



SMART MONEY

Northern zone records highest increase in number of SACCOS

Jubilee Health, GA Life leading in insurance claim payouts

How Wave rose to become Francophone Africa's first unicorn

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TPA mum on TICTS contract renewal

Stakeholders express reservations on performance

By Guardian Reporter

UNFPA and Britain give \$4.6m supplies for preventing teen pregnancies, deaths

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MEDICAL supplies worth \$4.6m to facilitate the provision of reproductive health services to women, men, adolescents and young people were yesterday handed to the Ministry of Health by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

UNFPA country representative Mark Schreiber said at the handing over ceremony in Dar es Salaam that the supplies were procured in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the British government, to support government efforts to meet family planning and maternal health lifesaving services. The ceremony was preceded



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango waters a tree he had just planted during the laying of the foundation stone for a building at a hospital in Kirongo Samanga ward, Rombo District, yesterday. Photo: VPO

The supplies handed over several supplies including; Jadella, NXT Implanon, Misoprostol and injectable contraceptive (Depo Provera), for lifesaving and tools for individuals to use decision making power over their own reproductive health, if and when to have children.

with the launch of UNFPA's State of World Population (SWOP) report, outlining the importance of contraceptives in reducing maternal deaths and unintended pregnancies among adolescents.

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Mgunda fever: Minister cautions over contaminated water contact

By Guardian Reporter

INTENSE public caution is a matter of urgency in the wake of a new illness which killed three people and 20 others are still undergoing treatment in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region.

During a visit to the district, Health minister Ummy Mwalimu asked people to take cautionary measures against the disease, the strange illness being given the local name 'Mgunda fever.' A team of medical experts recently formed to investigate the prevalence of the new illness has identified it

from the samples taken as 'Leptospirosis,' or field fever, she stated.

People need to avoid touching water or things contaminated with animal urine, resort to drinking clean and safe water that has been boiled or treated, she explained, affirming that two patients with signs of the disease were admitted in seclusion for their treatment.

Tests are still being made of those in contact with known patients, most of whom are free from contamination, with the minister informing

people that the disease isn't totally new as it was reported in 2014 in Buhigwe District, Kigoma Region.

Disease symptoms for leptospirosis make it among infectious diseases whose viruses are transmitted from wild animals to human beings, arising from a little bacteria known as 'Leptospira interrogans.'

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UBA Group flags off Dubai branch

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN banking institutions are further anchoring their feet into international markets with the United Bank for Africa (UBA), a Nigerian based bank operating in many African countries, extending its operations to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The bank opened the branch mid last week at the Dubai

International Financial Centre (DIFC), with a UBA statement saying that the branch will serve corporate and financial institutions as well as individual customers across the Middle East. The focus will be on correspondent banking, relationship management and advisory services.

A UBA branch in Dubai will harness trading opportunities between the Middle East,

Africa and South Asia, a trading zone that experts say it comprise of 72 countries with a total market of about three billion inhabitants and a nominal GDP of \$7.7trn. The bank has reinforced its strong trade and capital flows franchise between Africa and the rest of the world, the statement indicated.

The 70 year old bank is present in 20 African countries, along with Britain,

the United States and France, it said, highlighting that the DIFC branch has a UAE category four license regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) which oversees the special economic zone where the financial centre is located.

Tony Elumelu, a philanthropist and

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LITTLE is known on whether the government is planning to renew the lease contract for the Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS), which expires late next month.

Plasduce Mbossa, Director General of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), said in an interview yesterday that he wasn't in a position to ascertain what was likely to happen in relation to the contract, so long as no decision has been made yet.

"Contracts are a secret between two or more parties," he stated, noting that it was so far impossible to say if the contract will be extended, asking the media to remain patient for the relevant authorities to finish their work.

A well-placed official at TICTS, working with the customer service department, similarly said she wasn't in the position to speak on the matter, refraining from discussing intense lobbying on the issue both for extension and against extension of the lease agreement for another five years.

Opponents to another deal among local freight forwarders within TPA and other public agencies suggest that TICTS has failed to meet key contractual obligations like ensuring the growth of container traffic at the Dar es Salaam port by up to a third each year.

The lease agreement signed in 2017 between TICTS and TPA said that renewal upon expiry would be strictly subject to TICTS meeting at least 80 per cent performance of each of the key performance indicators agreed, citing 37 per cent growth of container traffic annually as a key element.

Critics point out that TPA data show that last year TICTS managed to deliver a lowly 0.8 per cent growth of container cargo at the port, as in 2021, TICTS handled 606,169 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container cargo, from 601,654 TEUs in 2020.

They say that over the past five years, while rival ports in the region have posted an impressive growth in container cargo, Dar es Salaam port has been underperforming, as in 2017, TICTS handled 482,836 TEUs, rising to 519,776 TEUs in 2018 and 605,002 TEUs in 2019. This is interpreted differently by other analysts, seeing it as a reflection of the country's economy; wider logistics sector attractiveness, etc.

The key comparison, Mombasa port in neighbouring Kenya recorded container traffic of 1.4m TEUs in 2019 and expects to reach two million TEUs this year, TPA and freight forwarders officials noted.

In South Africa, authorities have launched an ambitious plan to modernise the port of Durban, which will triple the port's container cargo handling capacity from around three million TEUs to 11m TEUs, they say, noting that Dar es Salaam port has been losing significant transit bound cargo for landlocked countries in eastern and southern Africa to rival ports such as Mombasa and Durban. Critics say this is 'partly due to inefficiency of the container terminal.'

The Tanzania Association of Freight Forwarders (TAFFA) go a step further, attributing apparent underperformance of Dar es Salaam port to the failure of TICTS to make major investment in equipment such as cranes, so as to speed up offloading and loading of containers from ships.

As a result of this situation, container ships parking near the shore off Masaki and Oysterbay for several days for their turn to offload cargo.

The stakeholders point at a World Bank study done a decade ago, airing the finding that inefficiencies and higher fees at the port of Dar es Salaam cost consumers more time and money than alternative ports, thus importers in neighbouring countries more frequently use the rival ports in directing incoming and outgoing cargo.

The World Bank's Tanzania Economic Up-

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TPA mum on TICTS contract renewal plan

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date (TEU) of 2013 identified "failure to invest in appropriate infrastructure" as one of the key factors for Dar es Salaam port's inefficiencies. With the container terminal contract lasting five years after an initial 10 years contract implies that equipping the port was to be done by the government. President Samia Suluhu Hassan aired criticism of Dar es Salaam port administration earlier this month for inefficiency, removing director general Eric Hamissi, with Plasduce Mbossa appointed to the position with his work cut out for him: improve efficiency. The port handles 90 per cent of Tanzanian trade and serves six landlocked countries of Malawi, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

TICTS was incorporated on April 19, 2000 and five months later it was awarded a 10-year contract to lease the container terminal, as global advisory and lending agencies wanted a change in the way the port was operating. To end an interminable debate, in the penultimate days of the third phase government in September 2005, when TICTS was halfway through its contract, the deal was extended by a whopping 15 years, an insurance cover against lobbies to stop its extension five years later.

Analysts believe the incoming leadership would have advised the outgoing president to extend the contract so that the fourth phase doesn't have to oversee a debate about the issue, as bitter criticism raged on TICTS poor performance of the container terminal and presumed loss of government revenues. Critics similarly affirm that TICTS has politically-connected local shareholding, including former cabinet minister Nazir Karamagi, while the majority part is held by Hutchison International Port Holdings Ltd of Hong Kong. Still some critics see the presence of a few top officials and businessmen as a coat of paint to give the new company an international look with a local touch, individuals well known to the government and having the right outlook for the national interest being part of the company's management and board of directors.

With these issues not being made clear, for two decades, the TICTS contract has been the subject of much controversy, with MPs and a range of stakeholders seeing the firm as a nuisance in running the port.

The National Assembly, in the heat of the regrettable Richmond scandal, a resolution in April 2008 demanding that the government annul the TICTS contract renewal as irregular. The fourth phase government predictably failed to carry out that resolution and instead extended the contract for another five years in 2017, itself signed less than a year after the then President John Magufuli directed TPA to review its contract with TICTS, saying it did not benefit the country. Prof Mussa Assad, the former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in his 2014/15 annual report, listed shortcomings in the TICTS contract, advising the government to review the lease agreement, "with a view to ensuring that public interests are protected."

Prof Assad had come into the position late in the financial year, with much of the work compiled under his predecessor, Ludovic Utouh. The 2017 contract had the government doubling the annual fee that TICTS pays for leasing the terminal from \$7m to \$14m. The fee is projected to be increased each year by 3.8 per cent in the deal. The point about TICTS being required to ensure the growth of container traffic by 37 per cent annually sort of surprises a few observers, as it is way out of touch with reality, and may have been inserted in view of the traditional opposition to a private sector agent operating the lucrative and often corrupt cargo handling function at the port.



Bimkubwa Nassor (R), a representative of Subira Nzuri seaweed farmers group, briefs Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi shortly after the president presented fishing gear and a boat at Mjini Magharibi in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

UNFPA, UK office in \$4.6m supplies for preventing teen pregnancies, deaths

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Dr Felix Bundala, the coordinator for newborn and child health in the ministry, said that reproductive health is one of the government's top priorities as stated in the 2020-2025 national development plan, in which case the donation complements government efforts to widen access to family planning services.

The supplies handed over several supplies including: Jadella, NXT Implanon, Misoprostol and injectable contraceptive (Depo Provera), for lifesaving and tools for individuals to use

decision making power over their own reproductive health, if and when to have children.

The UNFPA exercises a supplies partnership, looking forward to further engagement with the government this year in establishing a country solid compact and solidifying shared commitment of future funding for reproductive health supplies, he said.

Contraceptives need in Tanzania was not being fully met and the demand is high, he elaborated, while

Kemi Williams, the UK department's development director, said from 2015 to 2021

UNFPA and FCDO procured 53 per cent of the reproductive health supplies in Tanzania.

"We estimate that these supplies will help avoid nine million unintended pregnancies, prevent nearly one million maternal deaths, avert two million unsafe abortions and save \$756m in direct health supplies," the director projected.

Mavere Tukai, director general for Medical Store Department (MSD), said the agency's role is to ensure that the supplies are available in health centres across the

country, taking up from UNFPA executive director Dr Natalia Kanem in remarks that when individuals are able to exercise real informed choice over their health, bodies and future, they can contribute to more prosperous societies and a more sustainable, equitable and just world.

The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) 2015-2016 indicates that the country's unmet need for contraceptives stands at 22 per cent among married women aged between 15 and 49 years and 23.5 per cent among young women aged between 20 and 24 years.



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (L), exchanges greetings with the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Nabil Hajloui, at a French national Day event held at the ambassador's residence in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Mgunda fever: All must avoid contact with exposed water

FROM PAGE 1

The disease is largely prevalent in tropical regions with hot weather, where animals such as rats, wild dogs, wildbeest and others are infected and become vectors of the bacteria via water points, when water sources are polluted with urine of infected animals.

People are affected by contact with water as the bacteria can enter the human body through broken skin or eye mucous, mouth or nose. Direct infections from one person to another is less likely to occur, a ministerial statement had earlier explained.

Dr. Aifello Sichalwe, the chief medical officer, formed a joint task force team involving headquarters and Ruangwa

district council medical staff, drawn from the epidemics department, the chief government chemist, the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), upon hearing of the disease outbreak.

Last October, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) experts conducted a study which called for steps to contain an alarming rate of Leptospirosis—a little known neglected disease which is silently spreading, affecting increasing portions of the population by being too close to wildlife watering points.

SUA said in study findings that awareness of the disease was low among the general public and health care providers.

UBA Group flags off Dubai branch

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entrepreneur who chairs the UBA Group, said at the launch that with the group's foray into the Gulf region, the bank is taking the helm when it comes to doing business in Africa.

"Collaborating with our franchises in 20 African countries and the major financial centres of London, New York and Paris, the UBA DIFC branch will facilitate the financing of trade transactions between the Middle East and Africa,

enabling trade finance and investments," he said. Managing director Kennedy Uzoka said with the new branch the bank is now formally present in four continents covering 24 countries and serving over 35m customers, the only

Nigerian bank operating in the Gulf zone. Obtaining the Dubai licence shows that UBA is a strong franchise, expanding its reach across the world, he declared. Branch CEO Vikrant Bhansali said that trade, commerce and investments in Africa

were expanding in the Gulf Region and Asia. Leveraging the presence of UBA Group in global financial centres, the branch will enhance the ability of the group to facilitate access of Gulf investors and banks to African markets, he added.

Study planned on why people often reluctant to write wills

By Getrude Mbagi

THE government is planning to conduct a special assessment study to further find out major reasons pushing people not to write wills and later come up with robust strategies to address the gap and increase awareness to the public.

Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Mary Makondo made the statement yesterday in Dar es Salaam when opening the stakeholders meeting organised by the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA).

According to her, many conflicts that occur in families especially after the demise of key family members were caused due to lack of wills.

"Unfortunately once parents die and don't leave any statement on properties or wills, women and children are the most victims of this as many of them end up be-

ing chased by family members with children failing to continue with studies, something which ruins their whole life," she said.

She said RITA has already prepared a special questionnaire and will soon conduct the assessment which will come up with more evidence to enable the government act accordingly.

"The ministry has directed RITA to prepare a special proposal that highlights major strategic plans to facilitate sustainable and smooth identification and registration of key life events which also include finding out challenges on will writing," she said.

She further called for collective efforts from stakeholders and partners to heavily educate the public on the importance of writing wills so as to help reduce 'unnecessary' conflicts in the society.

Makondo further said identification and registration of key life events is important in

supporting the government plan well for its people.

"We have organised this meeting to discuss and share ideas on building more resilient systems that provide innovative, integrated and decentralised services," she said.

Angela Anatory, chief executive officer of RITA said the agency provides a number of services apart from registering key life events.

"RITA also works in the administration of deceased estates, custodian of properties of minors who have no guardian, incorporation of trusts, writing and keeping of wills, so the public should seize these services," she said.

She said RITA has so far kept in custody about 600 wills across the country since the inception of this service in 2008 and is encouraging more people to prepare theirs for the agency to keep and supervise them.

She said the agency will also conduct a study to further find out why people are not writing wills and later invest in more innovative strategies to increase awareness to the public.

She said the agency will continue investing in digital systems so as to facilitate smooth provision of services by serving those in urban areas and reaching all in the rural areas.

Angela cited an example of the ongoing gender-responsive simplified birth registration system to register children under the age of five which is paying positive outcomes in all the 23 regions which the programme has reached.

Implemented by the government in collaboration with partners such as UNICEF, Tigo and the Canadian government, the programme aims to reach all under-five children across the country.

"Under the system children can be registered and given

birth certificates at a short time in ward offices and health centres compared to the previous time when parents had to travel to reach district officers to get the service," she said.

She noted that since the programme commenced in 2013, a total of 7.7 million children under the age of five have been registered and given birth certificates across 23 regions in Tanzania Mainland.

"As a public entity we are working hard to ensure that the public get better and competitive services and meet people's expectations, hence contribut-

ing immensely to the country's industrialisation agenda. This is also in line with the working spirit of the sixth-phase government," she said.

UNICEF Tanzania official Maud Droogleeve Fortuijn said the birth and deaths registration is vital as it helps the government to plan well for its people and the country.

"Tanzania is a key partner to us; we have been supporting Rita to have the best gender responsive systems for smooth identification of key life events and well we will continue supporting the country in various development initiatives," she said.



UNFPA country representative (in Tanzania) Mark Bryan Schreiner (C), Health ministry maternal and child health coordinator Dr Felix Bundala (R) and FCDO (UKAID) director of development Kemi Williams hold one of the boxes of reproductive health drugs worth US\$4.6 million extended as assistance to the ministry at a function held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tender No. SOSCV/AR/2022/DITCH/01

For

The purchase of Brand New Program Vehicles – Toyota Land cruiser Hard Top five doors with bull bar winch for SOS Children's Village Arusha

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 18/07/2022

- The SOS Children's Village has set aside funds to procure two program Vehicles Toyota Land Cruiser Hardtop five doors with bull bar winch
 - The SOS Children's Village now invites sealed tenders from various registered firms for the supply of the vehicles
 - You may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at SOS Children's Village Arusha located at Ngaramtoni within Arusha District Council at Arusha P.O. Box 13196 Arusha from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
 - Tendering will be conducted through SOS Procurement Policy.
 - A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers upon submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS: 50,000= Or it's equivalent.
- All payments to be done directly to ABSA Bank, Ohio Branch, SOS Children's Villages Tanzania Trust, A/C 001-4009337
- Deposit slip to be submitted with tender documents to SOS Children's Village Arusha located at Ngaramtoni – Arusha District Council P.O. Box 13196 Arusha
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a tender securing declaration in the form provided in the tender forms
 - All tenders, one original plus three copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes clearly marked "TENDER NO. SOSCV/AR/2022/DITCH/01 FOR THE PURCHASE OF BRAND NEW PROGRAM VEHICLES – TOYOTA LAND CRUISER HARD TOP FIVE DOORS WITH A BULL BAR WINCH FOR SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE ARUSHA" should be addressed to SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, P.O. BOX 13196 Arusha Tanzania to reach at SOS CHILDRENS VILLAGE within Fourteen (14) calendar days. Tenders will be opened thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at SOS CHILDREN VILLAGE AT NGARAMTONI WITHIN ARUSHA DISTRICT AT ARUSHA
 - Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE,
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES, P.O. BOX 13196
ARUSHA, TANZANIA

2106946302

Address challenges facing Kibong'oto Hospital - VP

By Guardian Correspondent, Siha

THE Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango, has directed the Health ministry to make sure all problems facing the Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region are solved as quickly as possible to provide better services to the people.

Among the challenges that need prompt solutions include dilapidated infrastructures, shortage of staff and modern equipment and its continuing to be dependent even though it was named to be the National Infectious Diseases Hospital.

During his working visit in Kilimanjaro region, Dr Mpango said as far as the government is concerned, the institution is strategic, and added that there is need for the ministry to ensure it gets all its requirements including modern testing equipment.

"The issue of dilapidated infrastructure as well as budget constraints was addressed in the current budget, but I understand that Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu expects to get money from the global fund and The Center of Disease Control and Privation hence you should make sure this hospital receives first priority in regard to funds allocation.


The Ministry should liaise with the Office of the President (Public Service Management) to see how it can increase human resources even though not to 100 per cent.

"And regarding the hospital becoming self-reliant, I should say that you should make sure the process is completed because I understand it had already begun and I suggest its completion should be within the current Fiscal Year," said Dr Mpango.

He also called on the ministry to improve its monitoring system on patients suffering from communicable diseases to make sure any reports in the country are promptly addressed in time.

"Continue to be close to the people especially at dispensaries and health centres, especially in regard to TB sufferers as the disease is curable as 93 per cent of sufferers recover," he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister in the ministry said the government has provided funds to all local councils nationwide. Health centres in 234 divisions involving more than 117bn/-.



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Customer Tariffs

Range (TSH)		Customer fee (TSH)											
		Send to HaloPesa			Send to Other Networks			Send to Unregistered Networks			Withdraw		
From	To	HaloPesa Fee	Government levy fee	Total fee	HaloPesa Fee	Government levy fee	Total fee	HaloPesa Fee	Government levy fee	Total fee	HaloPesa Fee	Government levy fee	Total fee
100	999	10	10	20	10	10	20	-	10	10	-	10	N/A
1,000	1,999	20	10	30	32	10	42	350	10	360	300	10	310
2,000	2,999	20	10	30	32	10	42	380	10	390	300	10	310
3,000	3,999	50	15	65	63	15	78	475	15	490	400	15	415
4,000	4,999	55	30	85	77	30	107	530	30	560	500	30	530
5,000	6,999	130	60	190	162	60	222	710	60	770	780	60	840
7,000	9,999	130	70	200	162	70	232	790	70	860	780	70	850
10,000	14,999	320	128	448	450	128	578	1,250	128	1,378	1,200	128	1,328
15,000	19,999	320	243	563	450	243	693	1,250	243	1,493	1,200	243	1,443
20,000	29,999	360	383	743	495	383	878	1,550	383	1,933	1,500	383	1,883
30,000	39,999	370	439	809	558	439	997	1,620	439	2,059	1,600	439	2,039
40,000	49,999	380	599	979	648	599	1,247	1,800	599	2,399	2,100	599	2,699
50,000	99,999	580	818	1,398	900	818	1,718	2,350	818	3,168	2,500	818	3,318
100,000	199,999	700	1,009	1,709	1,350	1,009	2,359	2,750	1,009	3,759	3,300	1,009	4,309
200,000	299,999	750	1,173	1,923	1,620	1,173	2,793	4,200	1,173	5,373	4,500	1,173	5,673
300,000	399,999	950	1,397	2,347	1,800	1,397	3,197	5,600	1,397	6,997	5,500	1,397	6,897
400,000	499,999	1,200	1,636	2,836	1,980	1,636	3,616	6,600	1,636	8,236	6,000	1,636	7,636
500,000	599,999	1,300	2,075	3,375	2,520	2,075	4,595	7,500	2,075	9,575	6,400	2,075	8,475
600,000	699,999	1,400	2,554	3,954	2,880	2,554	5,434	7,600	2,554	10,154	7,000	2,554	9,554
700,000	799,999	1,400	2,833	4,233	2,880	2,833	5,713	7,650	2,833	10,483	7,000	2,833	9,833
800,000	899,999	1,750	3,000	4,750	3,150	3,000	6,150	8,100	3,000	11,100	7,500	3,000	10,500
900,000	1,000,000	1,750	3,551	5,301	3,150	3,551	6,701	8,300	3,551	11,851	7,500	3,551	11,051
1,000,001	3,000,000	3,000	3,751	6,751	3,600	3,751	7,351	8,300	3,751	12,051	7,500	3,751	11,251
Above 3,000,000		3,000	4,000	7,000	4,500	4,000	8,500	8,300	4,000	12,300	7,500	4,000	11,500



DON BOSCO TECHNICAL COLLEGE DODOMA

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TRAINING FACILITIES TO BE BUILT ON PLOT No. 14 & 15, BLOCK No. 'K', MBWANGA, DODOMA MUNICIPALITY - TANZANIA

Tender number: DBTTC/0002/2021-22

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Date: [19th July 2022]

1. Executive Director of Don Bosco Technical Training College-Dodoma invites sealed tenders for the **Proposed construction of Training Facilities to be built on Plot No. 14 & 15, Block No. 'K', Mbwanga, Dodoma Municipality, Tanzania.**
2. The Executive Director of Don Bosco Technical Training College-Dodoma now invites sealed Tenders from eligible National contractors registered or capable of being registered in **Class ONE (1) in BUILDING WORKS and Class FOUR (4) and above in CIVIL WORKS** for carrying out the **Proposed construction of Training Facilities to be built on Plot No. 14 & 15, Block No. 'K', Mbwanga, Dodoma Municipality, Tanzania.**

The project consists of the following works: -

- Construction of Administration Building
 - Construction of Restaurant Building
 - Construction of Workshop Building
 - Associated Building Engineering Services installations that is, Electrical, Plumbing (and drainage), Security System and Fire Alarm (Detection and Fire Fighting), and Voice and Data (ICT) Cabling Installations.
3. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering (NCT) specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, Government Notice No.446 of 2013, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
 4. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Executive Director of Don Bosco Technical Training College-Dodoma at Miyuji, P.O. Box 964, Dodoma from 0900 hours and 1530hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
 5. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets will be obtained by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above.
 6. All Tenders must be accompanied by Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the Tender price or an equivalent amount in a freely-convertible currency.
 7. All Tenders in **ONE ORIGINAL HANDWRITTEN [INKED] HARDCOPY and a softcopy of Bills of Quantities in a CD or flash disk in Excel format [and not in PDF]**, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Executive Director of Don Bosco Technical Training College-Dodoma at Miyuji, P.O. Box 964, at 1200hours, **Tuesday, 2nd August 2022.** Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend the opening at the Executive Director's Offices at Miyuji, Dodoma.
 8. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Fr. BONIFACE MCHAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DON BOSCO TECHNICAL TRAINING COLLEGE DODOMA

216949501



DON BOSCO OYSTERBAY VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC)

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOMS AND WORKSHOPS TO BE BUILT OYERSTABAY V.TC DAR ES SALAAM- TANZANIA

Tender number: DBTTC/0003/2021-22

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Date: [19th July 2022]

1. Executive Director of Don Bosco Oysterbay Vocational Training Centre (VTC) invites sealed tenders for the **Proposed construction of Training Facilities to be built at Don Bosco Oysterbay VTC, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania.**
2. The Executive Director of Don Bosco Oysterbay VTC now invites sealed Tenders from eligible National contractors registered or capable of being registered in **Class FIVE (5) in BUILDING WORKS for carrying out the Proposed construction of Training Facilities to be built on Plot No. 1830 Msasani, Dar Es Salaam-Tanzania.**

The project consists of the following works: -

- Construction of Classrooms
 - Construction of Workshop Building
 - Associated Building Engineering Services installations that is, Electrical, Plumbing (and drainage),
3. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering (NCT) specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, Government Notice No.44,6 of 2013, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
 4. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Executive Director of the Registered Trustees of the Salesians of Don Bosco Tanzania at Oysterbay, P.O. Box 32770, Dar es Salaam from 0900 hours and 1530hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
 5. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only (Tzs. 100,000.00).** Payment should either be by Cash, Banker's Draft, or Banker's Cheque, payable to the Permanent Secretary.
 6. All Tenders must be accompanied by Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount equivalent to 2.5% of the Tender price or an equivalent amount in a freely-convertible currency.
 7. All Tenders in **ONE ORIGINAL HANDWRITTEN [INKED] HARDCOPY and a softcopy of Bills of Quantities in a CD or flash disk in Excel format [and not in PDF]**, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address at Executive Director, The Registered Trustees of Salesians of Don Bosco Tanzania, P.O. Box 32770, Dar es Salaam at 1400hours, **Tuesday, 2nd August 2022.** Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who are to attend the opening at the Executive Director's Offices at Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam.
 8. The Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, and Tenders not opened at the Tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Fr. BABU AUGUSTINE
RECTOR AND PRINCIPAL
THE RECTOR AND PRINCIPAL OF DON BOSCO OYSTERBAY

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Adopt ethical behaviour, court officials advised

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA High Court Registrar, Wilbert Chuma has called on court officials to adopt ethical behaviour in their duties and avoid acts that will stain their respect to the society they serve.

Chuma said in regard to magistrates, it would be better to adhere to

ethics that basically require them to reduce friends and spurn many social issues including WhatsApp groups, business associates and other social groups that can stain the judiciary.

Chuma made the remarks in Lushoto yesterday when opening training seminar to assistant resident magistrates for court records recently employed.

He called on the new employees to build the habit of learning and understanding the judicial culture and live by it while abiding by duty limitations and respecting other parameters.

Chuma stressed that work discipline also goes in tandem in respecting fellow officials and to make sure the judiciary continues to be accepted by the community it serves to attain

its vision.

The High Court Registrar added that magistrates must understand that they are also public officials who are supposed to make sure when in court they do not humiliate and disrespect people irrespective whether these are advocates, witnesses, accused persons, court officials or even fellow magistrates.

He also called on the new employees to cooperate with the other officials they will find at their work stations so as to make sure the judiciary continues to provide excellent service in regard to the dispensation of justice.

The new officials will have the opportunity to learn issues that touch their personal lives for example to

protect themselves against stress and adopt self-discipline in regard to personal financial expenditure and other issues.

They will also be taught issues concerning their professions including hearing of civil and criminal cases, cases on inheritance, marriages, divorce, writing of judgements and sentencing.



Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo (R) briefs Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (3rd-L) at a Farmers' Field Day event held at the institute's Hombolo Centre in Dodoma Region yesterday. The Day was meant to introduce farmers to organic mineral fertilisers recently produced by ITRACOM Fertilisers Ltd. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

Task force reviewing gender policy told to engage more stakeholders

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DR DOROTHY Gwajima, the Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups has called upon a task force that has been reviewing women and gender development policy to go back to stakeholders for more opinions.

Dr Gwajima made the remarks when receiving the report from the task force in Dar es Salaam at the weekend while praising it for the work already done.

At the event Dr Gwajima was accompanied by her deputy, Mwanaidi Ali Khamis, Permanent Secretary Dr Zainab Chaula, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Dr Amon Mpanju and other min-

istry's officials.

She said there is need to get more opinions from various stakeholders from various groups, including men because in order for the policy to become meaningful it is necessary to reach all stakeholders for their views.

Contributing to the debate after submission of the report, an expert on gender issues, Prof Linda Mhando from Interfiri Ltd, Dr Gwajima said the policy will be meaningful if this was done.

"When we prepare this policy, it is necessary to interrelate with other crosscutting ministries, for instance the ministry dealing with youth that is now under the Prime Minister's Office," Dr Gwajima said.

Meanwhile, her deputy, Mwanaidi Ali Khamis said it is important to engage various stakeholders who are capable to provide professional advice as quickly as possible.

In the same vein, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula said it is essential to look into civil society organisations (CSOs) so that anyone with views for improving the policy should incorporate them in order to satisfy the nation's needs.

At the end of June this year, the Ministry Permanent Secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula formed a 10-man task force led by the Acting Director of the Gender Development Department, Grace Mwangwa to review the 2000 policy.

WWF director stresses need for government to invest in infrastructure to protect environment

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

WWF Tanzania Deputy Country Director, Dr Lawrence Mbwambo has suggested the need for the government to invest sustainably in infrastructure to protect the country's environment and support people's livelihoods.

Dr Mbwambo made the suggestion in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a two-day capacity building training organised for the Capital Market and Security Authority (CMSA) staff on environmental and social impact for markets and bonds.

Dr Mbwambo who is the WWF conservation director said that to have sustainable investment and infrastructure while protecting environment can benefit the people economically and socially as well.

The training programmes are meant to protect both environment and livelihoods by finding ways to improve the management and productivity of the land whilst sustaining the unique biodiversity.

He noted that WWF is working with the CMSA staff to support the capacity building and awareness on the Environmental and Social impacts for markets and bonds, Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) on finance.

"This is part of awareness sessions towards the development

of ESG Framework to guide sustainable financing to the capital market and financial institutions," he said, noting that sustainable financing is part of the activities whereby the programme is working with the financial sectors in the promotion of sustainable banking principles, green financing products, development of frameworks as well as regulations and policies towards sustainable financing.

"As WWF we're here to help local communities conserve the natural resources they depend upon, transform markets and policies toward sustainability and protect and restore species and their habitats and our goal is to ensure that the value of nature is reflected in decision-making from a local to a global scale," he noted.

CMSA Director General Nicodemus Mkama said investors need to use the resources available at the area while preserving the environment because it has a social impact for the market and the country at large.

"Through the training we'll be able to widen our understanding on the concept of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in capital markets and bonds as well as the process of development of ESG framework based on the experience from Kenya Capital Market," he noted.

Mwanza allocates 2.3bn/- in loans to women, youth, PwDs in 2022/23 FY

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

MWANZA Region has set aside over 2.3/- billion to entrepreneurial groups as part of 10 per cent of local revenue that should be issued to youth, women, and people with special needs.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Mwanza Region Commissioner Eng Robert Gabriel said that the loans are part of the government support in the 2022/23 financial year.

"I advised the borrowers to make sure they repay that loan on time so that other groups can access it in the future," he said.

He noted: "I urge all group members who will benefit from the loans to use the funds for the intended purpose."

Gabriel also called upon borrowers to carry out development activities instead of using the funds for activities other than the group's objectives, which could lead to failure to repay the loan.

He has also ordered other beneficiary groups that received loans in past years and moved outside the region to come back and repay the loans so as to assist other groups who are in need.

"Next week, I'm planning to meet a number of groups who have taken the loans about three years ago, I advise them to surrender to my office and arrange a good payment method," the RC said.

He also said that his efforts in a special operation of only 5 months have enabled the return of over 1.04bn from the entrepreneurship groups who received the loans.

"We are still on special operations to ensure that all the money that was given to women, youth and disabled groups are returned so as to be given to others," he said.

NATIONAL INVESTMENTS PLC



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Business Review and Dividends

- Company's Investment Income up by 59.85% to TZS 5.689 billion recorded in year 2021, year 2020, TZS 3.559 billion. The increase was attributed by increase in interest income from Government Bond and Dividend Income.
- Administrative expenses down by 19.87% from TZs 1.68 billion in year 2020 to TZS 1.323 billion in the year 2021. The decrease was mainly resulted by controlled expenses and open vacancies.
- Profit before tax up by 144% to TZS 4.098 billion recorded in year 2021 against profit of TZS 1.683 billion year 2020.
- Value of Equity Investments decreased by nearly 30% from TZS 80.997 billion to TZS 57.123 billion recorded in the year 2021. The decrease was mainly attributed by decrease in NMB share price which was recorded at TZS 2,000 per share as at 31 December 2021. However, as at June 2022, NMB Share price has significantly increased to TZS 3,120 per share.
- Interim dividend of TZS 17 per share out of profit for the year 2021 was approved by Shareholders on 3rd December 2021, dividend payment was accordingly paid on 30th December 2021.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
	2021 TZS "000"	2020 TZS "000"
Investments Income		
Dividend Income	4,354,438	3,506,247
Interest Income	1,335,510	52,330
Total Investment Income	5,689,948	3,558,578
Total Income	5,689,948	3,558,578
Administrative Expenses	(1,323,233)	(1,651,399)
Other Operating Expenses	(256,495)	(223,812)
Total Operating Profit	4,110,220	1,683,367
Finance Costs	(11,242)	-
Profit before taxation	4,098,979	1,683,367
Tax Charge	(221,992)	(175,312)
Profit for the year	3,876,987	1,508,055
Other Comprehensive Income/Loss:		
Items that will not be classified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Fair value revaluation loss on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(8,429,678)	(155,014)
Loss on sale of equity investments	(4,224,000)	(677,672)
	(12,653,678)	(832,686)
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year net of tax	(8,776,691)	675,370
Dividend:		
Interim dividend for 2021/2020	(1,047,792)	(477,720)
Earnings per share:		
Basic and diluted earnings per share	62.90	21.80

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY					
	Share capital	Share premium	Available for sale investments reserve	Retained earnings	Total
Year ended 31 December 2021	TZS '000	TZS '000	TZS '000	TZS '000	TZS '000
At start of year	8,645,647	647,342	71,548,081	2,016,622	82,857,692
Profit for the year	-	-	-	3,876,987	3,876,987
Adjustment of share register	(940,043)	940,043	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax:					
Cumulative fair value gain of disposed equity investments	-	-	(10,269,600)	10,269,600	-
Loss in fair value of equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	(8,429,678)	-	(8,429,678)
Loss on disposed equity investments	-	-	(4,224,000)	-	(4,224,000)
Transactions with owners:					
Dividends:					
Interim dividend for 2021	-	-	-	(1,047,792)	(1,047,792)
At end of year	7,705,604	1,587,385	48,624,803	15,115,417	73,033,209
Year ended 31 December 2020					
At start of year	8,645,647	647,342	74,195,526	(828,472)	82,660,043
Profit for the year	-	-	-	1,508,055	1,508,055
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax:					
Fair value gain of disposed equity investments	-	-	(1,814,759)	1,814,759	-
Loss in fair value of equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	-	(155,014)	-	(155,014)
Loss on disposed equity investments	-	-	(677,672)	-	(677,672)
Transactions with owners:					
Dividends:					
- Final dividend for 2020	-	-	-	(477,720)	(477,720)
At end of year	8,645,647	647,342	71,548,081	2,016,622	82,857,692

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	2021 TZS "000"	2020 TZS "000"
Equity and Liabilities		
Capital and Reserve		
Share capital	7,705,604	8,645,647
Share premium	1,587,385	647,342
Retained earnings	15,115,417	2,016,622
Available for sale investments reserve	48,624,803	71,548,081
Equity attributable to owners of the company	73,033,209	82,857,693
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	31,822	-
	73,065,031	82,857,693
REPRESENTED BY		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	1,694,972	1,658,463
Right of use asset	95,787	-
Equity Investments	57,123,378	80,997,056
Government Bonds	15,400,196	1,093,450
	74,314,333	83,748,969
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	259,435	68,773
Cash and cash equivalents	636,834	769,106
	896,269	837,879
Current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	41,815	-
Trade and other payables	1,039,956	999,454
Dividend Payable	1,063,790	729,701
	2,145,571	1,729,155
Net current liabilities	(1,249,302)	(891,276)
	73,065,031	82,857,693

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
	2021 TZS '000	2020 TZS '000
Operating Activities		
Cash from operations	2,684,879	670,739
Tax paid	(221,992)	(175,312)
Net cash from operating activities	2,462,887	495,427
Investing Activities		
Cash paid for purchase of property, plant and equipment	(68,629)	(13,446)
Proceeds from disposal of equity investments	11,220,000	1,869,440
Government bonds income received	(648,788)	-
Interest received on fixed deposit	46,033	-
Interest income from government bonds	1,289,477	-
Net cash from/ (used in) investing activities	11,838,093	1,855,994
Financing Activities		
Cash paid for purchase of Government Bonds	(13,657,957)	(1,041,120)
Dividend paid to owners of the Company	(713,703)	(613,834)
Payments of principal portion of the lease liabilities	(61,592)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	(14,433,252)	(1,654,954)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(132,272)	696,467
Movement in cash and cash equivalents		
At start of year	769,106	72,638
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(132,272)	696,467
At end of year	636,834	769,106

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and Tanzania Companies Act 2002, and give a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2021. These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by order of the Board of Directors and were signed on its behalf by:

Dr. Gideon H Kaunda
Chairman

Mr. George Nchwall
Director

PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR GOODS, WORKS AND NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

NAME OF PROCURING AND DISPOSAL ENTITY: STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR

Description	2022-2023																				Plan vs. Actual
	Tender No.	Number of lots	BASIC DATA	Advertisement / General Procurement Notice	PRE QUALIFICATION						Bidding Document		Invitation for Bids and Evaluation				Contract Finalization				
					DOCUMENT		INVITATION		EVALUATION		Preparation and Submission by PDMU	Approval by Tender Board	Invitation for Bidding		Bid Evaluation and approval of award		Date notification of Award	Date Contract Signature			
					Preparation by PDMU	Approval by Tender Board	Invitation Date	Closing-Opening	Evaluation Submission Report of	Approval by Tender Board			Bid Invitation Date	Bid Closing-Opening	Bid Evaluation Report	Approval by TB					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
PURCHASE AND SUPPLY ICT EQUIPMENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/001	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	9/5/22	9/9/22	Plan		
CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS	SMZ/K0108/W/NCB/2022-2023/002	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/16/22	8/19/22	8/23/22	10/4/22	10/13/22	10/19/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
SUPPLY OF STATIONERY	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/003	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	9/13/22	9/30/22	Plan		
SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/004	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
PROCURE CHEMICAL REAGENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/005	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/30/22	9/2/22	9/7/22	9/9/22	10/7/22	10/13/22	11/10/22	11/29/22	Plan		
PROCURE LABORATORY EQUIPMENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/006	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/30/22	9/2/22	9/7/22	9/9/22	10/7/22	10/13/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
PROCURE TEACHING MATERIALS FOR ANIMAL DISEASE	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/002	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/2/22	8/4/22	8/9/22	8/11/22	8/16/22	8/18/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
PROCURE LIVESTOCK FEEDS FOR CHICKEN AND OTHER POULTRY AND DAIRY CATTLE	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/003	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/12/22	8/17/22	8/20/22	8/23/22	9/6/22	9/15/22	12/22/22	1/10/23	Plan		
PROCURE ITEMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF GRASSLAND	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2021-2022/004	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/13/22	8/18/22	8/23/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/2/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	Plan		
PROCURE DAIRY CATTLE ,SHEEP,GOAT AND IMPROVEMENT	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/007	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/13/22	8/18/22	8/23/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/2/22	10/20/22	11/1/22	Plan		
PROCUREMENT OF SEED, FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2021-2022/11	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/16/22	8/18/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/2/22	9/6/22	11/4/22	11/15/22	Plan		
PROCURE OF POULTRY UNIT MATERIALS	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/12	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/16/22	8/18/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/2/22	9/6/22	12/16/22	12/22/22	Plan		
PROCURE DRUGS MATERIAL FOR DAIRY CATTLE	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/13	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/2/22	9/5/22	9/8/22	9/12/22	9/15/22	9/19/22	2/1/23	2/7/23	Plan		
PROCURE TEACHING MATERIAL FOR PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/14	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/2/22	8/4/22	8/9/22	8/11/22	8/16/22	8/18/22	9/27/22	9/30/22	Plan		
PROCUREMENT OF MEET INSPECTION AND FISH FARMING ANATOMY TEACHINNG	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/16	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/22/22	9/26/22	9/29/22	10/3/22	10/6/22	10/11/22	9/20/22	9/27/22	Plan		
PROCURE SHEEP AND GOAT EQUIPMENT FOR TEACHING	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/17	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/22/22	9/26/22	9/29/22	10/3/22	10/6/22	10/11/22	9/13/22	9/16/22	Plan		
PROCUREMENT OF ANIMALS BREEDING MATERIALS	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/18	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/11/22	8/16/22	8/19/22	8/24/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/6/22	9/9/22	Plan		
PROCURE ITEMS FOR ESTABLISHING AND PROMOTE ORGANIC FARMING	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/20	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/19/22	9/22/22	9/28/22	9/30/22	10/3/22	10/6/22	11/25/22	12/6/22	Plan		
SUPPLY OF LIBRARY EQUIPMENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/06	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/12/22	10/18/22	10/21/22	11/22/22	11/25/22	11/30/22	3/3/22	3/8/23	Plan		
PROCURE MATERIALS FOR GRAZING LAND	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/012	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/11/22	8/16/22	8/19/22	8/24/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
SUPPLY OF PLUMBING AND WATER EQUIPMENTS	SMZ/K0108/G/OO/2022-2023/007	N/A	OQ	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	1/31/23	2/3/23	Plan		
PROCURE LOUNDRY AND HOUSE KEEPING MATERIALS	SMZ/K0108/G/OO/2022-2023/008	N/A	OQ	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/15/21	8/19/22	8/24/22	9/1/22	9/5/22	9/9/22	12/6/22	12/12/22	Plan		
MAINTANANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES	SMZ/K0108/G/OO/2022-2023/008	N/A	OQ	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	12/6/22	12/12/22	Plan		
SUPPLY OF FURNITURE	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/009	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/20/22	9/23/22	9/28/22	10/27/22	11/1/22	11/4/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
SUPPLY OF CLEANING MATERIALS	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/010	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	4/7/23	4/13/23	Plan		
PROCURE EXCAVATION FACILITY	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/021	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22/8/2022	26/8/2022	30/2/2022	5/9/22	26/9/2022	29/9/2022	1/9/23	1/13/23	Actual		
SUPPLY OF NEWS PAPER	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/011	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11/17/22	11/22/22	11/25/22	12/6/22	12/13/22	12/19/22	5/8/23	5/12/23	Actual		
PROVISSION OF REFILL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS SERVICES	SMZ/K0108/NC/MV/2022-2023/012	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	31/8/2022	6/9/22	9/9/22	13/9/2022	16/9/2022	21/9/2022	9/19/22	9/23/22	Plan		
IRE ITEMS FOR PROMOTING AFRICAN INDIGINOUS VEG	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/025	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/15/22	9/21/22	9/27/22	10/5/22	10/11/22	10/13/22	12/16/22	12/22/22	Plan		
SUPPLY OF ALLUMINIUM AND GLASS EQUIPMENT	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/023	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/27/22	9/29/22	10/1/22	10/7/22	10/20/22	10/29/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
PROCURE GOVERNMENT FLAG	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/012	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/10/22	10/13/22	10/19/22	11/11/22	11/16/22	11/29/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		
SUPPLY OF CAR	SMZ/K0108/G/NCB/2022-2023/0013	N/A	NCB	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/3/23	1/6/23	1/11/23	1/18/23	1/24/23	1/27/23	3/2/23	3/9/23	Plan		
PROCURE OF EXCUVATION FACILITIES	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/001	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/3/22	9/7/22	9/12/22	9/14/22	9/19/22	9/22/22	5/11/23	5/18/23	Plan		
PROCURE OF FIRST AID KIDS	SMZ/K0108/G/MV/2022-2023/002	N/A	MV	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/3/22	8/9/22	8/12/22	8/26/22	8/31/22	9/2/22	6/21/23	6/27/23	Plan		
PROVISSION OF FUMIGATION SERVICES	SMZ/K0108/NC/OO/2022-2023/014	N/A	OQ	20/7/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8/11/22	11/18/22	8/24/22	8/30/22	9/2/22	9/7/22	13/10/2022	18/10/2022	Plan		

Fuel procuring competition usable with ample supplies

It appears that the debate on bulk oil procurement will not end anytime soon even after the government made some decisions towards the closure of the recent Budget sessions of the National Assembly.

Top officials of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) have been at pains to remind stakeholders agitating for competition in fuel procurement to admit that the bulk procurement system guarantees security and quality of fuel alongside promoting and indeed ensuring price stability.

The tone of recent remarks to that end may have had an element of surprise in it, with some people not quite sure at which platforms issues were being set out and which they were being analysed and settled.

For one thing, the earlier phase of the debate was resolved with the government decision to keep bulk procurement, but with a proviso that companies that can find lower purchase sources be free to import fuel and sell it at the same indicative prices or less than the bulk import stock - for them to clear their cargo fast.

The proviso would appear to settle the issue, but it is coming back because there are voices which are pushing the idea of competition as a value in itself, ignoring the tendering contest and wishing for a free market of oil imports. What it implies is that these are unhappy with the solution provided, so start again.

Why is this so? The reason can be fairly simple: that the easiest way to create a class of new billionaires within months is to free the oil importation market and let those importing and retailing sell the community at prices they please. Public opinion is primed for sharp price rises so to speak, that some quarters will say that it is all not due to a scheme to tear up bulk procurement but due to the war in Ukraine affecting

global supplies and thus prices.

Those who want to make a quick buck often take a ride with public common sense or government ability to reason, wishing that it simply dictates in line with their interests - and it is doubly so if some indigenous firms want to import oil.

The benefits of the bulk importation system for fuel are well known and acknowledged, while the contested issue is the extent to which competition might help in the current situation.

Here it is evident that the hallowed idea of competition is chiefly being used to snare authorities into tearing up bulk procurement so that competition can work, which is inaccurate.

If the bulk importer is buying a tonne of oil at say one million US dollars and a "crafty" importer can find such supplies for anything less, the latter can buy it, sell at some percentage points less than cap indicative prices and thus obtain a super profit in return.

But the stakeholders aren't rushing to do this, apparently. The reason is that such supplies are hard to locate or are in fact non-existent, and so they want bulk procurement out, first.

What is hence evident is that there is room for competition even with bulk procurement but traders or deal makers aren't pursuing that niche partly because they aren't after good business beneficial to the country.

So let it be said that if the idea of competition is workable in periods of tight supplies and high prices as at the moment, let it be seen directly, as any number of companies sure of market outlets on the basis of the prices they will be demanding can obtain bank credit for large imports and do a 'killing' in the market.

Demanding that bulk importation be rescinded to give way to competition would have some relation to the Pied Piper of Hamelin fairy tale.

Food price stress routine, not same as supply crisis

THERE is some disquiet over the prices of grain and other staple foods, especially maize, which are said to be rising in many parts of the country.

This is understandable as any resulting shortage would naturally make it difficult for some families to assure themselves of regular meals.

A recent random survey showed that prices had doubled or tripled, depending on the product (grain or flour) as well as the region (or market) where one would make a purchase.

Officials see relatively lower rains in the past season as to blame, while some quarters dream of a situation where our grain does not unofficially cross borders.

The technical weaknesses of the farming environment itself is illustrated by data showing that maize, the most important staple in our country's urban and rural areas, takes up 45 per cent of seasonally cultivated areas.

This statistic is a good indicator on how deeply immersed in the "traditional economy" we still are, as maize can be produced by a dozen or hundredfold mechanised commercial agro-entrepreneurs.

The United States, with vastly larger maize, cotton or wheat output, has five per cent of the population living on the land directly.

There are areas where the price change range isn't something to write home about - for instance, at Shinyanga municipality's main market, where maize flour is reported to fetch 1,500/- per kilo up from 1,300/- three months ago.

The trouble might not be where

the price now stands but that the tendency of prices increasing persists, as 20 kg of maize that used to sell at 7,000 now costs 20,000.

Traders were getting maize at quite low prices earlier and must now cough up more cash, without passing the ratios of farm gate price rises to the retail buyer.

Looking at current prices, one starts wondering if urban consumers used to get grain relatively on the cheap, if at Dodoma Region's Kibaigwa international crop market this season the maize price rose to 820/- per kilo from 600/- at the start of the season, a far cry from when the price was just 350/- per kilo.

While urban publicists announce something akin to a crisis given the rises in the prices of staple grains, there are reports of some farmers in the Southern Highlands regions playing for time - as it were - in selling their produce, apparently waiting for higher prices in the coming weeks or months.

It's small wonder, then, that a containerful of maize that used to fetch 5,000/- now goes for 16,000/-, presumably making farmers better off now than was the case earlier.

This situation is evidently good for the farmers as it makes agro-sector activity more efficient, attracts more producers and ensures steady supply of grain.

However, the trend is not totally without consequences to other segments of society - even the farmers themselves - and hence the need for intervention meant to mitigate the impact of the sudden rise in food prices while the shortages last.

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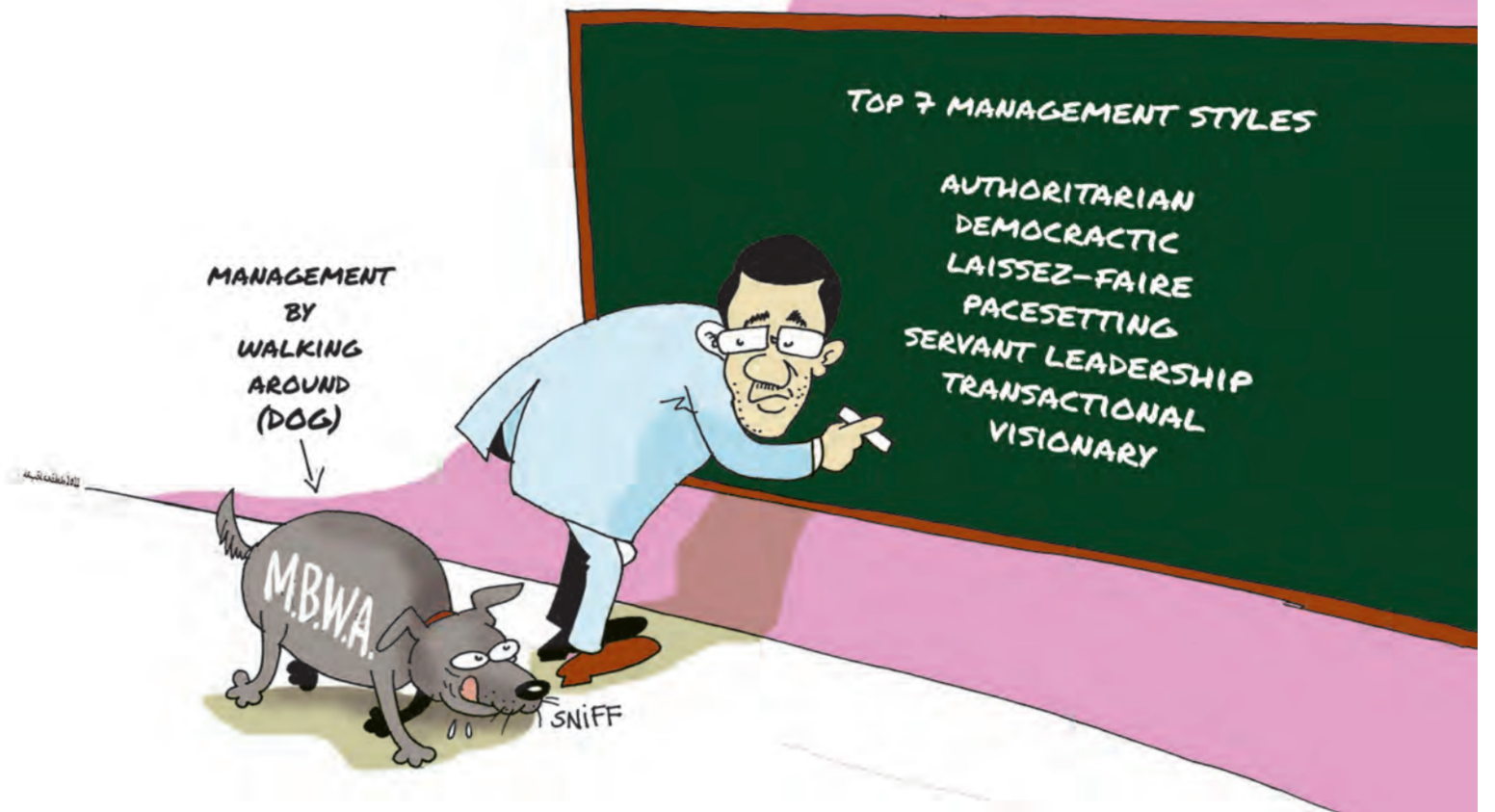
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Latin American initiative showcases how to consolidate entrepreneurial journalism

By Special Correspondent

AS the media world changes rapidly, journalism schools find it difficult to keep up. The relevant skills journalists need today are often missing from their curricula, particularly when they concern the business of journalism. This case study is drawn from a collection of inspiring initiatives on ensuring media viability, written by Larry Kilman for UNESCO.

In today's media environment, when jobs are scarce, more journalists have to strike out on their own, but they lack the business skills they would need to create their own digital news enterprises.

Without those skills, even the best-intentioned reporters and storytellers will likely fail to build sustainable enterprises from which to share their work.

Mijal Iastrebnier, co-Founder and Director of SembraMedia, experienced this knowledge gap first-hand. For three years, while still in university, she ran a popular magazine in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires called Cultra.

However, she struggled to develop a revenue model when newsprint shortages decimated the business and online was the only recourse.

"We couldn't print anymore. We did have a digital platform, but we didn't know how to build a business from it," she said.

Iastrebnier's university couldn't provide much help. "They were teaching the core skills but nothing around the business models," she said, adding: "I thought we should know these things when we graduate. I should have the skills, and the universities should keep us updated."

The magazine ultimately closed, but Iastrebnier continued her search. In 2012, as she gathered promising cases, she began teaching workshops about what she had learned.

And she began meeting like-minded people, including her future business partner, Janine Warner, who was teaching entrepreneurial journalism at the Knight Centre for Journalism in the Americas at the University of Texas.

The pair began mapping online revenue strategies and innovative approaches, created a network of journalism entrepreneurs and professors interested in the subject, and founded SembraMedia.

They developed an Online Directory that mapped the independent digital native media, including information about their teams, their innovations and their business models. The directory today maps more than 800 journalistic organisations.

SembraMedia continued to share best practices, digital resources and funding opportunities for media entrepreneurs. In 2017, the organisation published "Inflection Point," a study of Latin American digital news enterprises, which examined their challenges and opportunities and the diverse business models that are keeping those media afloat.

"Inflection Point", published with support from the Omidyar Network, was the first comprehensive study of digital media entrepreneurs in Latin America, the risks they face, and whether a viable business model for independent, quality journalism has emerged in the region.

One hundred digital media from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico were studied - 25 from each country.

"Inflection Point" and its case studies provided

the foundation to develop a new entrepreneurial journalism curriculum.

Iastrebnier explained: "We had a lot of theories about startups, but we hadn't had a chance to prove that they worked in this ecosystem. Now there is proof. We published "Inflection Point" in 2017, and that informs every training we do."

She elaborated: "We always suspected that diversifying revenue was key - like instantly - but when we wrote "Inflection Point", we proved that the media that were successful had multiple revenue sources. More than 66 per cent of the media we interviewed had three or more active revenue sources."

SembraMedia also did a deep dive into how business and entrepreneurship were being taught in Latin American journalism schools, publishing the results in "Starting Point".

It profiled entrepreneurial journalism professors, examined the content of programmes and their impact, and made recommendations for expansion and improvements.

"We didn't only map the universities that teach it, but we also measured the results they had, the three per cent of the universities that actually teach entrepreneurial journalism," Iastrebnier said.

"We found out there is really a high number of new media created from these universities, and we thought it was crucial that we build the network and create and provide materials for them to start teaching more easily," she added.

The Network of Professors of Entrepreneurial Journalism, which includes educators from nearly 20 countries, proved to be key.

"We found that universities are not super easy about adding new things to their curricula, or changing their curricula," Iastrebnier noted, adding: "The ones that are updating themselves constantly are the professors. So, we really confirmed the idea that the professors will make the change."

The network also serves as the testing and training platform for a new approach to entrepreneurship for journalism students.

"We ended up developing curricula that nobody had," Iastrebnier said, adding: "For those who wanted to include it in their programme, it was already developed and had our support and credibility. We worked with the network to test the curricula, before it was launched in 2019."

The curriculum has also been strengthened by SembraMedia's continuing work with hundreds of digital native media entrepreneurs in Latin America and the connections it provides between journalists and other social entrepreneurs. Its regional net-

work represents more than 800 digital publications, sharing best practices and innovative ideas.

The curriculum, developed with aid from the Google News Initiative, defines the concept of journalistic entrepreneurship, with examples and case studies, introduces a range of funding sources and provides a step-by-step plan for building a concept, developing viable products and implementing a business plan.

It provides needed business expertise to journalists who very often enter the profession for idealistic reasons, focused more on their mission than on making money.

In addition to making the curriculum available to professors, SembraMedia offers courses directly to journalists themselves, through the SembraMedia Virtual School - a platform of educational resources on the tools and strategies needed to venture into entrepreneurial journalism.

The school offers more than 30 courses, each about an hour-long, on a wide variety of entrepreneurial journalism topics. These include how to develop business models, how to pitch projects to fundraisers, how to create and manage teams, communications, and creating personal brands.

The platform is also a resource for professors using the journalism curriculum: instead of assigning a chapter of a book for homework, they can ask students to review and complete the activities in one of the school's classes.

Getting the curriculum into wider use is the next challenge. In 2020, SembraMedia began two regional programmes, one for students and one for professors.

Among the participants were more than 100 professors who had never taught entrepreneurial journalism but wanted to include it in their courses.

The next year SembraMedia began a series of national programmes for professors and students, beginning with 30 professors in Argentina, followed by similar initiatives elsewhere in South America.

"We now have a more diversified cohort of professors, from different provinces in Argentina. We wanted to go outside the big cities," said Iastrebnier, adding: "We provide not only training and networking but also monthly newsletters to keep them updated."

"It's not only talking and training on how to use the curricula, but it's also to keep them updated and linked to the network so that they can keep teaching autonomously and in consultation with their peers," she noted. Participation is through an open

call for invitations, and the demand outweighs the openings. But those not enrolled in the official training programme remain in the network and can subscribe to the newsletters and other materials.

"We keep them in the loop because they might just be entering the subject, or they are just starting to teach journalism, or there are a lot of them that have participated in other programmes," she said.

The ultimate goal is a significant increase in the training and teaching of entrepreneurial journalism in universities, Iastrebnier noted.

Iastrebnier elaborated: "We already see how much the universities are opening their journalistic programmes, with conversations with entrepreneurs or with us."

"We see that there is a lot of change in the thinking there not only in the curricula but also in the experience the student has in their training process."

"We would love to have a majority of universities teaching this, not a minority, and when that happens - we know it's not going to happen overnight - that will really be structural change in the ecosystem. That is the key."

There is a personal mission here as well. In their media careers, both founders of SembraMedia struggled with the transformation of digital media businesses.

"We both want to have people avoid that struggle, to have people avoid that lack of information and commit all those errors we committed as young entrepreneurs," Iastrebnier said.

"I had a 20-strong team. There were a lot of people depending on me. So, all my errors and my lack of information really had consequences."

"I wanted to make sure that didn't happen to me again - or to anyone else. The only way is to have information out there. Obviously, the reports are a big deal, but the formal training, the mindset, that's everything."

"Lots of journalists don't really talk about money, and many of them are exploited. This is because there is always someone who will do one's work for less money, and there is not a lot of opportunity in the traditional ecosystem. You need more leaders in the industry... Because of the way the industry is, not everyone gets to have a second opportunity to study the business."

According to SembraMedia, in 2020 the initiative provided consulting to 22 independent media projects, resulting in 33 changes to business models and 86 new revenue sources.

Immigrant supports other US migrants run the gauntlet of bureaucracy

STANFORD

VERONICA Vega's husband was the first in the family to immigrate to Oakland, California. When 27 years ago Vega decided to join him, she was five months pregnant and walked across the Mexican border to come to the United States.

"It was a horrible experience. It was so sad to leave your country, your town, and your family behind. Everything was different - the country, the language, the community. That's why I looked around to find somewhere I could belong," Vega reflected.

She discovered Safe Passages, an organization that supports youth and families by providing enhanced services and community development through various programs. Vega no longer felt alone.

Now, Vega is the Community Development Manager at Safe Passages, and she assists other immigrants in getting the help they need to integrate into US society successfully.

Vega tells of a success story. She helped a family from Tijuana, Mexico, receive their acceptance to the renowned Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is an immigration policy that provides immigrants who came to the US as a child a work permit and a two-year period to reside in the country without facing deportation. After two years, immigrants need to submit a renewal application for DACA. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) allows renewal subject to requirements.

The mother of two fled from Mexico to California because she faced domestic violence from her husband. She and her children contacted Safe Passages, where they met Vega.

Safe Passages serves about 5,000 families annually. One of their programs focuses on helping children who may face deportation due to their refugee status. Vega connected this family to one of their partners, East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC).

A private lawyer through EBCLC helped them receive their permanent residencies, and the service they received was free.

"When I heard they were considered permanent residents of the United States, I was so happy. They never re-

alized they would receive anything, and I was so happy," Vega said.

Vega helps families who fear deportation. She aids about 1,500 families per year with immigration resources.

She wants to partner with more non-profit organizations to help immigrant families.

"I was accepted into this country, and I love to work in the community. I love to help people regardless of race, age, and status," Vega explained.

Alicia Perez, Chief Operating Officer of Safe Passages, described how the different programs at Safe Passages interconnect.

Safe Passages aims to support families with children with a big focus on school-based programs. They have after-school and tutoring programs, family resources, and health centers. Safe Passages makes the information accessible by ensuring materials are in the migrants' home languages - informing them about their civil rights.

The organization provides immigrant families with Red Cards created by the immigrant Legal Resource Center. The Red Card informs families about their rights under the US Constitution, whether they are immigrants or not. Safe Passages asks families to carry their Red Cards in case they are stopped by law enforcement or the police.

"We believe all children should have access to education, health care, and support. By doing so, they are most likely to live fulfilling lives and be successful, regardless of race, economic status, ethnicity, or gender," Perez said.

Refugee Processing Center's Refugee Admission Report releases data on the number of refugee arrivals. California had the highest refugee arrivals from October 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022, with 1,128 people arriving in the state.

Florencia Reyes Donohue, a senior paralegal in Kids in Need of Defense's (KIND) San Francisco office, helps prepare and file forms for unaccompanied child clients seeking protection in the US.

KIND's mission is to ensure that no child goes into immigration court without high-quality legal representation and that unaccompanied children have access to the protection they need and deserve. The organization

partners with pro bono attorneys from more than 700 law firms and corporations to represent clients at no cost.

KIND worked with 29,000 children from 2009 to 2021. In addition to legal services, they provide

holistic care through its social services program. KIND ensured that children would have an easier time adjusting to a country they were unfamiliar with by addressing their traumas. KIND offers counseling referrals, social-emotional support,

health insurance assistance, school enrollment, and job placements, among other services.

Reyes Donohue said she admired the bravery the children she worked with had. "They do this journey alone; they are incredibly resilient."



Safe Passages arranges food distribution for 120 immigrant families. Families also receive immigration information, legal information, and referrals, such as rental assistance programs, COVID-19 vaccination details, and parenting resources. File photo

I TV

CATCH UP WITH A SOAP UZALO

EVERY MONDAY - WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 PM

Uzalo has become one of the most widely-watched from other South African soap operas. The soapie is a provocative, bold and authentic narrative that tells the story of two family dynasties, the Mdletshes and the Xulus, living in Kwa - Mashu township of KwaZulu - Natal and two young men who carry their hopes and legacy's. Two new born babies are accidentally switched by nurses in the hospital. Later on the truth is revealed as conflict arises between the two families, and sets in motion a chain of events that lead to the discovery of a terrible secret.

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

I TV

By J Brooks Spector

Joe Biden's metaphorical Middle East minefield - Mind your step!

IT is ironic that many of the complexities, ambiguities, challenges, and possibilities incorporated in US President Joe Biden's Middle East trip stem from a collection of decisions and statements made by his predecessor.

Of course, other factors are now baked into the tangled historical circumstances of the region, or - importantly - a result of new power relationships evolving in the region. Naturally, too, that collection of issues has American domestic angles as well, like the continuing repercussions from the deaths of two journalists with US connections (and American citizenship in the case of one of them). Add the effects of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, and it would have been a very tall order for Joe Biden to have escaped fully successful in achieving his objectives for the trip.

This is Joe Biden's first trip as president to both Israel and Saudi Arabia, although, over the years, as a senator and then vice president, he had, of course, visited the region many times. But going there as president is different. If for no other reason this is because when the president speaks, he speaks for the government (and, potentially, for the nation as well). Crucially, under the American constitution, the executive branch (ie, the president) has primary responsibility for foreign policy direction and choices, even though budget decisions ultimately rest with Congress and treaty approval and confirmation of senior officials resides with the Senate.

Congress always has the option of holding hearings on issues, policies, challenges, and decisions - sometimes for purely partisan political advantage. One such example was that exhausting, 11-hour hearing marathon with then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton about the death of a US ambassador in Benghazi, Libya. Cynics would say that effort was designed to derail her presidential ambitions.

Accordingly, presidents and secretaries of state keep a watchful eye over congressional feelings on every foreign policy idea, as well as the ideas and intentions of a host of policy advocacy groups, special interest groups, ethnically connected advocacy groups, and business associations. All these can conceivably retard or advance foreign policy efforts through public campaigns and other efforts to mobilise their respective constituencies. Given all this, a trip (and the possibility of agreements, handshakes, disagreements, embarrassments, and public criticisms) that includes both Israel (and the Palestinian Authority) and Saudi Arabia (and a side meeting with various other Arab leaders while in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) would seem to be a potential minefield or jackpot for vigorous contestation.

As the Economist judged it, "The real focus of Mr Biden's trip would begin on July 15th with his arrival in Jeddah. Even Israelis acknowledge that they are a warm-up act. 'He's coming here first because it's now clear to the Americans they can't deal with their allies in the region separately, as we're much better co-ordinated now,' says a minister.

"The administration would like that co-ordination, long conducted in secret, to be more publicly acknowledged. Mr Biden will urge the Saudis to draw closer to Israel, and to pump more oil. He wants to avoid an American recession and a thumping for the Democrats in the mid-term elections."

First, let us consider the circumstances of the Saudi Arabia stop, the more crucial of the two stops. Biden, as a presidential candidate, had vowed to make the Saudis - and most especially Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) - pariahs among nations. They would be held at arm's length or further, a veritable skunk in the international community. There would be no kisses, no hugs, no sword dances or glowing orbs as part of any welcome when the president came calling this time.

In part this was - and largely remains - because of the repressive, misogynistic nature of the regime, and the royal family's control over virtually every aspect of the kingdom. In part, too, it has been because of the country's involvement in the Yemeni civil war with its manifold human rights disasters there, and the near-famine conditions in many parts of that very unhappy nation.

But more recently, too, the horrific death of Jamal Khashoggi, a US permanent resident and periodic contributor to various publications, especially

the Washington Post, helped focus much public criticism and approbation. Khashoggi was almost certainly killed (and presumably dismembered) inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul by agents of the Saudi government, presumably, too, on the orders of MBS, the man largely in charge of the Saudi government.

Despite these problems, Saudi Arabia has substantial cards to play in today's world - and especially in their dealings with Joe Biden on his trip. As the Economist argued, "It would have been less controversial if it [the Saudi stop] offered the promise of real achievements. It did not. Israeli officials play down talk of a breakthrough with Saudi Arabia, with good reason. The kingdom is in no rush to make a deal. It will settle for incremental steps: Mr Biden is expected to announce in Jeddah that more Israeli airliners will be allowed to fly over Saudi airspace. On oil, even if the Saudis agree to pump more, it is unclear how long they can run fields at full tilt, and whether the world has enough refining capacity to turn extra crude into fuel that can be gobbled up."

Most important, therefore, in spite of practical difficulties, the trip was planned to achieve at least the possibility the Saudis would eventually promise to ramp up their petroleum production sufficiently to help drive down petrol (gasoline) prices in the US - now peaking in the middle of the American summer travel/vacation season. In the end, the Saudis did not make such an explicit pledge in the two leaders' conversations. Such a move, were it to happen, might trigger other Persian Gulf producers to follow suit, although not, of course, Iran.

The crucial, politically volatile price of petrol has been a major sore point with Americans - with considerable downside implications for Biden's Democratic Party and their chances in upcoming midterm elections for Congress. The petrol price is a key part of the overall inflation level, now nuzzling up against 9% year-on-year in the US. Calling it "Putin's price rise" as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not particularly struck home with many voters, who seem to see it more as a reflection of President Biden's inability to wrest the price down by some arcane, mysterious means. Crucially, the higher petrol price does not simply affect individual drivers. Instead, it also affects prices in



President Joe Biden and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (far right), attend the Gulf Cooperation Council, on Saturday, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. AP

virtually every part of every one of the country's supply chains, thus helping drive the overall inflation level up.

Saudi Arabia could also have arranged to offer a change in the direction of its involvement in Yemen, leading towards bringing the civil war there to a negotiated end, rather than in just the fragile, temporary truce that exists now, thus reducing the food scarcity crisis gripping much of that unhappy nation. (Demonstrating just how interwoven things are internationally, the Ukrainian invasion by Russia has choked off grain exports from Ukraine, and commercial purchasers and UN food programmes have historically relied on such supplies, including UN operations in Yemen.) Similarly, the Saudis could have made public demonstrations towards the idea of loosening some of the more odious and repressive measures in effect towards women and domestic political opponents.

There might even have been an expression of official regret (but likely not an admission of complicity on the part of the prince, beyond saying those officials directly involved in the killing have been punished) for Khashoggi's death, and quiet offers of compensation, but no one should really have expected very much on that score. Instead, Saudi government officials speaking to the media chose to repeat remonstrations by the prince to President Biden about various American misdeeds - what might be seen as offering an audacious version of whataboutism to an ostensible international partner and security protector. Of course the infamous fist bump between the two leaders became the big news, in the absence of major announcements.

Still, as the New York Times could report on the visit, "We're getting results," he [Biden] insisted on Friday night as he emerged from a meeting with the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, who clearly sees the opportunity to get diplomatic rehabilitation after Mr. Biden refused to see him for months, accusing him of complicity in the murder of Jamal

Khashoggi, the Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist.

"Mr. Biden's effort here to negotiate greater oil production - jarring enough for a president who came to office vowing to help wean the world from fossil fuels - is driven by the need to make Russia pay a steep price for invading Ukraine. So far, that price has been scant: Not only are the Russians continuing to collect substantial oil and gas revenues, they are even supplying Saudi Arabia, Reuters reported recently, with fuel for its power plants - at discounted prices."

One other aspect to the visit was US-Saudi trade and investment cooperation, and here there were some modest signs of success. As the Times added, "Perhaps the most notable of Mr. Biden's flurry of announcements with the Saudis was an agreement signed Friday night to cooperate on a new technology to build next-generation 5G and 6G telecommunications networks in the country. The United States' main competitor in that field is China - and Huawei, China's state-favored competitor, which has made significant inroads in the region."

"It is all part of a larger Biden administration effort to begin pushing back on Beijing in parts of the world where for years the Chinese government has made progress without feeling much competition."

Another element, of course, stitches Saudi Arabia and Israel together in the American mind, as well as with those two nations, explaining why this trip had included them both. That, of course, is Iran. In one way or another, all three nations have made it clear that a future pathway for Iran to actually acquire nuclear weapons should not be opened.

With that in mind, it is also true the earlier six-party agreement Donald Trump had withdrawn the US from - but with continuing US threats that a nuclear line should not be crossed by Iran - had mysteriously been meant to preclude any such a development. So far, the inconclusive and spluttering negotiations re-

started by the Biden administration to reach implementation of a modified or new agreement do not yet seem to have any kind of immediate result.

As a result, the Biden administration has been hoping to bring together the Israelis and Saudis via strong declarations that Iran must not move further towards the creation of such weapons. The other Gulf States and other nations like Egypt are also increasingly on the same page vis-à-vis Iran and, in that position, the Biden administration can be seen as building upon those "Abraham Accords" brokered by his predecessor (establishing formal diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab nations). This is to help stitch together what is clearly a tacit but stronger defence and security posture that brings Israel in sync with other Arab nations.

That brings us to the first stop on this two-nation trip, in Israel. In contrast to the way he was greeted in Jeddah, Joe Biden's arrival in Tel Aviv was more ceremonial, a recognition of Biden's long-time support for Israel throughout his political career. In Biden's talks with interim prime minister Yair Lapid, the Israeli politician seemed to go further about stopping Iranian nuclear success, hinting broadly that it must be stopped one way or another - thereby implying that if peaceful means didn't result in success, there were always other avenues.

Lapid, of course, is not necessarily going to be in office all that much longer, as yet another Israeli election is scheduled for November, after the collapse of Naftali Bennett's unwieldy coalition. That was a government that had included a wide swathe of Israeli political parties - and even the Arab Israeli grouping, Raam, whose representative was included in the coalition government. It is certainly possible former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (or even Bennett) could come back into power after the election. But no one can say for certain at this point how it will all turn out. Netanyahu's ascendancy would certainly give encouragement to those who argue dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions is something that must be done decisively - and sooner rather than later.

In the leaders' conversations, there were

discussions of the newer anti-missile system, the Iron Beam, being phased in to support the current system, the Iron Dome - a defence system that had been largely successful so far in largely stopping rockets fired from Lebanese territory into Israel. From the American side, such procurement would be subject to American congressional debate, even if passage would be likely.

But the question of a Palestinian state, or serious negotiations for one, was not a major theme of the trip. Some of this is a reflection that the Palestinian cause is, increasingly, getting less attention from other Arab nations, given their increasing concerns about Iran.

This was true for Joe Biden as well, even as some had hoped he would have made a stronger focus on a second reporter's death - the recent shooting of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while she was covering a clash between West Bank Palestinians and Israeli security forces - with the evidence pointing to the likelihood she was killed by a bullet fired by Israeli security forces personnel. The eventual forensic determination by American personnel that the shooting could not be conclusively pinned on the Israelis, as a deliberate effort to remove a reporter from covering the clash in Jenin, has not sat well with Palestinians who clearly expected a more definitive statement from Biden.

As far as Biden was concerned regarding the Palestinians, he did make a visit to the Palestinian Authority's leader, Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, and pledged additional medical aid (largely reverting to the situation pre-Trump), but not efforts to strong-arm the Israelis on negotiations, or even to agree to the reestablishment of the US Consulate in Jerusalem that had been focused outward towards Palestinian territories, in contrast to the embassy's focus on the Israeli government in Jerusalem. That closure was another legacy from Trump.

Following the Jeddah meetings with Saudi Arabia, the final part of the Biden itinerary was a meeting with senior representatives of the Arab Persian Gulf states and Egypt, again with the focus clearly on building a more unified stance vis-à-vis Iranian nuclear ambitions. Such a meeting did not, however, result in something some breathless reporting had argued was just about to happen - an Arab NATO. Nevertheless, as Biden framed the conversation, "We will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran, and we'll seek to build on this moment with active, principled American leadership."

But the most important issue - presumably uppermost on the minds of leaders in Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the US - is obviously Iran. From the perspective of those three nations, even if they disagree on almost everything else, mutual concerns about Iran should be enough to carry things forward. Even if the disappointments of human rights advocates, a portion of the Democratic Party, Palestinian rights advocates, and those who remain furious about the deaths of the two reporters - Jamal Khashoggi and Shireen Abu Akleh - have yet to have their concerns sufficiently assuaged, perhaps the best that can be said about this trip is that things did not get worse. This is true even if Joe Biden and MBS' fist bump became a symbol, quickly exploited by Saudi officials, to say graphically they are back in the game.

Oh, and there is one more thing. Russian officials are reported to be travelling to Iran on the hunt to purchase military drone craft - presumably to use in their ongoing invasion of Ukraine. It does seem interesting that the Russians are on the prowl for military equipment in Iran, rather than making it themselves. How that comes out is going to be very interesting.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right) takes part in a working session with the US President Joe Biden (3rd left) at the Al Salam Royal Palace in the Saudi coastal city of Jeddah, on Friday. AFP

SUA initiatives impress govt

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) in collaboration with Maryland University and ADC Tanzania has developed seven training modules focused on agribusiness management in agricultural value chains for grassroots enterprises development.

In line with that SUGECO has also developed pilot training of trainers for international organizations working at grassroots level in Africa.

Inaugurating collaborative training workshop for twenty-five beneficiaries from ten African countries organized by SUGECO in Morogoro recently, Agriculture Ministry's director for land use planning and management Eng. Juma Mdeke described the move as a great honour to Tanzania.

The training aimed at piloting the standardized developed training modules and customizes the content for grassroots communities in Africa.

"Developing the curriculum and pilot training of trainers for grassroots organizations has promoted SUGECO and Tanzania internationally.

He said the Ministry will continue supporting organizations that are training and preparing youth to become successful entrepreneurs in agriculture.

"Preparing the youth on hands-on skills to become job creators is one of the priority areas of the Ministry of agriculture and we shall make sure that this is achieved.

He said the youth must engage in productive agriculture in any form such as block farming so that they can rescue themselves from poverty.

"We are encouraging the youth to form groups such as AMCOS and Cooperatives so that they can access agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and extension advisory services on time," he said.

He urged the youth to take agriculture as solution to their daily problems such as unemployment saying it the only sector that employs a good

number of people.

"Agriculture is not punishment. That's why you see it employs big number of people. Therefore, the youth should take it seriously and conduct scientific agriculture using latest technologies," he said.

This work was funded by United States African Development Foundation (USADF), this a great honour to SUGECO and our country, he said.

He said the government is aware of the training requirement for those who are implementing different projects at the grassroots, especially in Agribusiness.

SUGECO Executive director Revocatus Kimario said it is honour for the cooperative and the country to be trusted to develop the seven curricula and training materials for other African countries that will address the challenges in the Agribusiness Sector.

These modules were developed by the SUGECO technical team of instructors and consultants who shared their many years of experience in working on agribusiness economics, executive programs, and agricultural value chain in Africa and worldwide to compile "Agribusiness management in agricultural value chains training for grassroots enterprises development."

The modules developed are entrepreneurship and business skills, strategic leadership, financial management and ICT application in agribusiness, marketing and ecosystem development, post-harvest management, food safety, and hygiene, and adult learning perspectives.

These modules are useful for those involved in training participants at different education levels and grassroots organizations in agricultural value chains. The modules were developed to train trainers on the best practical ways to help executives in agribusiness value chains to enhance their problem-solving and decision-making skills as they continue learning, questioning, testing, and addressing different opportunities and challenges in managing their projects.

The modules were delivered to the



A cross-section of 25 participants from ten African countries have a first-hand account of SUGECO farming activities during training in Morogoro recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

participants from ten (10) African countries during the collaborative training workshop.

The training gathered participants from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, DR Congo, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Somalia, and South Sudan to equip them with skills on the delivery of these modules in the grassroots organizations in their respective countries as part of empowering grassroots enterprises of USADF funded project towards impactful and sustainable economic development in their respective

countries. For instance, a module focused on the application of ICT in Agribusiness was designed to help participants understand and appreciate the need for integrating ICT in Agribusiness Development as well as the technology required for successful business operations and value addition.

Participant from Kenya Lydia Kimani and Albino Gawdar from South Sudan commended the government of Tanzania support to local organizations saying that reflects its commitment and determination to see these

organizations grows and provides services to the community.

They said modules are focused on transforming agriculture. They are relevant to the real situation on the ground in most African countries where local organizations are working at grassroots level.

"The modules are practical, relevant to many organizations in Africa working at the grassroots level.

"I have loved Tanzania for beautiful environment, culture and hospitality. I have also loved traditional food. It is real wonderful," said Lydia.

SUGECO Board Chair Dr. Anna Temu explained that one of modules was Information and Communication Technology (ICT); she said this is very important for the farmers as it supports them in facilitating access to finance, Markets, technologies, weather forecasts, and information on pests.

"Farmers must be updated all the time. We have heard of E-Mazao, Call centre of the Ministry of agriculture which was launched recently. These are pathways through which the farmer can be kept informed of de-

Water security: Case for coordinated planning and funding for IWRM

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

MANY people will recall the experience of acute water shortage that hit Dar es Salaam Region and Tanzania in general towards the end of last year and early this year due to a decrease in water levels as a result of an unusual long dry season.

By mid-November last year the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) had recorded a decrease in water pressure by 12 percent, subsequently igniting a water rationing schedule of 12 hours.

In many urban areas businesses were disrupted particularly where operations were heavily water dependent. Residential areas also felt the pinch of water shortage; water for domestic use became scarce and people had to access water from whatever sources available. The quality of water left a lot to be desired. There were also health concerns as people consumed water the safety of which no one could guarantee.

For smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, the acute water shortage threatened the major pillar of their livelihoods. Without enough water their livelihoods would be disrupted and they would have nowhere to turn to for alternatives. And as water supply continued to diminish, the level of demand did not fall.

The situation sparked a huge debate on how the country manages its water resources with some members of the public putting to scrutiny the effectiveness of policies and laws governing the various aspects of water. Others questioned the ability of authorities to oversee rules and regulations.

Of course there were views that climate change was to blame for the situation, or at least partly, but there were also arguments that illegal abstraction of water from the various sources was rife and it had been left to flourish even when conditions required restricting the pumping out of water from the sources.

Thereafter, several measures were taken and, coupled with the beginning of the rainy season in some parts of the country; there was significant increase in water levels. The crisis eased, tensions subsided and debate was closed



Mselem Kandili, a pastoralist from Mbwade village in Kilosa District, speaks at a panel discussion during Uhakika Forum. File photo

but water security for all, especially the smallholder produces still hangs in the balance.

"Discussions on water security and other related issues should not be prompted by disasters. Water is an essential part of the daily lives of human beings and the water sector faces new challenges almost by the day. We need to discuss these challenges and look for solutions even when there is no crisis or disasters," said Herbert Kashiila, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shahidi wa Maji organization.

He was speaking during the Uhakika Forum held recently in Dodoma that drew representatives from central government, regional administration and local government, private sector, institutions of higher learning and NGOs. Also represented were government agencies and small scale producers. The meeting was organized by Shahidi wa Maji organization which advocates for water security for small producers

particularly farmers, pastoralists and fishermen.

Among other things the forum discussed how to finance water security in order to sustain the livelihoods of small scale producers and prop up national economic growth.

"The forum is important as it provides stakeholders with space to discuss what water users should do to attain water security. Availability of water for all its uses is synonymous to availability of food, improved health and ultimately quality life," said Mr. Kashiila.

Since water is essential for life, it is important to sustain its availability through reliable funding. A water-secure community has capacity to have enough water of sufficient quality for survival and to carry out different productive activities. A society with water security is in a position to reduce poverty and improve living standards.

From availability to accessibility to supply and distribution, all these as-

pects need investment so that eventually the various consumers are guaranteed of water security and it is upon all stakeholders and beneficiaries to invest in integrated water resources management (IWRM) financially or otherwise. "Apparently investments made in water resources are far too low that the benefits human beings enjoy from the water sector," says Abel Dugange, Executive Director for Shahidi wa Maji.

It is also important to consider funding for monitoring flows as well as supply and distribution, conservation and protection. This raises concern for funding of water resources in their entire entirety if water security is to be attained.

Water security cuts across all walks of life, affects everyone and has no alternative. It is thus imperative to use water wisely and properly manage it for the good of life and the economy.

"Sustainable water supply requires sustainable water management in or-

der to meet the needs of today and tomorrow, without compromising availability for various uses and users. Stakeholders have common but differentiated responsibilities to protect and conserve water resources and there is need to scale up investment in water resources as well as along the supply and distribution chains," says Eng. Mbogo Futakamba, Chairman of the National Multi-stakeholders Forum for Water Resources.

Since water cuts across various sectors of life shortages usually spark conflicts among the affected users. This requires common understanding and planning for water use and ultimately funding for integrated water resources management. Investment, industry and trade all require water to develop and survive.

"It would be disastrous to focus only water supply and distribution or water availability as such; behind the need for water there is need for raw materials for production of goods and there is waste water that is produced during industrial processes that flows back to the environment. So when we talk about funding water security we should actually consider all related issues including management of the environment. We should be talking about funding implementation of IWRM," said a representative from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Perhaps data presented at the forum regarding water demand by livestock highlights the need for integrated funding and management of water resources. It was revealed that the total number of livestock in the country stands at 70.4 million animals which require 569,069,879,400 litres of water annually. The demand keeps rising as the number of livestock increases.

With current supplies being strained by climate change, water theft and mismanagement, illegal abstractions and wastage through poor infrastructure, the demand for water by livestock is difficult to meet. Failure to meet this demand and that of other users has been a cause of conflict that underscores the importance of integrated planning and equitable sharing of resources. It calls for collaboration and cooperation of all sectors including, agriculture, live-

stock, industry, fisheries and environment in funding and implementing integrated water resources management.

There are cases when a lot of discussions have been conducted on how to deal with challenges facing implementation of IWRM but these have ended up in conference rooms and reports. "We must take action to bring changes on the ground. Things should not end at the planning stage but plans must be translated into actions that address water security through implementation of IWRM," says Prof. P.K.T. Munishi of Sokoine University of Agriculture.

But there are also views that there is need to scale up preparation of comprehensive plans that involve and integrate departmental and ministerial plans and, while in the few cases such plans are made it was observed that that there is general failure of implementation due to lack of follow up, monitoring and evaluation.

"Sometimes decisions made are left hanging as they are not translated into action. There are also misplaced investments where such investments do not add value because they do not solve problems.

There are cases, for example, where government constructs cattle troughs in areas where pastoralists have enough water instead of construction them where there is water shortage and where there are violent conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. The latter would add value to the lives of communities as it would solve the conflict between the two groups," says Mselem Kandili, a pastoralist from Mbwade Village in Kilosa District.

When it comes to ensuring water security, stakeholders need to have a common understanding on the various aspects of water, including availability, supply, distribution, financing and management. It is important to plan together at various levels for all activities related to conservation, protection and sharing of water resources. "But most importantly, we have to acknowledge our common responsibility and accountability, and our duty to monitor and evaluate the way we manage water resources. We have to work together with water as our common denominator," says Eng. Futakamba.

A New world order is dawning - but will it be liberal or illiberal?

BERLIN

WITH the invasion of Ukraine, Russia effectively destroyed the European peace order. Now, Europe needs to find ways to contain its aggressive neighbour, while its traditional protector, the United States, continues its shift of focus to the Indo-Pacific.

This task, however, becomes impossible when China and Russia are driven into each other's arms because, if anything, the key to end the war in Ukraine lies in Beijing. China hesitates to be dragged into this European war as bigger questions are at stake for the emerging superpower:

Will the silk road be wrecked by a new iron curtain? Shall it stick to its 'limitless alliance' with Russia? And what about the territorial integrity of sovereign states? In short: for China, it is about the world order.

The unipolar moment after the triumph of the West in the Cold War is over. The war in Ukraine clearly marks the end of the Pax Americana. Russia and China openly challenge American hegemony. Russia may have proven to be a giant with clay feet, and has inadvertently strengthened the unity of the West.

But the shift of the global balance of power to East Asia is far from over. In China, the United States has encountered a worthy rival for global predominance. But Moscow, Delhi, and Brussels also aspire to become power hubs in the coming multipolar order.

So, we are witnessing the end of the end of history. What comes next? To better understand how world orders

emerge and erode, a quick look at history can be helpful.

What is on the menu?

Over the course of the long 19th century, a great power concert has provided stability in a multipolar world. Given the nascent state of international law and multilateral institutions, congresses were needed to carefully calibrate the balance between different spheres of interest.

The relative peace within Europe, of course, was clearly bought by the aggressive outward expansion of its colonial powers.

This order was shattered at the beginning of the World War I. What followed were three decades of disorder rocked by wars and revolutions. Not unlike today, the conflicting interests of great powers collided without any buffer, while the morbid domestic institutions could not mitigate the devastating social cost of the Great Transformation.

With the founding of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundations of a liberal order were laid after the end of World War II. However, with the onset of the Cold War, this experiment quickly ran into a quagmire.

Pinched between two antagonistic blocs, the United Nations was in a deadlock for decades. From the Hungarian Revolution over the Prague Spring to the Cuban missile crisis, peace between the nuclear powers



Pinched between two antagonistic blocs, the United Nations was in a deadlock for decades.

was maintained through the recognition of exclusive zones of influence.

After the triumph of the West in the Cold War, American hyperpower quickly declared a new order for a now unipolar world. In this liberal world order, rule-breaking was sanctioned by the world's policeman.

Proponents of the liberal world order pointed to the rapid diffusion of democracy and human rights around the globe. Critics see imperial motifs at work behind the humanitarian interventions. But even progressives place great hopes in the expansion of international law and multilateral cooperation. Now that the West is mired in crises, global cooperation is again paralysed by systemic rivalry. From the war in Georgia over the annexation of Crimea to the crackdown in Hong Kong, the recognition of exclusive zones of influence is back in the toolbox of international politics.

After a short heyday, the liberal elements of the world order are jammed again. China has begun to lay the foundations of an illiberal multilateral architecture.

How will great power competition play out?

In the coming decade, the rivalries between great powers are likely to continue with undiminished vigour. The ultimate prize of this great power competition is a new world order. Five different scenarios are conceivable.

First, the liberal world order could survive the end of the unipolar American moment. Second, a series of wars and revolutions can lead to the total collapse of order. Third, a great power concert could bring relative stability in a multipolar world but fail to tackle the great challenges facing humanity.

Fourth, a new cold war may partly block the rule-based multilateral system, but still allow for limited cooperation in questions of common interest. And finally, an illiberal order with Chinese characteristics. Which scenario seems the most probable?

Many believe that democracy and

human rights need to be promoted more assertively. However, after the fall of Kabul, even liberal centrists like Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron have declared the era of humanitarian interventions to be over.

Should another isolationist nationalist like Trump or others of his ilk come to power in Washington, London, or Paris, the defence of the liberal world order would once and for all be off the agenda. Berlin is in danger of running out of allies for its new value-based foreign policy.

In all Western capitals, there are broad majorities across the ideological spectrum that seek to up the ante in the systemic rivalry with China and Russia. The global reaction to the Russian invasion shows, however, that the rest of the world has very little appetite for a new bloc confrontation between democracies and autocracies.

The support for Russia's attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine - values especially smaller countries unwaveringly adhere to - should not be read as sympathy for a Russian or Chinese-led order, but as deep frustration over the US empire.

Seen from the Global South, the not-so-liberal world order was merely a pretext for military interventions, structural adjustment programmes, and moral grandstanding. Now, the West comes to realise that in order to prevail geopolitically, it needs the cooperation of undemocratic powers from Turkey to Vietnam.

The high-minded rhetoric of the systemic rivalry between democracies against autocracies is prone to alienate these much-needed potential allies. But if even the West were to give up on universalism of democracy and human rights, what would be left of the liberal world order?

Are the great power rivalries that play out in the background of the war in Ukraine, the coups in Western Africa and the protests in Hong Kong only the beginning of a new period of wars, coups, and revolutions?

The ancient Greek philosopher Thucydides already knew that the competition between rising and declining great powers can beget great wars. So, are we entering a new period of disorder?

Not only in Moscow and Beijing, but also in Washington, there are thinkers that seek to mitigate these destructive dynamics of the multipolar world through a new concert of great powers. The coordination of great power interests in fora from the G7 to the G20 could be the starting point for this new form of club governance. The recognition of exclusive zones of influence can help to mitigate conflict.

However, there is reason for concern that democracy and human rights will be the first victims of such high-powered horse-trading. This form of minimal cooperation may also be inadequate to tackle the many challenges humankind is facing from climate change over pandemics to mass migration.

The European Union, an entity based on the rule of law and the permanent harmonisation of interests, may have a particularly hard time to thrive in such a dog-eat-dog world.

Not only in Moscow, some fantasize about a revival of imperialism that negates the right to self-determination of smaller nations. This dystopian mix of technologically supercharged surveillance state on the inside and never-ending proxy wars on the outside is eerily reminiscent of George Orwell's 1984. One can only hope that this illiberal neo-imperialism is shattered in the war in Ukraine.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 325 00--

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

3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE
4 letters LOUT, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP
5 letters GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU
6 letters STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
7 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
8 letters ALLOTTED
9 letters TUG OF LOVE

CLUES: Across
1 recent times
6 used to express good wishes in meeting
8 Qatar's Capital
8 famous for majorelle Garden
9 manage a living with difficulty
10 lacking interest
11 the longest continental mountain range in the World
12 letters and parcels sent by post
14 in addition
18 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye
19 loanian
21 length of a time a person existed
23 confess openly
24 pass
26 argon (symbol)
27 mouse
28 a diazo copying

Down:
1 largest Port in Kenya
2 defied
3 bring or recall to the conscious mind
4 a small space setback in a wall
5 monetary unit of Tanzania
7 Tanzania's Capital
13 to or at a distance
15 process digestive products
16 urge / goad into doing something
17 ahead
20 hereditary classes of Hindu society
22 escape, avoid
25 give money due for work

WORD-FIT: M O U N T A I N S D E V I L S R
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CROSSWORD: 1 2 3 4 5
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By Margaret D'Ussé 29/240 felixmag@gmail.com

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One



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Jubilee Holdings Limited Group chairman Nizar Juma

Jubilee Health, GA Life leading in insurance claim payouts

NAIROBI

JUBILEE Health Insurance, GA Life Assurance Limited, and Resolution Insurance Company had the best claims settlement record in the insurance sector in the first quarter ended March, according to regulatory data.

The three companies led in paying most of the claims from customers in the report by the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) covering general, life (long term), and general (non-liability) categories.

GA Life paid 99.4 percent of the claims it received in the quarter, ranking first in the long-term business. It was followed by Capex Life Assurance Company at 97.5 percent and UAP Life Assurance Company (89.5 percent).

Jubilee Health led in the general insurance non-liability claims – paid to policyholders – category in the quarter under review when it settled 90.7 percent of compensation requests it received.

It was followed by Resolution at 88.9 percent and Allianz Insurance Company (82.9 percent). Resolution subsequently collapsed suddenly in early April after running out of cash to meet its obligations.

The insolvent underwriter had also led in the general insurance liability – paid to third parties – category where it settled 95.8 percent of the claims submitted in the review period when it far outpaced its rivals.

Madison Insurance Company was second, paying 61.5 percent of claims while CIC General Insurance Company was third with a 27.2 payout rate. This category of general insurance category, as a whole, had the worst claims settlement of just 6.9 percent.

Most of the underwriters paid less than 20 percent of the claims filed. The IRA tracks the efficiency of paying clients which is the most important factor for policyholders.

There have been many customer complaints against insurers revolving around rejection of claims, delayed payments, and a drastic reduction of the expected compensation for losses incurred.

Some insurers on the other hand have alleged that they are the target of fraudulent claims.

The claims payment ratio is the number of claims settled against the total number of filings for compensation recorded in the review period.

"In the first quarter, the claims payment ratio for general liability claims decreased to 6.9 percent (9.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021)," IRA said.

Northern zone records highest increase in number of SACCOS

By Guardian Reporter

ALTHOUGH the country has recorded the decreased number of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) during the first quarter of this year, compared with similar quarter of last year, northern zone has beat all the odds by increased numbers.

According to provisional data by the ministry of agriculture and Regional Administrative Secretaries offices, number of SACCOS in Tanzania decreased to 2,950 during the first quarter of this year from 3,101 recorded during the first quarter of last year.

Number of member of SACCOS countrywide also went down to 600,036 during the first quarter of this year from 664,013 recorded in Q1, 2021, with Northern zone leading with more than a third.

"Decrease in the number of SACCOS was associated with ongoing licensing of SACCOS in line with Micro-finance Act 2018," says the Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance Report for Q1, 2022 by Bank of Tanzania.

Through the act, SACCOS were required to adopt several financial requirements related to Know Your Customer (KYC), liquidity, interest rates, penalties, and more to become compli-



The northern zone, which boasts the strong economies of Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Arusha regions, had 1,001 SACCOS with 223,079 members, an increase from 950 with 217,803 members in Q1, 2021 PHOTO/FILE

ant. New regulations also obligate SACCOS to follow accounting standards and practices to bring financial transparency, while safeguarding the funds of members.

The regulations also requires every Saccos to maintain core capital of not less than 8 percent of total assets; institutional capital of not less than six percent of total assets; and net institutional capital of not less than

six percent of total assets. During the fourth quarter of last year ended in December, revised data shows Tanzania had 2,857 SACCOS countrywide, with northern zone leading with the largest number.

During the first quarter of this year, the northern zone, comprises of strong economies such as Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Arusha regions had 1,001 SACCOS with 223,079 members, an increase from 950 with

217,803 members in Q1, 2021. This indicates that Northern zone has well established SACCOS that are complying with the new law and regulations. The decrease of number of SACCOS was recorded by Central zone to 323 with 83,466 members from 478 SACCOS with 129,711 members in Q1, 2022.

Another zone which recorded the decrease of SACCOS was South Eastern which went down to 225 with 39,192 members from

279 with 62,533 members respectively.

In Lake Zone, number of SACCOS slightly increased to 772 with 126,371 members during the first quarter of this year from 765 with 126,998 members during the first quarter of last year.

However, number of SACCOS in Southern Highlands remained flat at 629 during the reviewed period, although number of members slightly increased to 127,928 in Q1, 2022 from 126,968 in

Q1, 2021.

With the decreased number of SACCOS, the share value slightly gained to 74.6bn/- from 74.3bn/- respectively, which indicated increased number of share ownership among existing members.

Southern highlands have had the largest amount of share value amounting 34.7bn/- during the first quarter of this year, followed by Northern zone with 20.2bn/- and South Eastern with 10bn/-.

Savings also improved to 294.1bn/- during the first quarter of this year from 260.3bn/- during similar quarter of last year while deposits went up to 52bn/- from 51.05bn/- respectively, with Northern zone leading with 11.6bn/- in Q1, 2022, followed by Lake zone with 110.5bn/-.

Loans issued by SACCOS countrywide decreased to 788.5bn/- during the first quarter of this year from 855.4bn/- during the first quarter of last year due to decreased number of SACCOS in different zones. Northern zone had the highest amount of loans amounting 598.8bn/- in Q1, 2022.

However, outstanding loans held by SACCOS members countrywide increased to 442.6bn/- from 414.6bn/- respectively, which indicates increased borrowing, with Northern zone accounting for the largest amount of 348.2bn/- in Q1, 2022.

How Wave rose to become Francophone Africa's first unicorn

DAKAR

IN 2016, two graduates of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, conceived a mobile phone-based money transfer and payments service App known as Wave, launching in Senegal two years later. It picked up steam and expanded to Cote D'Ivoire in 2021.

Within four years of operation, Wave Mobile Money has disrupted the industry in both countries through a combination of innovative technology and extremely low transaction fees, rising to become Francophone Africa's first unicorn at a valuation of \$1.7 billion and with half of the mobile money accounts in Senegal.

The vision of co-founders, Drew Durbin and Lincoln Quirk, is to "bring radically inclusive and affordable financial products and services to west Africa, where there is still a big gap in financial inclusion," Rashmi Pillai, Head of Public Policy at Wave, tells Quartz.

The digital financial company erased the old ways of sending and receiving money and came up with an easier and cheaper method that has taken both countries by storm.

"It is a well-thought-out product that is solving a lot



Last September, Wave raised over \$200 million in the biggest Series A funding ever realized in French-speaking Africa, putting its post-money valuation above the \$1 billion threshold at \$1.7 billion.

of problems for people involved in informal financial transactions in this part of the continent. The market foresight is phenomenal," says Momar Ndao, president of Consumers Association of Senegal (ASCOSEN).

While other companies rely on USSD codes which are dialed on mobile phones by users to transfer and receive funds, Wave deployed QR code technology—on cards and in app—which are simply scanned by an agent to complete a transaction.

"The barcodes make it easier to carry out transactions. We still have a huge population that cannot read and write. Dialing USSD codes and following instructions was difficult for many. My mother, for example,

used to send her grandchildren to do her mobile money transfers, but now she takes her plastic card and goes to the agent to carry out her transactions," says Aisha Gueye, a Dakar based restaurateur.

"Even those who can read and write like myself find the QR code effortless and faster to operate than USSD codes," she says.

Wave provides subscribers with a spray-printed bar code card—the size of a bank card—which stores account information. Alternatively, users can download the QR code from the company's App and create their account. However, phone numbers are still used for identity authentication, and confirmation of transac-

tions when using the card.

If they can reduce their fees to 1% that means they could have done so long ago and still remain in business.

Prior to Wave's arrival in Senegal, French telecoms giant, Orange, was the exclusive mobile money operator in the west African country of 18 million people. More than 50% of adults in Senegal have two or more mobile money accounts, according to GSM Association, a professional organization for mobile network operators.

"We were paying fees between 6 and 10% for sending and receiving money and for payment of utility bills. We had no choice because that was the only option available. However, when Wave entered the scene everything changed," says Bernard Zio, a Cote D'Ivoire-based architect.

Wave imposed a flat fee of 1% for sending funds and zero fees for receiving and settling of utility bills. Initially spurned by many as hype, the measure persisted until it subverted the entire market, forcing competitors to follow suit.

Orange Money and MTN Money quickly adjusted their fees to 1%, in Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire, to avoid losing old and new customers amid the sensation Wave had created in the markets.

Orange said the company had to reduce its fees by 80% to keep pace with the new trend.

It is one of the most remarkable and effective disruptions happening on the continent in recent years, says Stanislas Akueson, economic research analyst at University of Lome in Togo.

"Every startup in Africa needs to take a leaf out of Wave's book. The lessons from these events are worthwhile. Everything was against the company when it arrived in 2018. Its competitors had already gained a foothold in the market, but Wave was able to carve out a space for itself by doing what others were not doing. Wave saw what the big players did not see, and that is what all startups must aim at," he says.

As expected, the upheaval sparked some conflicts, notably in Senegal, where some locals initially held a rally in Dakar to protest against the "exorbitant fees" they had been paying for money transfers, with some activists accusing the authorities of failing to protect consumers.

"If they can reduce their fees to 1% that means they could have done so long ago and still remain in business. We had been paying exorbitant fees for nothing. The protest was meant to voice

our anger not only against the company but also against the government for negligence," says Abdoulaye Dia, a former member of M23, an influential civil society organization in Senegal.

"We want to see more of this, where newcomers crush monopolies and bring down the costs of goods and services to the delight of all."

However, Orange said its previous fees were in conformity with the price range authorized by the authorities—regulators and finance ministries. Those fees happened to be the standard across the region, where Moov Money of Maroc Telecom also operates.

Is the 1 percent margin profitable? Wave's detractors claim it is impossible to cover operational costs and still have a positive cash flow while working at 1 percent.

Moreover, the ripple effect of the 1 percent rule has thrown more than 20,000 local mobile money distributors out of business in Senegal, according to reports.

"When the transaction fees were between 6 and 10 percent we used to earn a tangible commission that helped grow our business. Now, with everybody reverting to 1 percent we are practically working at a loss," says Dakar-based mobile money agent Sidiki Diallo.



Rising global green bonds issuance erodes premiums

LONDON

WHEN a unique selling point starts to become a ubiquitous selling point, prices are going to suffer. Green bonds are no exception: as ever more companies and governments have issued them, investors have become less willing to pay the premium these assets used to command.

This is partly because investors looking for debt linked to sustainable projects have become more sophisticated. Like the rest of the public, they have wised up to bogus environmental claims, or so-called green-washing. There has also been a rush of debt to market in recent years, which has diluted prices and raised borrowing costs.

But, while the “greenium” – which amounts to lower borrowing costs for issuers of environmental, social and governance (ESG) bonds, and higher costs for their investors – may no longer be the right framework to assess pricing in green bond markets, it is not dead quite yet.

And the benefits afforded to companies and governments issuing green debt are far from gone. \$1tn Projected global issuance value of GSSS bonds for this year

Issuance of green, social, sustainable and sustainability-linked (GSSS) bonds as a percentage of total global bond issuance rose from roughly 2 per cent at the start of 2018 to a peak of over 12 per cent at the end of 2021, according to research by rating agency

Moody's. Prices continued to rise as that flood of debt hit the market because demand from investors exploded. Figures from data provider EPFR show that flows into ESG and socially responsible investing bond funds rose from a net of \$4.2bn in 2018 to \$102bn in 2021.

Column chart of Net flows, \$bn showing Flows into ESG bond funds have stayed positive this year

But much has been made of the narrowing gap between what investors are willing to pay for green bonds versus more traditional bonds. In Europe, the most developed green bond market, this greenium has shrunk from over 9 basis points in 2020 to between 1 and 2 basis points today, according to a report from the Association for Financial Markets in Europe.

The shrinking advantage for green bond issuers has long been touted as a potential existential threat to the market. Without lower borrowing costs, will issuers continue to come? And will investors' appetite persist, as green bonds become more common and the crush of demand that buoyed their prices abates?

Line chart showing spreads of C-denominated corporate ESG bonds against non-ESG benchmarks, in basis points

Those questions may be put on hold for this year, at least, as recession fears have thrown a wrench into markets. With economic growth slowing globally – thanks to high inflation, high commodity prices and higher interest rates – issuers of bonds, both green and conventional, have

pulled back.

“Sustainable bonds are bonds and they're still subject to the same headwinds that we're seeing in the broader market right now,” says Matthew Kuchtyak, a sustainable finance analyst at Moody's.

Green bond issuance this year is expected to be roughly in line with 2021. That is a notable slowdown, given how quickly the market has been growing and the effect of that growth on pricing. Moody's is forecasting that global issuance of GSSS bonds will be around \$1tn this year, down from its initial forecast of \$1.35tn.

However, amid a broader dash out of bond funds this year, investors appear to be more willing to stick with the ESG variety. EPFR data show that ESG funds had a net \$3.6bn of inflows between January and May (see chart above). That is slim, but far better than the \$242bn in outflows for non-ESG bond funds.

Relatively stronger demand for a stable pool of assets could keep green bond prices from falling as much as prices in the wider bond market.

The trend in ESG fund flows reflects another benefit that accrues to green bond issuers: a deeper, more stable investor base with a longer-term outlook, says Stephen Liberatore, the lead portfolio manager for Nuveen's fixed-income ESG funds.

And a new focus on greenwashing, along with closer regulatory scrutiny, may result in a more robust greenium for select issuers. Last year, the EU's sustainable finance

disclosure regulations came into force, requiring fund managers to detail the ESG risks in their portfolios. In the US, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) financial regulator recently proposed similar rules to standardise climate-related disclosure for investors.

Crackdowns have already begun. In May, German police raided fund manager DWS and parent company Deutsche Bank as part of an investigation into green-washing claims, while investment bank BNY Mellon settled with the SEC for \$1.5mn over misleading ESG disclosures.

This less forgiving regulatory environment could reorient investor demand towards issues that hew to stricter ESG standards. A Federal Reserve paper published last month found that “while green bond governance appears to matter for the greenium, the credibility of the underlying projects does not have a significant impact.” Rather, it said, the greenium is afforded to large, high-quality issuers like banks in the corporate sector and developed countries among sovereigns.

“What we're not seeing is differentiation in terms of the greenium based on the quality of that [underlying] structure. And that's what we would like to see and what we expect to see over time,” says Erin Bigley, head of fixed income responsible investing at fund manager AllianceBernstein. “We think, in future, you'll see some distinguishing between the stronger and the weaker structures across issuers.”

Investors bet Euro will continue slide to \$0.9, according to survey

FRANKFURT

THE European Central Bank's battle to restore its credibility with financial markets just got a whole lot harder.

After a week marked by a fresh crisis in Rome, MLIV readers warn Italian debt risks hitting the danger zone once more – just as a near-imminent recession intensifies the epic plunge in the euro to once-unthinkable levels.

Just 16 percent of 792 respondents in the latest Pulse survey say Europe will likely manage to dodge an economic downturn over the next six months, with 69 percent betting that the single currency will slide to \$0.9 rather than claw back to \$1.1.

To make matters worse, the political storm in the euro area's third-largest economy may spur a new era of market fragmentation. Some 21 percent of MLIV readers say the spread between 10-year Italian and German bonds would have to blow out to more than 500 basis points – the highest since the 2012 debt crisis – before the ECB steps in.

All told, 41 percent of respondents, which include portfolio managers and retail traders, see a debt crisis within the next six months – a massive shift from the era of negative yields that engulfed the region as recently as early January.

These warnings couldn't come at a worse time for the ECB. It looks poised to raise interest rates this week at long last – just as Russia threatens to escalate the energy crisis with inflation already at records.

“I think expectations of a recession have ramped up quite quickly on the possibility of gas rationing, and if that plays out, you could see a lot of companies go to the wall,” said Craig Inches, head of rates and cash at Royal London Asset

Management.

Elevated price pressures have taken a big toll on households and companies. Now fears are rising over a full-scale halt in Russian gas shipments once maintenance on a major pipeline finishes around July 21. It's the same day the ECB is seen raising rates for the first time in more than a decade, while potentially unveiling a novel policy tool to fix the growing cracks in the bond market.

The central bank was forced last month to pledge a new backstop after the yield on Italy's 10-year debt rocketed above 4 percent. With Prime Minister Mario Draghi's ruling coalition in tatters, the challenge for monetary officials is only getting harder.

“If the political situation turns hostile and Italy's new government can't agree a path forward with the European Commission, the ECB cannot realistically be expected to intervene,” according to Bloomberg Economics. “Given it will still have to tackle inflation, the result would be fragmentation – and potentially a crisis.”

ECB President Christine Lagarde has indicated that the backstop would be deployed if borrowing costs for weaker nations rise too far or too fast and would entail further bond purchases. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg expect the liquidity those purchases create to be reabsorbed in a process called sterilization.

In reality the crisis tool is designed as a bluff – a signal that the monetary authority will do whatever it takes to backstop the single-currency bloc, resulting in a situation where it doesn't actually need to purchase any bonds.

Nearly half of MLIV respondents see the ECB intervening once Italy's yield premium over Germany reaches 450 basis points or

more – way beyond the 250 basis point threshold cited by analysts earlier this year.

The good news is that 59 percent of respondents said they don't expect a debt crisis in the euro zone in the next six months. And the majority sees a gas cutoff as the most likely catalyst should things go awry. Only 18 percent cited an underwhelming anti-fragmentation tool from the ECB as the proximate cause for any debt crisis.

But Russia's energy giant Gazprom PJSC, which already slashed supplies through the Nord Stream pipeline to just 40 percent of its capacity, has hinted at further export disruptions.

In turn, investor confidence in Germany's economy has slumped to the lowest since 2011, with Deutsche Bank AG projecting Europe's largest economy will contract 1 percent in 2023.

Three fifths of respondents see the ECB pausing rate hikes in the dire event Russia switches off its gas supplies. That offers some comfort that Lagarde and colleagues would avoid exacerbating an economic downturn in the event of such an energy shock.

Whatever happens, the euro's bout of historic pain is set to endure. Strategists at Nomura Holdings Inc., UBS Group AG and BCA Research Inc. see it plunging as low as \$0.90 by the winter in a worst-case scenario, reflecting the view of most MLIV readers that a slump is more likely than a recovery.

All that suggests this year's stock volatility is set to continue, with Pulse respondents saying that the auto and real estate sectors are the least likely to outperform over the next six months. Readers also reckon the banking sector is unlikely to beat the benchmark – perhaps with one eye on the growing risk of corporate defaults and a region-wide credit crunch.

CURRENT NEWS



China adds liquidity for first time since June as risks grow

BEIJING

CHINA'S central bank injected additional liquidity into the financial system for the first time since June as a growing mortgage-payment boycott and a virus flareup leads to a sense of crisis.

The People's Bank of China boosted the size of its daily short-term cash operation to 12 billion yuan (\$1.8 billion) from 3 billion yuan, resulting in a modest net injection of 9 billion yuan, the first overall infusion since June 30.

The authorities are adding liquidity despite money-market rates being near the lowest in more than a year as concerns escalated over a housing-market downturn

and a Covid Zero policy that's weighing on economic growth. Regulators have called emergency meetings with banks amid reports that home buyers are refusing to pay mortgages with developers stalling on construction.

“The injection is getting more accommodative due to the rising risks of contagion” from the real estate sector, said Peiqian Liu, a China economist at Natwest Markets Plc in Singapore. “The situation remains contained for now, but the risks are still high if Covid restrictions delay construction even when funding is sufficient.”

In another sign Chinese policy makers are seeking



The People's Bank of China

to ease a liquidity crunch facing real-estate companies, a newspaper reported on Sunday that the banking regulator has urged lenders to support developers. State media have cited analysts warning that the stabil-

ity of the financial system may be hurt if the mortgage payment boycott spreads with reports saying at least 230 projects have been affected.

“Investors and the market are not sure

what the end game is,” said Hui Shan, an economist at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. “The core issue here is for the government to step in quickly to boost confidence, to solve the problem at hand, and also provide more clarity to the market and investors on how this downturn in the property sector is going to be resolved.”

The regulatory report helped boost sentiment, with a gauge of Chinese real estate firms rising 3% on Monday to snap a five-day decline. Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index also rose 2.7%, led by property shares.

Earlier this month, the PBOC rolled over its maturing policy loans and started

withdrawing cash from the banking system in a sign it's moving away from its crisis-era policy easing.

While a senior official signaled last week that further interest-rate cuts are unlikely, Governor Yi Gang said at a meeting of Group-of-20 central bank governors and finance ministers that it will step up on the implementation of its prudent monetary policy to provide stronger economic support.

The seven-day interbank lending rate has risen over the past week but remains below the central bank's benchmark rate. The PBOC's decision to inject more funds was also flagged by some analysts due to the seasonal demand for cash

from corporates in the middle of the month to cover their tax payments.

With borrowing rates between banks so low, traders are taking advantage of cheap short-term cash to buy government bonds and pocketing the difference. Yields on China's one-year sovereign note fell three basis points to a two-year low of 1.75%.

Still, providing more liquidity may have limits, with the repurchase rate trending below the benchmark lending rate of 2.1%, said Ken Cheung, a strategist at Mizuho Bank Ltd. in Hong Kong. There's only a “marginal benefit of pumping extra liquidity into the interbank market,” he said.

From banker to barista: When coffee calls

HARARE

Tungamirai Musungwa, a 43-year-old innovator/barista has helped reimagine what it means to grab and enjoy a cup of coffee on the go in Harare, with his mobile coffee business, Zimbarista.

It is shortly after 8am on a Tuesday, and there is a constant stream of gym-goers and commuters making their way towards a mobile coffee truck parked at a service station in Rolf Valley, an upmarket suburb in Harare.

The unit's barista, Simbarashe, greets the customers with a smile and, for some, prompts their orders as they approach the truck. One woman drops off a metal flask, asking that it be filled with her "usual."

This energy and culture are replicated in nine other locations in Harare, where Zimbarista coffee units operate, a culture instilled by Tungamirai Musungwa, founder and owner of the business.

About two decades ago, life looked a lot different for the entrepreneur, now 43, who then worked a comfortable "nine-to-five" job as a branch manager for a bank.

However, celebrating a colleague's work anniversary made him rethink his life's trajectory.

"We had just celebrated one of my colleague's 35th anniversary with the bank, and at the time, I was about 27. And I thought to myself, 'wow, how is it he has been here longer than I have been alive?'" Musungwa, who had by then worked for the bank for nine years, recalled. "This could become my life too."

That was the moment, Musungwa realised he did not want a 10-year anniversary at the bank.

Owning a home and a car by the age of 23, Musungwa's life was certainly nothing to sneer at.

And yet he feared that the "rat race" would swallow him and that one day, he would look back at his life and not have much to show for it.

So he started taking steps to transition from life in the bank. First, off, he embarked on a hunt for a contingency plan.

He scouted for business opportunities, looking for a gap in the market that he could fill.

With a one-year-old baby in the home in 2007 - a year of economic devastation - and no baby items on the



Entrepreneur and innovator Tungamirai Musungwa, founder of Zimbarista (front) and one of his staff members Simbarashe (back) next to one of his mobile coffee trucks. PHOTO/COURTESY

shelves in Harare, Musungwa already had a taste for trade.

"Twice a month, on a Friday, after work at 4pm, I would get on a bus to South Africa. I would get there on Saturday morning, go to the shops, be back at the bus stop by about 2pm. By Sunday morning, I am back in Harare," he said.

"I would bring baby food, diapers, certain milk for lactose intolerant children, and things like that," he continued.

Before long, Musungwa had accumulated a relatively decent number of people looking for a product on a

daily and weekly basis.

However, he realised that as the economy improved, the demand for supplies brought over the border would dwindle and could not sustain him, full-time. It was at this point that he ventured into the construction business - which is how he came to coffee.

While interacting with the owners of a landscape business at one of the construction sites, Musungwa was presented with an opportunity to buy a coffee shop.

"They said if you know someone looking to buy a coffee shop, we are

selling one at the place we operate from, and I said 'let me come and see it,'" he said.

In 2009, after a conversation with his wife, Musungwa and his family bought the shop and officially became coffee business owners, despite knowing nothing about coffee.

"I am in the place of trying things, so I'm not going to know anything if I do not try anything," Musungwa explained.

"We sold a stand (property) that we had in Chishawasha Hills and bought the place," he continued.

Musungwa ran the business for two years before deciding to take on another challenge, this time in farming.

But before he could get going, a group of friends approached him with a different proposal.

His friends were looking to start a coffee shop and were looking for someone with knowledge of running a coffee shop to partner with.

"In my mind, I was like, 'coffee again?' At the same time, I thought, 'I am coming out of this situation, so I guess I could just help them in the meantime,'" he said.

Musungwa was asked to attend an on-the-job training with Seattle Coffee Company in Johannesburg. There, he experienced another life-defining moment.

"I get into Hyde Park Seattle, one of their bigger branches, and my mind was blown," Musungwa recalls.

"The coffee culture in Zimbabwe is the one that is like 'hey, let us meet up for coffee, it is a relaxed environment,'" he explained.

"This was so different from the culture in South Africa, which was 'I need my fix, and I have got to get back on the road.'" "There were long queues of people, and the coffee had to be done fast - in the shortest time possible," Musungwa continued.

"They are paying top dollar for it; I saw latte art being drawn with milk, freehand, and I thought to myself, 'I don't know what I was doing for the last two years,' it was a total mind shift," he explained.

After three years, in 2010, Musungwa returned to Zimbabwe with his newfound knowledge and co-founded a coffee business, Freshly Ground, determined to do things differently.

"We did extremely well, and the business grew; we ended up opening one or two other outlets," Musungwa said.

"I managed Freshly Ground for about four and a half years before I finally left." Musungwa was up for the next challenge, now confident that he was onto something with coffee.

"There had already been

things on the horizon that I had begun to see. Things like the emergence of international brands coming in," Musungwa explained.

"I just thought, with the pressure of all these coffee shops opening up, and with people having options of where to go, your market share will eventually suffer; I thought, 'how do you stay ahead of that? Convenience came up," he said. According to Musungwa, people are leaning more toward convenience, in a world where people order online and things arrive at their doorstep.

"How about we make the coffee more mobile, rather than waiting for people to come to us? How about finding out where people are already meeting and interacting - and occupying those spaces?"

To answer these questions, Musungwa founded Zimbarista, a mobile coffee business serving teas and a variety of espresso-based coffees (90 per cent of which are cappuccinos and lattes) and quickly identified schools as a market where parents and guardians gather for school drop-off, as well as at corporate events. The business started to grow.

"Slowly but surely, we began to open more and more outlets," he explained.

At its peak, Zimbarista had up to 12 outlets and a vintage shop in a VW bus.

Dollar edges lower ahead of ECB meeting

LONDON

The U.S. dollar edged lower in early European trade Monday, nudging down from multi-year highs, while the euro climbed away from parity ahead of the week's European Central Bank meeting.

At 02:55 AM ET (0655 GMT), the Dollar Index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six other currencies, traded 0.3% lower to 107.588, dropping back from last week's two-decade high of 109.290.

The dollar index soared to its highest level since September 2002 last week following the release of consumer price data on Wednesday showing inflation racing at the fastest pace in four decades.

However, expectations of a super-sized tightening by the Federal Reserve of at least 100 basis points at its meeting at the end of July have been reined in, with Fed Governor Christopher Waller and St. Louis Fed President James Bullard, both known hawks, favoring a 75 bps hike for this month, while Michigan 5-Year Inflation Expectations fell to 2.8% for July on Friday, from 3.1% in June.

EUR/USD rose 0.2% higher to 1.0109, climbing away from parity ahead of Thursday's European Central Bank meeting, where policymakers are expected to begin Europe's hiking cycle with a 25 basis point increase.

However, pressure could easily return on this pair given the ongoing political uncertainty in Italy after Prime Minister Mario Draghi tendered his resignation last week after one of the parties in his broad coalition, the 5-Star Movement, refused to back the government in a parliamentary confi-



dence vote.

President Sergio Mattarella rejected his resignation and asked the former head of the ECB to address parliament this coming week, but if the widely respected leader sticks to his guns then the stability of the debt-laden country, and thus the euro, is at risk.

Additionally, traders are looking to see if the Nord Stream pipe from Russia to Germany resumes supplying gas on Thursday after a shutdown for scheduled maintenance, amid fears that Russia will choose to prolong the outage for political reasons.

"EUR/USD appears primarily driven by other factors (macro picture, Russian gas supply, Fed pricing), but history tells us that political risk can cause a significant build-up in the risk premium on EUR/USD, so that's a threat not to be ignored," said analysts at ING, in a note.

Elsewhere, USD/JPY fell 0.2% to 138.21 and USD/CNY fell 0.1% to 6.7488, with the Bank of Japan set to meet on Thursday while China's central bank meets on Wednesday.

GBP/USD rose 0.4% to 1.1900, following the second of three debates to

termine who will succeed Boris Johnson as Britain's next Prime Minister.

Conservative MPs vote to eliminate one candidate on Monday afternoon before a final televised leadership debate on Tuesday. The final two candidates will be decided by a vote of MPs on July 21.

Risk sensitive AUD/USD rose 0.3% to 0.6812, while NZD/USD rose 0.1% to 0.6166 after annual New Zealand inflation rose to 7.3% from 6.9% in the first quarter, climbing to a fresh 32-year high.

Bank of America posts decrease in quarterly profit

WASHINGTON

Bank of America Corp posted a nearly 34% drop in second-quarter profit on Monday, hit by a slump in investment banking revenue as dealmaking activity was at a fraction of last year's record levels.

Wall Street investment bankers, who were neck-deep in deals last year, have seen activity slump in the first half of 2022 amid volatility in capital markets, geopolitical tensions and a risk-off sentiment that has swept across markets globally.

Bank of America's shares, which have fallen nearly 28% so far this year, were down 1.2% in premarket trading.

With stock market listings on ice and companies slamming the brakes on dealmaking, Bank of America's investment banking fees fell 47% to \$1.1 billion in the reported quarter.

Revenue in the quarter, net of interest expense, increased 6% to \$22.7 billion.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has been hiking interest rates rapidly, in line with its commitment to tame decades-high inflation. Though recession risks persist, the move for now has translated into higher profits for banks, which typically thrive in a high interest rate environment.

Bank of America's net interest income, a metric that measures the difference between the interest earned on loans and the amount paid out on deposits, jumped 22%, or \$2.2 billion, to \$12.4 billion.

Because of the composition of its balance sheet, BofA is the most sensitive among large U.S. banks to changes in interest rates.

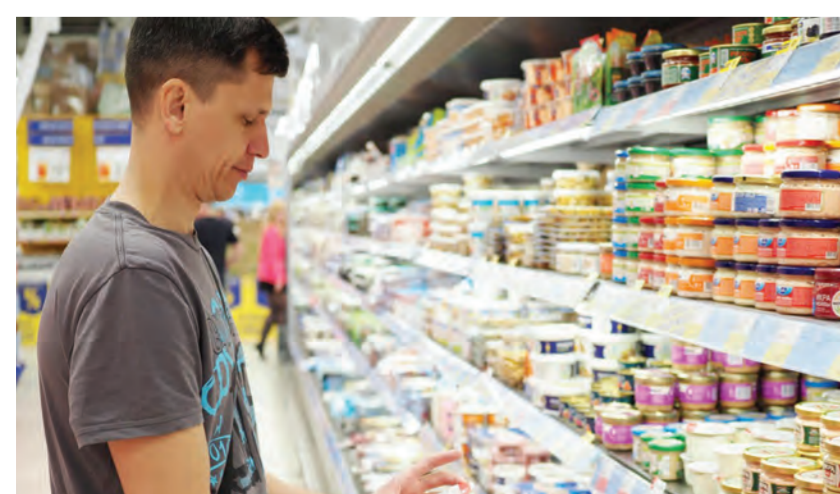
"Our U.S. consumer clients remained resilient with continued strong deposit balances and spending levels," Chief Executive Officer Brian Moynihan said.

Combined credit and debit card spend for the bank rose 11% to \$220.5 billion over the immediately preceding quarter. That figure was also up 10% year over year.

Total loans and leases, excluding those from the government's Paycheck Protection Program, grew 14% year-over-year. That figure was also up 4% from the immediately preceding quarter.

Bank of America recorded average deposits of more than \$1 trillion, up 10% from a year earlier.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Deflationary factors, including the strengthening rouble and increased supply of fruit, vegetables, eggs and sugar

Russians buying cheaper food items as incomes fall

MOSCOW,

RUSSIAN shoppers are switching to cheaper food items driven by a drop in real disposable income, the country's leading food retailer X5 Group said on Monday, as high inflation crimps purchasing power.

Though a stronger rouble and a drop in consumer demand have helped Russia rein in inflation, which soared to 20-year highs in annual terms after Moscow sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, consumer prices are still elevated.

Federal Statistics Service Rosstat last week said consumer prices have risen 11.60% so far this year. But food inflation in the second quarter of 2022 was running at 19.5% year-on-year, X5 said, up from 13.5% in the first quarter.

Deflationary factors, including the strengthening rouble and increased supply of fruit, vegetables, eggs and sugar, are however slowing that growth rate, the retailer said.

In a trading update, X5 said net sales at its "hard discounter" Chizhik jumped 28 times year-on-year in the second quarter to 6.8 billion roubles (\$120.4

million). Total net sales increased 18.6% year-on-year in the quarter to 647.3 billion roubles and it opened 300 new stores.

"X5 continues to focus on strengthening its positions in key regions of operations and expanding its presence and its market share organically as well as through selected tactical M&A opportunities," the company said.

X5 could benefit from the exodus of foreign companies in opposition to Russia's actions in Ukraine. By the end of June, X5 had rebranded almost all the stores of the Prisma retail chain

that it agreed to buy from Finnish firm SOK Retail for an undisclosed sum in mid-June.

High inflation has been the key concern among Russian households for years as it dents living standards, something that this year will be aggravated by the economic crisis triggered by unprecedented Western sanctions against Russia.

The Bank of Russia is widely expected to cut its key rate from 9.5% at its July 22 board meeting after Russia posted a drop in consumer prices in June. (\$1 = 56.5000 roubles)

WORLD

Iran pursues dynamic diplomacy to counter US isolation, says media

TEHRAN

U.S. President Joe Biden's first Middle East tour meant to rally support to counter what he called "Iranian threats" is most likely to see a watered-down achievement, given Iran's sustained efforts to improve relations with neighbors and other countries in the region, analysts said.

A handful of Iranian media outlets recently reviewed the track record of Iran's foreign policy under the current administration that has put regional countries on top of its priorities, finding some fruitful outcomes in fixing Iran's strained ties with regional powers such as Saudi Arabia.

WEST NO LONGER PRIORITY

Since the first day of his administration, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has been focusing on developing ties with, firstly, neighbors and regional countries and, secondly, Asian and other countries.

"As widely confirmed by experts, Iran's neighbors offer considerable capacities for exchanges in the economy, energy, transit and trade sectors," the semi-official Tasnim News Agency wrote in a recent analysis on Raisi's approach.

The most important strategy Raisi has pursued is to go beyond the "unwritten" convention of limiting Iran's foreign policy to the interactions with the West,

Khabaronline news website wrote in an opinion piece on the 11-month performance of the Raisi administration.

Instead, "he and his team have constantly taken major steps toward opening new chapters in bilateral ties with neighbors and regional states and clearing up the misunderstandings," the website wrote.

The Raisi administration managed to prepare all the ground for Iran to get full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in a bid to enjoy the abundant opportunities the transnational group can offer, it added.

NEUTRALIZATION OF SANCTIONS

Tasnim said the Raisi administration has made "diverse achievements" in diplomacy, such as a 400-percent increase in transactions with Tajikistan, expansion of strategic relations with Russia, and expressing willingness for cooperation with BRICS and other regional and international organizations.

Raisi has sought to minimize the impacts of intensified U.S.-led Western sanctions on his country with such a "dynamic diplomacy" and by adopting a "Look to the East" policy, among other efforts, semi-official Fars News Agency said in a recent article.

Iran has been a target of U.S. coercive measures over the past four decades, especially since May 2018 when then U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud (R) meets with U.S. President Joe Biden at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. Xinhua

pulled Washington out of a 2015 nuclear deal and intensified sanctions on Iran.

However, the rise in vaccine imports and oil sales, Iran's more active and influential role in the region, and its increased interactions with the rest of the world are all evidence of the positive outcomes of Tehran's approach against such sanctions, the Fars article noted.

In line with its policy of boosting ties with neighbors and regional countries, the Raisi administration revived Iran's relations with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), an Asian political and economic intergovernmental organization, and had an active presence in the 15th ECO Summit hosted by Turkmenistan last November, where Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan signed a gas swap deal that helped resolve Iran's gas dispute with Azerbaijan, Khabaronline said.

Abbas Moqtadaei, vice chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian parliament, told official news agency IRNA that the Raisi administration's good-neighborliness approach will open up new cooperation potential in economy, trade and politics.

EFFORTS BEARING FRUIT

Over the past years, Iran's strained ties with some regional countries allowed the United States sufficient room to pressure Iran through

sanctions and isolation policy, analysts said. But under Raisi, Tehran managed to revive or, at least, began to mend some of its strained relations, Khabaronline wrote.

"One of the measures taken by the Raisi administration was to start a new round of Iraq-brokered normalization talks with Saudi Arabia," as Tehran-Riyadh tensions in recent years are among the most challenging problems to solve in the region, according to Khabaronline.

Iran and other Arab states have also seen frequent mutual visits over the last few months, Tehran Times said, adding that Raisi has travelled to many countries, including Oman and Qatar, in a bid to advance the country's foreign policy goals.

Official voices from countries with strained relations with Iran, including those that came during Biden's first trip to the Middle East, have shown that the Raisi administration's diplomatic efforts are gradually coming to fruition.

Anwar Gargash, a senior diplomatic advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president, told reporters on Friday that the UAE is working to send an ambassador to Tehran in thawing relations.

"We are open to cooperation, but not cooperation targeting any other country in the region and I specifically mention Iran," he said.

Xinhua

Western sanctions to bring third world 'to its knees', not Russia – Sri Lankan PM

NEW DELHI

WESTERN sanctions introduced against Russia won't bring it down to its knees, while third world countries will suffer, Sri Lanka's acting president, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said yesterday.

"Do you think sanctions will help? It will only drag the prices up. [...] Let us look at the sanctions that are being imposed and ask ourselves if this is necessary."

The sanctions won't bring Russia to its knees, but it will bring the rest of the third world to its knees," he said at an international panel discussion on preventing hunger and famine as quoted by India's Doordarshan TV channel.

According to the official, the sanctions affect such countries as Sri Lanka where food products are not generally accessible.

"Our issue in Sri Lanka is partly self-made and partly due to the global crisis," he said, adding that "a global crisis and an internal crisis both have come together and brought us to a level where many estimate that as much as 6 million people are facing malnutrition."

Overall, Wickremesinghe thinks that the Western anti-Russian sanctions and the events in Ukraine caused the global food and fuel crises.

The situation in Ukraine and the barrage of sanctions that the United States and the European Union



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe

imposed on Russia have disrupted food crisis in a number of countries. grain supplies, raising the risk of a Wheat and corn prices have

soared since the beginning of the year. A UN Security Council meeting on May 21 revealed that global wheat stocks would last for only ten weeks and the situation was worse than it had been in 2007 and 2008.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier that the global food crisis, triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and miscalculations by Western countries, had erupted long before the launch of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine.

According to Russia's chief diplomat, the current situation exacerbated the problem and the Western sanctions became one of the main reasons for the food supply disruptions.

Agencies

UAE detains US lawyer for Khashoggi on money laundering charges

UNITED Arab Emirates authorities have detained Asim Ghafoor, a US citizen and civil rights attorney who previously served as a lawyer for slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi, said US-based rights group DAWN of whose board Ghafoor is a member.

A UAE government official confirmed Ghafoor was arrested while transiting through Dubai International Airport on July 14 on charges related to an in absentia conviction for money laundering pursuant to evidence heard by Emirati courts.

A senior US administration official had told reporters earlier on Saturday that the United States was aware, but could not say whether President Joe Biden would raise the issue in bilateral talks with the UAE president on the sidelines of an Arab summit in

Saudi Arabia.

"There's no indication that it has anything to do with the Khashoggi issue," the official added.

Saudi journalist Khashoggi was killed by Saudi agents in 2018 at the kingdom's Istanbul consulate in an operation that US intelligence says Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved. The prince denies involvement.

Democracy for the Arab World Now said in a statement on Friday that Ghafoor, a civil rights attorney based in Virginia, was en route to Istanbul to attend a family wedding.

The Emirati official, responding to a Reuters request for comment, said the UAE has granted a request by the US embassy to conduct a consular visit and that since the



original trial was held in absentia, Ghafoor is permitted to request a retrial.

"A request has been received and granted, resulting in the case being reopened, and the relevant legal proceedings are underway," the official said.

DAWN cited US consular officials as saying the lawyer was being held in a detention facility in Abu Dhabi and that Ghafoor stated he had no knowledge of any legal matter against him.

It said the conviction was obtained "without due process" and called for his immediate release.

Rights groups say the UAE has jailed hundreds of activists, academics and lawyers in unfair trials on broad charges.

The UAE has rejected such accusations as baseless and says it is committed to human rights under the country's charters.

Biden had said he would raise human rights during his trip to the region which concluded on Saturday.

Agencies

AU mid-year coordinating meeting ends with call to accelerate integration, boost industrialisation

LUSAKA

THE 4th African Union (AU) mid-year coordinating meeting concluded Sunday in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, with a call for members to accelerate the integration process and promote value addition to raw materials through increased industrialization.

Macky Sall, the AU chairperson, told reporters during a press briefing that the leaders agreed to actualize the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to promote trade and enhance integration.

Sall (pictured), who is also president of Senegal, said the coming into force of the free trading arrangement was a step in the right direction but needs to be followed up through concrete steps by members.

He said the meeting tackled the importance of integration and the importance of a free trading arrangement.

He said Africa has been exporting raw materials for a long time, adding that it was time for a paradigm shift by ensuring that the continent starts adding value to its raw materials.

It was only through value addition that Africa will be able to create wealth and jobs for its people, said Sall, stressing that this was a process that needs to evolve. He, however, said Africa was on the right track toward achieving the objectives of Agenda 2063, adding that the first 10 years of the development plan have come to an end and work on the next 10-year plan has started.

While acknowledging the progress made in implementing Agenda 2063 in its first 10 years, Sall noted that there have been challenges and lessons learned.

He also said Saturday's launch of an early warning platform, the Inter-Regional Knowledge Exchange on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention, will go a long way in promoting peace and ensuring stability on the continent.

The one-day meeting was held with a theme featuring Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent: Accelerate the Human Capital, Social and Economic Development.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said in the opening remarks that the theme of the meeting underscored the need for countries to reflect on how to transform the potential in the agriculture sector into tangible results for the wellbeing of people by ensuring that nutrition and food security were guaranteed.

While acknowledging the challenges facing Africa, the Zambian leader expressed optimism that the challenges could be resolved if countries worked together.

He urged member countries to consider signing and ratifying the Africa Risk Capacity Treaty which will open up assistance channels in planning, preparing and responding to shocks in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The Zambian president also called for increased productivity in the agriculture sector as well as accelerated value addition through agro-processing in order to guard against the growing global problem of food insecurity which has been compounded by rising costs of food, energy and agricultural inputs.

The meeting followed the holding of the 41st Ordinary Session of the Executive Council which was attended by ministers responsible for foreign affairs.

It brought together members of the Bureau of the Assembly of the AU and the chairpersons of Regional Economic Communities to discuss various pertinent issues concerning the African continent.

Xinhua

Moscow says friendship with its partner Tehran deeply cherished

MOSCOW

MOSCOW cherishes its friendship with Tehran that has a rich history and was recently given a new impulse, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with Iran's state-run broadcaster shown on the Rossiya-24 television yesterday.

"Iran is our friend and partner, and we do appreciate our relations," Peskov said. According to him, the two presidents have had four contacts this year, "and they will hopefully meet again in the next few days."

He noted that political, diplomatic and economic relations between Moscow and Tehran were given a new impetus in recent years.

"However, the history of our relations is not reduced to several years or months, as we know Russia and Iran as two countries that have a long and very rich history," with the first diplomatic contacts between Russia and Persia dating back to the 16th century, Peskov recalled.

Therefore, bilateral relations have deep roots and a very powerful potential that enables Moscow and Tehran to "reach out for wider horizons," while respecting each other's interests and showing mutual respect, Peskov added.

Potlala Palace in NW China's Tibet put under better protection by digital technologies

THE Potlala Palace, a cultural site with a history of more than 1,300 years and the only UNESCO World Heritage site in southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, is glowing with new vitality under the protection of digital technologies.

With just one click, people can observe a 3D replica of the architectural complex on screens; nearly 800 sensors placed around and in the palace have recorded over 10 million sets of data; over 1,500 monitoring devices and about 9 kilometers of sensing fiber optic cables have been installed to record the conditions of the palace...

The digitalization of the palace was

initiated by Dawa Ngodrup, director of the digital center under the Potlala Palace's administrative office, who has been working there for 17 years.

He made the decision to do so after he returned from a 2006 visit to the Dunhuang Academy in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu province, during which he was astonished by many of the technologies applied there to map and protect murals and ancient structures at the Mogao Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Dunhuang.

In those years, Dawa Ngodrup spent almost all of his time in the Potlala Palace. He always worked extra hours until mid-

night shooting the details of the murals in the palace, because the palace was visited by large numbers of tourists during the daytime.

Apart from acquiring the digital information of thousands of square meters of murals, Dawa Ngodrup also kicked off a digital modeling project of the entire palace.

The digital modeling was a big challenge given that the palace was built on a mountainside and has complicated structures. Many technologies, including UAV aerial photography, 3D laser scanning, and multi-view image reconstruction, were used for rendering the digital

modeling of the ancient architectural complex.

"We did this to form a comprehensive database of the palace's cultural relics, facilitate researchers' work, and reduce the risk of damaging cultural relics," said Thubten Tsering, an official with the administrative office of the Potlala Palace.

Real-time structural monitoring of the Potlala Palace also mirrors the application of modern technologies in the maintenance of the cultural site. The structural monitoring is a premise for the rational operation of the palace, and is important for the protection of it.

The monitoring system was tailored

by professor Yang Na and her team from Beijing Jiaotong University. After four years of preparations, the first phase of the system was officially put into operation in October 2012 to monitor the key parts of the palace's wooden structures.

Studying the impacts from the tourist flow on the palace's wooden structures, the system helped establish a control mechanism that regulates the number of visitors according to the structural deformation caused by the tourist flow, so as to prevent the palace from being damaged by regular visiting activities.

The second phase of the system commenced in 2015, with a focus on the

walls, foundations and caves featured at the architectural complex.

Staff members can now check data of the palace's walls via an app on their mobile phones, thanks to the installation of 388 sensors, including crack meters, inclinometers and soil moisture meters, which can realize the real-time monitoring of any movement across surface cracks, ambient temperatures, the angles of inclinations for walls and pillars, among other key parameters. The second phase of the system, which was put into use in August 2021, can automatically create quarterly analysis reports.

People's Daily

Lavrov calls 'European Political Community' deliberately confrontational initiative

MOSCOW

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron's proposal to create a "European political community" is a deliberately confrontational idea with anti-Russian intentions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his interview for Izvestia published yesterday.



"So far, they have been advertising the 'European political community,' initiated by French President Macron, where there will be no particular financial or economic benefits, but there will be demands for full solidarity with the EU on its anti-Russian actions.

This is no longer an 'or-or' principle, but a 'who is not with us is against us' principle. Macron himself explained what this community is: the EU will invite all European countries to join, from Iceland to Ukraine, but not Russia.

I will point it out right here that we don't need to go there, but the statement itself, which unveils the nature of this deliberately confrontational, dividing idea, is noteworthy," the Foreign Minister said. **Agencies**

Report finds 'systemic failures,' poor leadership in Uvalde shooting

A TEXAS legislators' probe of the Uvalde school shooting that left 21 dead blamed "systemic failures" and poor leadership for contributing to the death toll, a report released on Sunday found.

The Texas House of Representatives committee investigation marked the most exhaustive attempt so far to determine why it took more than an hour for police and other officers to confront and kill the 18-year-old gunman at Robb Elementary School on May 24.

The bottom line, the report found, is that "law enforcement responders failed to adhere to their active shooter training, and they failed to prioritize saving the lives of innocent victims over their own safety."

The 77-page report said 376 law enforcement officers rushed to the school in a chaotic scene marked by a lack of clear leadership and sufficient urgency. "Other than the attacker, the Committee did not find any 'villains' in the course of its investigation," the report stated. "Instead, we found systemic failures and egregious poor decision making."

"The void of leadership could have contributed to the loss of life as injured victims waited over an hour for help, and the attacker continued to sporadically fire his weapon."

Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin said in an emailed statement that the city had placed Lieutenant Mariano Pargas, who was the acting city policy chief on the day of the shooting, on administrative leave.

Pargas did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

State police officials have sharply criticized the leadership of Pete Arredondo, the police chief of the school district's six-man police force, who state police have said was in control of the scene.

But the report noted that hundreds of officers from agencies that were better trained and better equipped than the school police force badly failed, too.

"Despite an obvious atmosphere of chaos, the ranking officers of other responding agencies did not approach (Arredondo) or anyone else perceived to be in command to point out the lack of and need for a command post, or to offer that specific assistance," the report stated.

The mayor McLaughlin also on Sunday released body camera footage from some of the city police officers who responded to the shooting, which showed the confusion of the scene.

The body cam footage of one officer who was among the first to arrive inside the school, just a few minutes after the gunman had fired over 100 rounds inside the classrooms, showed the chaos.

The officer approached the door of the classroom and was grazed with one of the gunman's shots. He asked fellow officers in the hallway if he was bleeding, then momentarily retreated outside the school.

"He's in the class!," the officer told colleagues outside. "We gotta get in there! We gotta get in there, he just keeps shooting!"

Shortcomings and failures

The report found multiple failures at the school, noting the five-foot tall exterior fence around the school that could not impede the gunman. There was also a "regrettable culture of noncompliance by school personnel" when it came to leaving exterior and interior doors unlocked or propped open. The gunman easily entered the school through an unlocked door.

The report also found that of the approximately 142 rounds the attacker fired inside the building, it was "almost certain" that around 100 of those shots were fired before any officer entered the school.

The report described "shortcomings and failures of the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District and of various agencies and officers of law enforcement" and "an overall lackadaisical approach" by the authorities.

Part of that could be explained by communications failures.

Children inside the classrooms where the killing took place called 911 and pleaded for help, but the report said that nobody ensured that responders making key decisions inside the building knew about those emergency calls or "received information that students and teachers had survived the initial burst of gunfire."

"Nobody in command analyzed this information to recognize that the attacker was preventing critically injured victims from obtaining medical care," the report stated.

Agencies

Southern Europe battles wildfires as heatwave spreads north

MADRID/LISBON

A heatwave sweeping southern Europe that has caused hundreds of deaths and huge wildfires in past weeks showed some signs of abating on Monday but continued to move north, including towards Britain where authorities issued an extreme weather warning.

Much of Europe is baking in a heatwave that scientists say is consistent with climate change and has pushed temperatures into the mid-40s Celsius in some regions, with wildfires raging across tinder-dry countryside in Portugal, Spain and France.

Temperatures in some parts of southern Europe began to ease over the weekend but thousands of firefighters across the region still battled to contain hundreds of wildfires and authorities said the risk of further blazes remained extremely high.

Spain was facing the eighth and last day of a more than week-long heatwave on Monday, which caused more than 510 heat-related deaths, according to estimates from the Carlos III Health Institute.

With fires burning thousands of hectares in Galicia, Castile and Leon, Catalonia, Extremadura and Andalusia, Spain mourned



A woman and her children arrive at the Anse lake, outside Lyon, central France, during a heatwave on Sunday. AP

the death of one firefighter in the northwestern province of Zamora on Sunday evening. Almost the entire country faces an extreme fire risk.

"There are never words to thank the immense work of those who fight the fires tirelessly," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Sunday night in a condolence message on Twitter. More than 70,000 hectares have burnt in Spain so far this year, the worst year of the last decade, according to official data. Last month, a huge wildfire in Sierra de la Culebra, Castile and Leon, ravaged about 30,000 hectares of land.

Spain also reported a second death caused by a wildfire after a fireman died on Sunday. A 69-year-old was

found dead on Monday in Ferreruela, in an area burned by flames, emergency authorities said. Local media said it was a farmer.

In Portugal, temperatures dropped over the weekend, but the risk of wildfires remained very high across most of the country, according to the Portuguese Institute of Meteorology (IPMA).

More than 1,000 firefighters, backed by 285 vehicles and 14 aircraft, were battling nine ongoing wildfires, mainly in the country's northern regions, authorities said.

National emergencies

Belgium and Germany were among the countries ex-

pecting the heatwave to hit them in coming days.

Britain was on course for its hottest day on record on Monday with temperatures forecast to hit 40C for the first time, forcing train companies to cancel services, schools to close early and ministers to urge the public to stay at home.

The government has triggered a "national emergency" alert as temperatures were forecast to surpass the 38.7C recorded in the Cambridge University Botanic Garden in 2019 on Monday and Tuesday.

"We hoped we wouldn't get to this situation but for the first time ever we are forecasting greater than 40C in the UK," climate attribution scientist at the Met Office, Dr Nikos Christidis, said.

"Climate change has already influenced the likelihood of temperature extremes in the UK. The chances of seeing 40C days in the UK could be as much as 10 times more likely in the current climate than under a natural climate unaffected by human influence," he said.

In France, wildfires had spread over 11,000 hectares in the southwestern region of Gironde, and more than 14,000 people have been evacuated, regional authorities said on Sunday afternoon.

More than 1,200 firefighters were trying to control the blazes, the authorities said in a statement.

COVID-19: Australian PM rules out reducing isolation period

WELLINGTON

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has ruled out cutting the coronavirus isolation period from seven days.

Albanese yesterday said it is "not the time" to consider winding back the isolation period amid surging case numbers in the current winter months.

Dominic Perrottet, Premier of

the country's most populous state of New South Wales, has called for the federal government to consider cutting that period. In response, Albanese said no change was imminent.

"The advice that is there from the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Kelly, was that now is certainly not the time for that to be reconsidered," he told South Australian radio station FIVEaa.

"That's something health offi-

cialists will continue to look at. But given the increased spread of the COVID-19 virus in recent times that we'll see continuing, it's expected to peak over coming weeks, now's not the time to change those provisions which are there."

Coronavirus case numbers in Australia are expected to spike in the coming weeks, with authorities warning that "it's likely" some millions of Australians will catch CO-

VID-19.

More than 35,000 new COVID-19 cases and over 20 deaths were reported across Australia yesterday.

It comes at a time when influenza cases continue to soar.

According to the latest Australian Influenza Surveillance Report, there had been 187,431 confirmed flu cases in Australia as of July 3 and 113 deaths.

Of those cases, 36,719 were re-

ported in the two weeks leading up to July 3.

"From mid-April 2022, the weekly number of notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported in Australia has exceeded the five-year average," the report said.

More than 1,300 cases have required hospitalization for treatment, 6.5 percent of which were admitted directly to intensive care.

Agencies

Lhasa-Nyingchi railway benefits local people, economy



A Fuxing bullet train runs in Shannan, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. (Photo by Xu Yuyao/People's Daily)

AT around 7:00 am, the Lhasa railway station, located at an altitude of 3,700 meters in the capital city of southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, went bustling. Large groups of passengers, including tourists and local residents, waited at the station for train announcements.

"Passengers on train C881 please proceed to the ticket gate." Passengers started moving toward the platforms as the announcements were broadcast, where the Fuxing bullet trains and normal-speed trains stopped to meet their guests.

This has happened every day at the railway station over the past year since the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway was put into operation.

On June 25, 2021, the Lhasa-Nyingchi railway opened, providing southeast Tibet with access to railway services for the first time in history, and bringing the first Fuxing bullet train to the region.

Over the past year, the personnel and economic exchanges between southeast Tibet and other parts of China have become closer and more frequent, and local industries have achieved constant development thanks to the opening of the railway. It has promoted local employment for people in remote regions.

The railway, with a designed speed of 160 km per hour, greatly shortens the travel time for passengers in Tibet. It takes more than four hours to drive from Lhasa to Nyingchi, but the train trip costs only around three.

Different from the highway, the railway was framed to cover much more areas along its course. Nowadays, with an expressway and a railway linking the two cities, all counties and districts along the routes are included in a rapid transportation network.

The railway is the best choice for passengers both on business trips and family visits for its speed, comfort, punctuality and stability. It has recorded daily delivery of over 4,300 passengers and carried a total of nearly 1.14 million passengers since its opening.

A "three-hour economic circle" that covers Lhasa, Nyingchi and other cities has taken shape, injecting strong impetus into the development of Tibet.

"The railway has brought better development to the tourism industry in our county," said an aid-Tibet cadre surnamed Gao from central China's Hubei province, who currently serves as a governor of Gyaca county in Tibet's Shannan.

Recently, he joined a promotional event for Shannan's tourism held in Lhasa, where he learned that Gyaca county has become a new popular destination for tourists as it only takes two hours to arrive in the county from Lhasa by train.

Since last year, the number of beds at Gyaca county's hotels

surged from 300 to around 500. The county has provided a shuttle service between its train station and the county seat, as well as other hot destinations in the county. Convenient transportation is also vitalizing local industries, such as the nut business.

A villager from Bayi district, Nyingchi, said the Nyingchi railway station has changed the life of him and his fellow villagers, who work at the station as stevedores.

Over the past year, more than 6,100 tons of food and beverage, as well as 3,800 tons of electrical appliances have been shipped to the Nyingchi railway station instead of expensive road freight in the past. The railway cargo service not only lowers logistics costs, but also offers job opportunities for many local people. During the busiest period last summer, there were 60 to 70 stevedores working at the train station at most, driving the employment of the labor force in nearby villages.

At present, the local railway department employs more than 400 people nearby to work in cleaning and security.

The Fuxing bullet trains running on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau are bringing tangible benefits to the transportation, work and life of the local people, carrying them to a brighter future.

People's Daily

Top Israeli general to discuss defence in first Morocco visit

JERUSALEM

THE chief of Israel's armed forces will visit Morocco yesterday in the highest-level public engagement between the countries, which upgraded ties in 2020 under a US diplomatic drive.

While Lieutenant-General Aviv Kochavi's trip has been showcased by Israel as part of emerging defence cooperation with the North African country, Rabat has also been trying to broker improved conditions for the Palestinians.

"One of the subjects that will be discussed (in Morocco) this week will be knowledge-sharing, training - the ability to train together in joint manoeuvres - weapons development, the transfer of know-how and perhaps also of weaponry," Israeli military spokesman Brigadier-General Ran Kochav told Ynet TV.

There was no immediate comment from Rabat.

The Moroccan rapprochement with Israel followed its normalisation deal with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, pacts that Washington, seeking closer cooperation among its allies to offset a rising Iran, dubbed the "Abraham Accords".

Israel and Morocco established low-level relations in the 1990s but

these had been suspended after a Palestinian uprising against Israel erupted in 2000. The upgrade of ties in 2020, which remains short of full normalisation, has brought direct flights between the countries and a range of bilateral deals.

"Not everything is about security," Israeli Transportation Minister Merav Michaeli told Reuters in an interview about relations with Morocco. "There are wide interests that we have together and we share."

She credited Morocco with mediating a deal to permanently open a border crossing from Jordan to the Israeli-occupied West Bank that is important for Palestinian traffic, and said she was in talks with Rabat about other infrastructure projects.

"Morocco is the player that is able to bring everyone together, to soften everybody's hardships around whatever issue there is," Michaeli said. "They just have a way of speaking to everyone in a way that gets them around the table and gets them to cooperate."

The Israeli military said it hosted a Moroccan commando unit for a multi-nation exercise in July 2021, established direct military ties with Rabat in March 2022 and, last month, hosted Moroccan top brass to agree on a year-long joint work program.



IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi

Dismas paves way for Tanzania's midfielders in Europe

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN the evolution of football in Tanzania, it was easy for the sport's lovers to predict that the country's first player to play soccer in Europe would be playing in the attacking area.

Doing so was not quite challenging as no area is as easy for a soccer lover to calculate a player's statistics as the attacking area.

A soccer fanatic will just count the goals the footballer scored and then find out that the latter is a good goal scorer.

The fanatic can also count the number of the footballer's assists, but the main goal of an attacker is to score.

The goal-getter can even tap the ball using his stomach but the sport's lovers will count it, whether it is a spectacular or ordinary goal.

And there is no bad goal scorer in the world, there is neither a forward that drills in goals easily nor an attacker that scores in difficult positions.

The goals that soccer followers feel are scored easily result from an attacker staying in his position at the right time but not every attacker can do that.

It was easy for the European outfits to rope in forward Mbwana Samatta because they looked at his numbers with DR Congo side TP Mazembe.

They did not need to know about his nationality, given that nationality does not score goals and, for that matter, Belgium club Genk signed Samatta as I thought before.

But the outfit currently has another forward Kelvin John, this one has also been signed because of his numbers. Ever since he was in the national junior sides, John has been a good goal scorer.

It was easy for the Belgium outfit to just look at his goals and then pick him up.

But if a footballer follower looks closely, many of the recent stars who have been going outside Tanzania are attackers.

They are the likes of Habib Kyombo, Eliud Ambokile, Eliuter Mpepo, and others, European outfits are very much looking for attackers.

Before midfielder Novatus Dismas who has recently joined Belgian Premier League club Zulte Weregem, Himid Mao remained the only midfielder who played professional football outside Tanzania.

It seems like domestic players playing in midfield find it difficult to have the opportunity to play soccer abroad.

By going to play football in a Belgian Premier League club, Dismas has honoured Tanzania for two issues, the first of which is he has continued to honour his country in Belgian football.

He becomes the third star from Tanzania to play in the Belgian Premier League after Samatta and John.

These three footballers have paved the way for other Tanzania stars who are more reliable in the country.

Before them, a football fanatic could hardly harbour optimism that a Tanzanian player can achieve success in Europe because the continent's outfits have concentrated on roping in footballers from Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon, and elsewhere where there is good history in football.

Dismas has nevertheless made the midfield position quite interesting, but I do not know much about Tanzania's soccer legend, Sunday Manara, who is also mentioned as a footballer with a successful spell in European football in his heyday.

It is mentioned that Manara was an attacking midfielder, those were the old days.

In the current era, Dismas has represented his country in that sensitive area of football, it is an area that was for many years producing top players.

For domestic football fans that are a little older, they will remember gifted midfielders Athuman China, Method Mogella, Issa Athuman, Hamis Gaga, Dadi Athumani, Steven Mussa, Octavian Mrope, and many others.

Sometimes an individual might have watched them play football and say, 'If Gaga had been around in this era



Zulte Weregem's defensive midfielder, Novatus Dismas.

then the midfielder would have played professional football in Europe'.

These are common statements in either streets or coffee spots but now some players are holding sway, including Dismas, Jonas Mkude, Ibrahim Ajibu, and others.

Because domestic football fans are in a transparent world, it would not be appropriate if after several years they would start telling each other, 'If it were this era, then Dismas would play in Europe'.

The time is now, Dismas has done well because he has left an outfit based in a country that battles it out in European competitions and moved to another outfit on the same continent.

It means that he has been seen serving a modest European club and then he joined a high-profile outfit.

The Israel Premier League has low status compared to the Belgian Premier League, which means that Dismas has done a good job in Israel to get the upgrade.

He has not gone to Zulte Weregem to simply increase the number of players on the outfit's bench, he joined the side to prove his worth.

At the age of 19, Dismas has gone to Europe at the most appropriate time, this will be discussed another day.

The fact however is that he can achieve more success because he has moved to a league that produces talent which moves to much more established leagues at a young age.

Yaya Toure, Victor Wanyama, Cheikh Kouyate, and others played in the Belgian Premier League and went to the bigger leagues because many scouts have been keeping an eye on it.

As far as I know, Dismas, the former Azam FC defensive midfielder, will not let his country down.

Although he has a teenager appearance, he is mentally and physically mature.

He plays soccer well and there is no doubt that he represents his country well in the midfield area which for many years, especially in the past, had footballers with two qualities.

They are elegant players with great technique that can also play tough. This is what Athuman China was all about, according to old football supporters' talks.

Domestic soccer enthusiasts ought to keep reminding themselves that this time other East African countries are relying on players who play professional football outside their borders to achieve success, we have to follow that path.

I hardly believe that local footballers can solely propel the senior national side to success in major competitions.

Such players in the likes of Dismas are the ones needed by the national squad to help it enjoy success.

Foreign-based footballers will inject knowledge into the senior national team, there is no shortcut.

Dismas has also continued to show that local players can play in Europe.

Whether Samatta was viewed as a local footballer that moved to Europe at the right time, or John is viewed as a performer that was promoted by Samatta, Dismas has provided local soccer fanatics with a different example.

Through Dismas, who has gone to a Belgian Premier League club without having a relationship with Samatta, it has become clear that there is a possibility that he will scale great height without Samatta's help.

Recycling players takes distinct turn with higher capacity Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHAT traditionally used to be seen in the past as shifting players among Mainland Tanzania Premier League clubs has distinctly changed, such that if one was used to the old scene as a sort of natural to Tanzania, one would look at the current situation as virtually unheard of, or unthinkable.

Two specific tendencies appear to be over and done with, first a wholesale offloading of players from leading clubs and especially the city rivals, to pick the best players emerging during the outgoing season.

That was not to be seen at the end of this season, as clubs sought to find players for specific positions they believed needed to be 'upgraded'.

The norm is scaled in three levels, first plucking the best players from upper-level Premier League sides that failed to clinch top four positions, as they have good players but will not have the finance to keep players who are needed by those who will be competing in Africa inter-club championships.

The leading club losing players in this manner is Coastal Union, whose failure to reach the top four exposed them to losing Abdulhamis Suleiman 'Sopu' to Azam FC, while Geita Gold FC held to their commendable striker George Mpole from intense efforts at poaching, especially by the city rivals, for the simple reason that they have reason to crowd him tightly.

The second level of losing



Dodoma Jiji FC's midfielder, Erick Nkosi (L), seeks to contain Ruvu Shooting's midfielder Renatus Kisase when the clubs locked horns in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash that took place in Coast Region in February. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DODOMA JIJI FC

players, and hereby considerable numbers, are leading players from clubs that are put to relegation, as various higher ranked sides seek to reinforce their numbers by picking from the now cheaper players of those sides.

No longer going to benefit from Premier League sponsorship funds, it is hard for them to keep players who would be promised considerably higher salaries with top-flight sides, thus they will seek to be eased out, or bought out if they have a continuing contractual engagement.

The middle clubs appear not to be losing players, save in some instances, but nothing on a big scale as earlier.

There is a sense in which one can say we now have a more professional league than earlier, where it tended to be amateur until there

was overall sponsorship technically enabled by digital television.

The rather recent capacity brought international and local soccer on domestic screens, and local players were being sought outside.

It enhanced the value of advertising a team and its assets, as a single good transfer repays much of what an investor would have spent for the year, though it isn't calculated to pay back.

That is the preliminary lesson of a more professional setup of the Premier League, with all clubs having upwards of 100m/- in preliminary sponsorship funds, and then having either 'domestic' or internal sponsors for each club (unless a club opts out of the overall coverage), equity is enhanced.

Clubs are 'more equal' in the sense of being able to hold to their players

unless there is a big reason, if a player is sought by the four teams listed for continental championships, and even then they can state a steep price if they are themselves involved.

When they aren't, they will be in a position to negotiate, not call the shots, as the player will not be leaving under whatever circumstances, but no real impediments will be put up.

One illustration of this equality is the way the two top city sides failed to buy out George Mpole from Geita Gold FC, that it is akin to the way it now appears Manchester United superstar Cristiano Ronaldo might finally remain in place.

The reason was singular that those playing in the UEFA Champions League find no reason to pay the sums demanded with the player where all focus will be on one season, the next being unpredictable for the player, as at that time he will be 38 years old.

Age was a factor but the cash was more important, thus enabling the club with an expensive player to retain him, as scouts seek equally good players elsewhere, especially by recruiting from within the region and for some of them, a bit further.

Noticeably as well, the big clubs are now rivaling other recruiting agents in top-of-the-pile North African sides, for instance, the fact that Simba SC signed Augustine Okrah from Bechem United of Ghana, a club finishing third in the Premier League, scoring 13 goals in 32 league appearances, which online sites say is the club's highest so far.

Others say he is one of a handful of local league players often picked in the Ghanaian national side, a giant by African standards as it ranks among the 10 best national sides in the continent.

He is a player that could have been picked by either the South African moneybag Premier League sides, or sides in North Africa, which suggests that the Mainland Tanzania Premier League is ticking, unfolding its potential.



Dar es Salaam's Cambiasso Sports Academy's footballers feature in training at Uhuru Stadium last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Prisons' coach lifts lid on outfit's poor performance

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANZANIA Prisons' assistant coach Shabani Mtupa has revealed that coaching tactics deployed in the squad were the reasons behind the team's poor performance in the just-ended NBC Premier League.

The Mbeya side wound up its campaign in NBC Premier League placed 14th in the log with 29 points having taken part in 30 matches.

The side was forced to battle it out in Premier League promotion/relegation play-offs with will fellow league side, Mtibwa Sugar, the latter won 3-2 on aggregate to hold on to its place in the league.

Mtibwa Sugar had completed the Premier League having been placed 13th with 31 points, two points ahead of Tanzania Prisons.

In the playoffs, Mtibwa Sugar cruised to a 3-1 victory in the first leg played in Mbeya, and in the remaining clash played in

Morogoro, Prisons notched a 1-0 victory which could not turn the side's fortunes around.

Prisons were then required to confront Championship club, JKT Tanzania, in promotion playoffs which ended with Prisons winning on aggregate and clinging on to its place in the top flight.

The first leg of the playoffs that took place at JKT Tanzania's home turf, Major Isamuhyo Stadium in Dar es Salaam, culminated with Prisons garnering a 1-0 victory.

The remaining clash played at Sokoine Memorial Stadium in Mbeya had the clubs settling for a 1-1 draw that was a good outcome for the hosts.

The Prisons tactician revealed: "Actually during the NBC Premier League's first phase, the team was in worse condition after performing poorly in 18 fixtures and collected 13 points."

"After the outfit's leadership had made changes in the technical bench, I and head coach

Patrick Odhiambo applied extra efforts and techniques in the remaining 12 matches that enabled us to win four games, register draws in as many matches, and lose four games, recording 16 points."

"But all in all, credit should go to players because they worked hard to make the most of our instructions," Mtupa revealed.

He further stated: "Coach Odhiambo is experienced in recommending the type of players that will fit in our team because I'm predicting next season's league will be tough and highly competitive."

"Every team is registering good players, making good preparations, and also the prizes handed over to outfits have become a stimulant."

"He is in negotiations with some players from other teams he coached to join Tanzania Prisons although we were late in the exercise due to participating in the play-off matches."

National squash championships attract bumper entry

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Squash Federation (TSF) will at the end of this month host closed championships at Colosseum Gym and Fitness Center in Dar es Salaam.

Marwa Busigara, a TSF official, stated in a recent interview the tournament has been slated for July 30-31 and more than 40 players are expected to take part in it.

Busigara said July 26 has been set as the closing date for the registration of players for the showpiece.

According to the leader, there will be men's and women's categories and the first day will consist of group stages' duels, and the final day will consist of semi-finals and finals.

He said invitations have been extended to squash performers in all parts of the country including Zanzibar.

Busigara revealed: "After the success of our last tournament that took place in Arusha and other places we will now host the National Championships at Colosseum Gym and Fitness Center."

The official added: "We thank the management of the center for allowing us to host the championships at their premises."

"We expect more than 40 players will compete, we aim to see that the game is played in all parts of the country," he said.

He said there will be cash prizes and trophies that will be handed over to winners in each category.

Recently TSF hosted a Squash Open tournament at Arusha International Conference Center (AICC) in which more than 60 players competed, with Busigara emerging as the champion.

He beat Musa Juma 3-0 in the final, and third place went to Rajab Simai who beat Abdallah Ali 3-0 in the play-off.

Last year, TSF disclosed that it has lined up several activities which will help to re-launch the game in the country.

The association said the events aimed at welcoming players back to the game and helping to attract a new generation of players to the courts.

Nigeria FA to investigate viral PKs for match fixing

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S football federation will launch an investigation into a case of suspected match fixing in a regional FA Cup final match.

A video circulated widely on social media showed the Remo Stars goalkeeper doing nothing to stop the opposition penalties, while their outfield players fired their spot kicks wide enough to reach the touchline.

Remo Stars lost 3-0 on penalties to Ijebu United in the final of the Ogun State FA Cup, the regional qualifying tournament where both finalists qualify for the National FA Cup competition.

Mohammed Sanusi, general secretary of the Nigeria Football Federation, described the incident as "embarrassing" and told ESPN that an investigation will be launched.

"There will be an investigation," he said. "It is very, very embarrassing. I have already directed the head of the NFF Head of Integrity to handle the investigation."

A source close to Remo Stars owner Kunle Soname told ESPN that the club decided to deliberately lose the shootout in protest at perceived poor treatment of the club by the Ogun State FA and consistent controversial calls from the referee.

"Our club has been constantly treated poorly by the FA, and we did not even want to enter for this competition but we were prevailed upon to enter for it. At the final, the referee made some dodgy calls, even denying us what was a clear penalty kick," the source said.

"The referee wanted the game to go to penalties, he signaled just one minute of additional time.

"That was the last straw for us, and we decided we would not play the penalty shootout and they should simply give us the silver medals for second place. But they told us we had to play or we could be disqualified for not concluding the game and putting the game to disrepute.

"So we said we could play, but playing does not mean we have to score."

However, following widespread backlash, the official said the club now regret the action and are braced for whatever sanction will be imposed.

"In retrospect, we can now see that that was a mistake as well. It is being made to look even worse than our initial decision not to play at all," the source added.

Sanusi said NFF President Amaju Pinnick, who is in Morocco for the Women's Africa Cup of Nations, has added his weight to the investigation, while Ogun State Football Association chairman Ganiyu Majekodunmi said they are looking into the matter.

Barring disqualification, Remo Stars will join Ijebu United as the Ogun State representatives to the National FA Cup competition.

(Agencies)

USMNT's Turner rejects Arsenal move as 'gamble'

BALTIMORE

MATT Turner insists he has not gambled his USMNT starting spot by joining Arsenal.

The 28-year-old moved to the Gunners from the New England Revolution in a deal worth up to \$10 million and started the club's first preseason friendly on their U.S. tour in Saturday's 2-0 win over Everton in Baltimore.

Aaron Ramsdale has established himself as Arsenal's first-choice goalkeeper under Mikel Arteta and Turner appears to face a difficult task in dislodging him, despite being named MLS Goalkeeper of the Year in 2021.

Turner is currently vying with Zack Steffen for the No. 1 jersey in Gregg Berhalter's side with the World Cup just four months away.

Steffen is set to join Middlesbrough on loan from Manchester City in search of regular action, but Turner believes he can make a fast start in north London.

"Opportunities like this for players from the U.S. are few and far between," Turner said. "I wouldn't say I'm worried or it's a gamble. This is the obvious progression in my career."

"Getting my foot in the door overseas is a lot easier said than done. I've been playing well in MLS for the last three seasons and this was the first concrete offer I had.

"Playing consistently in MLS did not guarantee me the starting XI for the U.S. national team. I needed to shake it up to take my game to the next level and playing in the Premier League with these guys has already shown me some massive improvements.

"You have to think about your entire career. You can't make decisions based on one World Cup. Injuries happen and athletic careers are finite. I've wanted to take this game as far as I can, so to be able to represent a club like Arsenal is a dream come true."

Turner's task should be made a little easier by back-up goalkeeper Bernd Leno's likely departure to Fulham, although the two clubs are yet to finalise a fee for the proposed move.

Asked how Arteta had described his possible role at the club before signing, Turner continued: "Mikel told me I am here to challenge for the starting role. We're not in this business to just accept being second.

"We all want to battle for time on the pitch. So the mentality he wants for me is to push Aaron, to push myself and to push the guys in the locker room. There's a lot of young guys bopping around and I am a senior player here at 28. So I can be someone those guys can rely on for advice on and off the pitch.

(Agencies)

Ten Hag won't let touring get in the way of Man U preseason

MELBOURNE, Australia

ERIK ten Hag has been so focused on football during Manchester United's tour of Thailand and Australia that there has been little time for anything else.

It's traditional on these trips for the manager to hold news conferences after games, but Ten Hag has explained to club staff that his time would be better spent plotting the following day's training session. Postmatch conferences usually last only 10 minutes or so, but for Ten Hag, every second counts, and while Jurgen Klopp was facing questions about Liverpool's 4-0 defeat to United in Bangkok -- Ten Hag's first game in charge -- the Dutchman was already on the team bus, deep in discussion with assistants Mitchell van der Gaag and Steve McClaren.

Ten Hag's message to his players and the 120-strong tour party has been clear: They are here to train, and nothing should get in the way of that.

Suggestions that players could be made available for media work before sessions have been knocked back by Ten Hag, who has asked to be kept abreast of everything his squad are doing from interviews to commercial work. In the past, players have been taken to local attractions for photo opportunities, but in Bangkok and Melbourne they have been



Amid the glitz and glamour of Man United's preseason tour, manager Erik ten Hag has kept the focus on the football. (Agencies)

shuttled from the airport, to the hotel, to training and to matches with little else in between. An idea was floated to film players on the set of the Australian soap opera "Neighbours," just outside Melbourne, but it was another no from Ten Hag.

Club staff have seen flashes of the 52-year-old's lighter side, but the word being used around the

team hotel to describe the new manager is "intense." His training sessions have been the same.

When Fred walked into an interview with ESPN at the team hotel in Bangkok, he was asked how he was feeling. "Tired," was the response from the weary-looking Brazilian.

Scott McTominay has toured under Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer but

says this one is the most gruelling he's experienced -- particularly the running in the hot, humid Thai weather.

Marcus Rashford has had a little more than three weeks with Ten Hag and says he is already fitter than he was last season. Rashford was one of the players called back to Carrington a week earlier than initially scheduled after Ten Hag came to the conclusion the squad would need whipping into shape to be able to play his brand of high-pressing, proactive football.

Most days on tour have involved double sessions -- one in the morning and one in the afternoon -- and there has even been training on the morning before games. Training drills all have the same purpose: sharp passing, purposeful movement and pressure.

One drill used regularly involves seven players trying to keep the ball away from three others in a tight space. The aim for the larger group is to keep the ball for as long as possible while the smaller group tries to win it back and score into small nets at either end of the tiny pitch. A goal is valuable and means three new players are subbed in to chase the ball in the middle.

There are consequences for mistakes, even in training.

In games of eight versus six played in half a pitch, a goal for the smaller team means the larger group is

punished with press-ups. The idea is to make training more competitive, and no one wants the embarrassment of being told to do a forfeit.

Ten Hag is fully involved, stopping the session if he sees something he doesn't like.

Cameras at an open session at the Rajamangala National Stadium the day before the game against Liverpool caught the United boss screaming at Jadon Sancho because the winger had failed to make the right run. His simple English can make instructions appear very blunt when he's addressing individuals, but it also means there's no confusion about his message.

He has demanded high standards from his first session but privately accepts it will take time for his new players to get things right. One player was asked about the volume of new information they are being asked to learn, to which the response was, "It's enormous."

Ten Hag is also learning and has asked staff in different departments to wear certain coloured team apparel on particular days so he can easily identify who they are and what they do.

Away from training, the players are being encouraged to relax.

At the W Melbourne Hotel, there is a team room equipped with table tennis, pool, bean bag chairs and a huge TV screen on one of the walls. The com-

petition to replace Andreas Pereira as pingpong champion is fierce, and games involving Bruno Fernandes can be particularly competitive.

The South American players gather in the room, lit with red lights, with the coffees they're allowed after lunch, while others sit on their laptops. McTominay was so desperate for his laptop for the flight between Bangkok and Melbourne that he asked to be allowed to crawl inside the baggage hold of the team bus to retrieve it. He gave a smile and wave to the waiting crowd of Thai fans once he had emerged.

The response from supporters, especially in Thailand, has been huge. Bangkok is considered a Liverpool stronghold in terms of southeast Asia fandom, but a crowd of thousands greeted the team when they landed at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Darren Fletcher thought he was safe enough to head to the restaurant for a Diet Coke at the team hotel at 10 p.m., only to hear his name being chanted when he appeared at the top of the escalator. He ordered room service instead.

The appetite for United wherever they travel in the world hasn't been dented despite nearly 10 years without a Premier League title and five without a trophy of any kind. Ten Hag is here to bring back the success and isn't wasting any time getting going.

Stars absent, but opportunities abound at East Asian event

SEOUL, South Korea

THE absence of Premier League golden boot winner Son Heung-min and other stars from South Korea and Japan gives local players a late chance at the East Asian Championships to stake their claims for a World Cup.

South Korea coach Paulo Bento is preparing for games against China, Hong Kong and host Japan in the coming week but is thinking further ahead to games against Uruguay, Ghana and Portugal when the World Cup kicks off in November.

"We will approach this tournament as preparation for the World Cup in Qatar," Bento, who has selected eight uncapped players in his 23-man roster. "The newly selected players have been playing well in the K-League recently."

Son has been involved with his English club Tottenham's tour to South Korea and will miss the EAFF men's championship which kicks off in Japan on Tuesday with the home team against Hong Kong. South Korea's men's team is set to open against China on Wednesday.

"It's a pity that the period for new members to train in the national team is short," Bento said. "But we will make sure that they can better understand the tactics and philosophies pursued by the national team."

One such new player was Lee Ki-hyuk.

"I was having lunch at home and a cup of coffee and, when I heard that I was selected for the national team, I was dazed," the 22-year-old midfielder said. "Looking at the list, I couldn't believe it. It's



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min, second right, kicks the ball during the pre-season soccer match against Sevilla FC at Suwon World Cup Stadium in Suwon, South Korea, Saturday, July 16, 2022. (AP Photo)

good just being selected, but on the other hand, I'm greedy... I want to make my name known."

Japan, preparing for a seventh successive appearance at the World Cup, stepped in to stage the East Asian tournament in the cities of Kashima and Toyota after China relinquished hosting rights in April because of Beijing's restrictions in place for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Japan coach Hajime Moriyanu selected a roster for the tournament that is entirely domestic-based. Takehiro Tomiyasu of Arsenal, Real Madrid's Takefusa Kubo and Takumi Minami-no of Monaco are just three

of more than 20 Europe-based Japanese players busy with pre-season with their clubs. Eleven of the 23 have never appeared for the senior national team before.

But the tournament isn't World Cup preparation for all participating teams. China and Hong Kong will not be in Qatar but have the 2023 Asian Cup to prepare for.

China endured a dismal World Cup qualifying campaign and has entrusted this tournament to Under-23s coach Aleksander Jankovic. He selected just four players in his roster who have prior experience of representing the national team.

"We are just focused on ourselves and representing the country with honor," Jankovic said. "We respect all our opponents but we will look to play our own style and are looking forward to the tournament."

Hong Kong is on a high after qualifying in June for the 2023 Asian Cup, a first appearance on the continental stage since 1968.

The women's tournament, which also kicks off Tuesday, will serve as a useful warm-up for the 2023 World Cup for China, Japan and South Korea. Taiwan completes the quartet.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Simba SC closes in on triple transfer deal

SPORT

Ten Hag won't let touring get in the way of Man U pre-season

PAGE 19



Simba SC players celebrate a goal the side notched in an international friendly clash against Egypt's Ismailia played in the country last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NBC Premier League giant Simba SC could sign as many as three foreign players this week.

Sudan's Al Hilal center-back Mohamed Ouattara, Central African Republic striker Caesar Manzoki, and Nigerian striker Nelson Okwa, are the three players supposedly inching closer to arriving at the Msimbazi Street outfit.

Simba SC endured an abysmal 2021/22 campaign, going trophyless for the first time since the 2016/17 season.

New head coach Zoran Maki has been brought in to turn the

club's fortunes around, but he would need reinforcements to help the club compete on all fronts next season.

Fortunately, the outfit also nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds' has quickly dipped in the transfer market in that regard thus far.

Augustine Okrah from Bechem United, Habib Kyombo from Mbeya Kwanza FC, Victor Akpan from Coastal

Union, Nassoro Kapama from Kagera Sugar, and Moses Phiri from Zanaco FC are part of the confirmed arrivals at the side ahead of the new season.

The situation could further change in the coming days, with Simba SC set to seal three transfers by this week.

Al Hilal's central defender Ouattara was pulled out of the squad on Saturday morning after the Sudanese club

presumably agreed to a fee with Simba SC.

"Al-Hilal club announced the release of Ivorian defender, Mohamed Ouattara, for the Tanzanian club Simba SC," Al Hilal wrote when announcing Ouattara's release on Sunday.

The Sudan outfit added in the statement: "He expressed his unwillingness to continue to play for Hilal and the club received an offer from Simba,

we wish him the best and success in his future career."

The 2021/22 Uganda Premier League's top scorer Mazonki, meanwhile, is understood to have agreed to personal terms with Simba SC.

However, they are yet to finalize his transfer as the player has three months running on his contract with Vipers SC.

The deal is subject to the goal-getter obtaining his release letter from the Uganda Premier League champions.

Simba SC is also believed to be on the verge of recruiting Nigerian playmaker Nelson Okwa from Rivers United.

The arrival of the trio would take Simba SC's number of foreign players to 15, against the foreign quota of 12 per season at any point in time.

Simba SC must for that matter sacrifice three players to solve their foreign quota conundrum.

Before signing the trio, Simba SC already has 12 foreign players in the pre-season camp in Egypt.

The players are Joash Onyango (Kenya), Henock Inonga (DR Congo), Victor Akpan (Nigeria), Sadio Kanoute (Mali), Taddeo Lwanga (Uganda), Peter Banda (Malawi), Pape Sakho (Senegal), Meddie Kagere (Rwanda), Chris Mugalu (DR Congo), Clatous Chama and Moses Phiri (Zambia).

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
11:55 MPYA
12:00 Mperampera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mperampera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

TFF bans seven venues for lacking maintenance

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

A host of stadiums, including Sokoine, have failed to meet NBC Premier League standards to host top-flight matches, a development that puts many clubs in a tricky position ahead of the new campaign.

An initial inspection conducted by Tanzania Football Federation in preparation for the new season set to kick off on August 17 indicates that at least seven stadiums require adjustments and improvements to meet the basic criteria required to host matches in the league, which puts strain on some available facilities.

The list of venues banned includes Tanga's Mkwakwani Stadium, Lindi's Ilulu Stadium, Ushirika Stadium (Kilimanjaro), Mabatini ground (Pwani), Sokoine Stadium (Mbeya), Jamhuri Stadium (Dodoma), and Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School Stadium (Geita).

If Sokoine Stadium cannot be used for top-flight matches, it means Tanzania Prisons, Mbeya City FC, and Ihefu SC will have to find alternative venues to host their games.

Ihefu SC which was promoted back to the top flight also uses Highland Estate Stadium as the club's home ground in certain matches.

Mkwakwani Stadium is used by the top-flight squad, Coastal Union, as well as African Sports which is in the Championship.

Mabatini ground is the home venue of Ruvu Shooting though the side also uses Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and Uhuru Stadium for games involving Simba SC and Young Africans 'Yanga' for security reasons.

Visiting teams have complained about the uneven Mabatini ground's pitch.

Jamhuri Stadium hosts Dodoma Jiji FC home games while Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School Stadium is the designated home venue for Geita Gold FC.

Most visiting outfits' coaches have complained about the stiff surface of the Jamhuri and Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School venues in the past.

The TPLB Information Officer Karim Boimanda disclosed yesterday: "As Tanzania Premier League Board, we made our preliminary inspection at all stadiums to be used in the new season."

The official said: "And we noticed that some require improvements to meet the required standards, we have informed the affected clubs on our recommendations and highlighted the requirements needed."

The TPLB spokesman insisted they are prepared to wage a war against substandard pitches in the league that has seen endless complaints from foreign coaches and players.

Unless the highlighted requirements are met, the venues will not be approved as part of a wide crack-down on the perennial problem in the league.

Areas of concern include the playing surface to be levelled, structures around the pitch, perimeter wall to be installed, as well as expanding and upgrading of the dressing rooms for teams and match officials.

TPLB also wants the stadium authorities to improve pavilions, VIP seating areas, and the construction of proper media centers in the affected stadiums.



Dodoma Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka (R) receives one of the kits that will be used by runners set to battle it out in the 2022 NBC Dodoma International Marathon from NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi in the region yesterday. The marathon will take place on July 31 2022 featuring more than 5,000 runners from eight countries. The funds raised in the race will be dedicated to supporting more than 550 women battling cervical cancer at Dar es Salaam's Ocean Road Cancer Institute. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mtaka launches 2022 NBC Dodoma Marathon

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the guest of honour for the third edition of the NBC Dodoma Marathon scheduled for July 31, 2022.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka yesterday briefed journalists at his office in the region about the status of the preparations for the marathon.

Mtaka said that the city is well equipped to host close to 7,000 visitors who will go for the marathon.

The Dodoma RC said: "I want to assure everyone that Dodoma is ready to accommodate all runners and meet their expectations."

"We have enough accommodation, food, and infrastructure to cater to all visitors, and we look forward to hosting them and giving them the best experience here," he said.

Mtaka also announced that Prime

Minister Majaliwa had accepted the invitation to be the chief guest of the marathon that is geared to raise funds to support the fight against cervical cancer in Tanzania.

Mtaka also urged the people of Dodoma to embrace the marathon as an economical window and prepare to comply with the influx of demands.

The RC pointed out: "NBC Dodoma Marathon will bring close to 7,000 people to the city, they will need food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and other forms of entertainment."

"Let's take advantage of this opportunity by preparing ourselves to respond to the increased demands. Dodoma has vast to offer, let us embrace the opportunity," he said.

The NBC Bank Managing Director Theobald Sabi said the bank is pleased to conduct another edition of the NBC Dodoma Marathon after two successful

stints in the past.

Sabi disclosed: "Our mission is to help raise 200m/-, channeled to Ocean Road Cancer Institute to support the fight against cervical cancer in women."

"Cervical cancer is the leading cause of all cancer-related deaths for women in Tanzania, but the silver lining is that it can be prevented and cured if detected early... it is our collective responsibility to support our government in raising awareness," he said.

Sabi also noted that the two previous editions of the NBC Dodoma Marathon have been a great success.

NBC Bank boss added: "I am pleased to announce that in the last two years, the marathon raised more than 300m/-, which helped screen more than 9,000 women, 550 of whom were diagnosed with cancer and are currently undergoing treatments."

Azam FC set to travel to Egypt for camp

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NBC Premier League's giant, Azam FC, will depart for Egypt on Friday to prepare for the coming season.

Azam FC Information Officer, Thabit Zacharia, said in an interview yesterday said all players are expected to start camp today at the club's base at Azam Complex Stadium, and on Friday will depart for Egypt.

He said the team will camp for two weeks at the Island of Gifuna in Egypt.

The information officer said while in Egypt they have lined up two to three friendly matches but stopped short of mentioning the teams his side will take on given discussions are still underway.

"The team will depart to Egypt on Friday, we will be there until August 12, we have decided to camp in Egypt as the country has suitable conditions and its infrastructures are very suitable for pre-season," he said.

Meanwhile, Zacharia disclosed that his club is in final discussions with one foreign player to beef up the squad.

Zacharia nevertheless stopped short of mentioning the player, saying once the deal is finalized the footballer's identity will be made public.

Azam FC has been active on the market this season, the club has signed many top local and foreign players.

The club has boosted its squad by garnering the services of Abdulhamis Suleiman, Kipre Junior, Tape Edinho, Isah Ndalah, Cleophace Mkandala, Nathaniel Chilambo, and Ali Ahamada, among others.

The club has also improved its technical department by hiring the services of Dani Cadena as a goalkeeping coach, whereas Kali Ongala has been hired as the strikers' coach. It has moreover brought in other tacticians to work in other departments.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

