bench has embraced intensive preparations to ensure they have the right World Cup qualification campaign.

The tactician noted: "After qualifying for

2023 AFCON, we had a shift of focus and that is drawing critical plans for World Cup qualification fixtures, this stage is tough but to propel we have to be ready from the get-go."

"We know we have work to do and we have already started preparations, we are looking at the programs to do in preparation even though our plans are waiting for the merger of other institutions so that we know how we start or what challenges we have," 'Morocco' noted.

The gaffer added: "We came close in the last World Cup qualifications but we failed to secure points in the last two games when the group was open, this time around we want to secure maximum points in the early games."

Tanzania is placed in Group E of the 2026 FIFA World Cup African Qualifiers and they must play their lungs out to earn qualification for the prestigious global

showdown.

The fixtures were made public following a draw held during the 45th CAF General Assembly in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, attended by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe.

The draw produced nine groups of six teams, and winners in each category will progress to the 2026 World Cup finals.

Tanzania's opponents in the group are Morocco, Zambia, Congo Brazzaville, Niger, and Eritrea, which will all be battling to claim entry into the world's biggest football showdown.

According to information released by the CAF, the qualifiers are scheduled to begin from November to October 2025.

Ten of the 54 national teams participating in the preliminary qualification matches will represent the continent in the finals.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

