



Hospital urged to install incinerator
Page 3

SGR contractor lauded for quality execution
Page 4

Kilombero Sugar builds plant to end scarcity
Page 6

Transforming cooperatives' roles into business-oriented entities - 5

AfDB invests \$20 million in infrastructure fund to spur continental development

CBK raises KShs 23 billion in weekly auction as investors remain hesitant

Page 13



President Samia Suluhu Hassan consoles a patient admitted to Gairo District Hospital shortly after inaugurating the facility during her ongoing official tour of Morogoro Region yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia to roll out initiative towards 'mutual care' for herders, farmers

By Correspondent James Kandoya

President Samia Suluhu Hassan is today expected to launch an intervention project aimed at addressing conflicts over control of land and water resources between farmers and pastoralists.

Adam Malima, the Morogoro regional commissioner, said at midweek that the programme

dubbed 'caring for one another' is to be launched in Mvomero District today, as the president conducts a working tour of the region.

He made this remark when addressing journalists about the president's visit before it started, and yesterday President Samia talked of the programme in Gairo District, on the first day of the regional tour.

The programme will

be launched in Mvomero District, designed to promote harmony and co-operation between herders and farmers, with expectations of alleviating conflicts between the two groups.

Additionally, the president inaugurated a district hospital and road projects built with funds from the Rural and Ur-

TURN TO Page 2

Traders irate over Kigoma port revenue 'loopholes'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

POOR revenue collection methods at Kibirizi port in Kigoma Ujiji municipality has created loopholes occasioning substantial losses to the government, stakeholders affirm.

Alhaji Mabile, a businessperson who operates the freight and passenger transport company, Aifola, said at a regional business council meeting here yesterday that lack of coordination on collections was denying the government its rightful revenues.

He said that many fees and charges collected were not reaching government coffers due to arbitrary and un-

TURN TO Page 2

End cattle intrusions in farm areas, DPM directs Livestock ministry, RCs

By Correspondent Nebart Msokwa, Mbeya

DEPUTY Prime Minister Dr Doto Biteko has directed the

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to liaise with regional commissioners to prevent pastoralists from bringing livestock into farming areas.

Officiating at the John Mwa-

kangale grounds for the annual agro-sector produce and services showcasing event, this year themed on embracing visionary leadership for agricultural transformation, he said prevent-

ing incursions will help reduce periodic conflicts that threaten the peace.

TURN TO Page 2



Caught red-handed? Well, not even Sengerema traffic police officer Sergeant Selina Manda (R) may necessarily have the last word here! Roving photographer Vitus Audax was right at the scene of the spectacle - Mapinda village in Sengerema District - on Thursday.

Burundi joining EAC telecom networking

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) one network area (ONA) has expanded with the entry of Burundi from the start of August.

Andrea Aguer Ariik, the EAC deputy secretary general for infrastructure, productive, social and political sectors said yesterday that Burundi informed the secretariat of the move in a communiqué dated 29th July, 2024.

He said the Agency for Control and Regulation of Telecommunications (ACRT) announced that the entry into force from 1st August, 2024 with new tariffs for regional roaming in accordance with the relevant protocol dating 2nd October 2023 as Burundi joined the regional one network area.

Burundi now joins Kenya,

Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania as ONA accession partner states, reducing the high cost of cross border telecommunication activity, leading DRC and Somalia as non-accessing partner states.

"These unique tariffs, competitive on a regional scale, will significantly reduce the costs of cross-border communications within the EAC," the Burundi agency affirmed in its communiqué.

It directed mobile network operators to clearly communicate applicable tariffs for regional direct and roaming framework communications to its clients, "and apply the detailed billing to verify the communications made and the amounts invoiced."

TURN TO Page 2

SPORTS

Page 19



Arne Slot brings new 'theory' to Liverpool - now it's time to put transfer plans into practice

Page 18



Simba confirm arrival of Guinean goalkeeper Camara



Traders irate over Ujiji 'loopholes' for port revenue

FROM PAGE 1

regulated charging practices, a situation is further exacerbated by having multiple agencies like the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) on customs, and the Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation (TASAC), each regulator using a specific method for revenue collection.

Passengers using approved cargo ships to travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are charged \$25 to \$30 for tickets but they do not receive electronic fiscal device (EFD) tickets.

"They are still using outdated technology. Passengers don't receive tickets from a specific system; instead, their names are recorded by the ship's personnel and they are charged \$25 or \$30," he said.

Someone else handles the payments made, with no record indicating the tax that goes to the government, he said, intimating that the government needs to enhance oversight to close these corruption loopholes.

He said that significant amounts of money are lost, citing the case of a \$5 fee paid by visitors from the DRC upon entry which lacks receipts or proper documentation, implying that the government loses revenues.

Municipal employees should stop the 'business as usual' attitude and fully adhere to guidelines, regulations and applicable laws to ensure that the government benefits from the set fees, he said.

He further aired the need to consolidate all minor fees collected by various agencies, including radiation and standards inspection by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), into a single payment system to eliminate inefficiencies.

Thobias Andengeny, the Kigoma regional commissioner who chaired the meeting, underlined that business operators are willing to pay the fees but are anxious about whether the money reaches public coffers.

"Our traders suspect that paying fees benefits only a few individuals rather than being directed to government coffers for projects uplifting communities. Whether it is one dollar or five dollars collected, it should go to the government," he emphasised.

He expressed satisfaction with the business community for not having issues with paying fees but is concerned about improper collection, which needs to be improved.

The municipal council has meanwhile instructed that passengers must have a travel ticket and be listed on the manifest to board a ship, a move aimed at ensuring the safety of vessels "as well as securing revenue from those violating procedures for personal gain."

The RC-chaired business council resolved that relevant institutions involved in transportation, starting with TRA, Immigration, TPA and TASAC to establish a joint revenue collection system for all port-related agencies to streamline monitoring and control of revenue.

Responding, economist Mwajuma Ally from the regional secretariat, said a special committee has been formed to find solutions on how to consolidate the fees to reduce inconveniences to businesspeople.

She acknowledged that this wasn't the first time the traders complained about the revenue collection system, affirming merely that the government had heard them and that a new joint system would be instituted.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (32rd-L) poses for a photo with IPP Media journalists who emerged winners in this year's edition of the Tulia Trust Journalism Awards. It was shortly after the ceremony, held in Mbeya city on Thursday. L-R: Nerbart Msokwa of Nipashe newspaper (Best Photographer), Christina Mwakangale of Nipashe newspaper (Children's News), Halfan Chusi of Nipashe newspaper (Investigative Reporting), Rebecca Kinyunyu of ITV (Investigative Reporting) and Kenneth Ngelesi of EATV (Investigative Reporting Award winner). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

End cattle intrusions in farm areas, DPM directs Livestock ministry, RCs

FROM PAGE 1

He also tasked the ministry and regional administrators to work together to implement good land use plans, including training farmers and herders to apply modern methods when conducting their activities, to enhance productivity.

Proper land use would help mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, which have been equally disruptive in areas bordering national parks, he said, highlighting the need to train herders in managing pastures and constructing water pans in grazing areas.

This would improve productivity and minimize land use and water source conflicts, he said, asserting that it is important for farmers, herders and fishermen to follow expert advice on using pesticides and chemicals, to prevent negative impacts on consumers, wildlife and the environment.

Regional and district heads of departments need to protect areas designated for agricultural research to enhance seed production and reduce reliance on imported seeds, he stated, underlining that

land officers should not survey these areas for settlement.

"Otherwise, we risk becoming dependent on seeds and pesticides from countries that protect their research areas. Protect them diligently," he emphasised.

David Silinde, the Agriculture deputy minister, said that the government has increased its investment in agriculture, a sector employing over 70 percent of Tanzanians and supplying two-thirds of the raw materials for industry.

He said that this year's ag-

ricultural budget has risen to 1.2trn/- from upwards of 900bn/- in the past two years, an effort aligned with several African Union declarations on providing up to 10 percent of total Budget funds to agriculture.

The ministry is working on improving exhibition grounds in various regions to enhance the effectiveness of exhibitions, starting with the Dodoma grounds and later addressing other grounds.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly, said that government subsidy on

fertilizers and other agricultural inputs has led to increased use by farmers, hence boosting production.

The government has fostered a favourable environment for investors in agricultural production, increasing the availability of the inputs in the country, she said.

Juma Homera, Mbeya regional commissioner, stated that southern highlands regions have become the key food production areas in Tanzania. They serve as the nation's food basket, he added.

Samia to roll out initiative towards 'mutual care' for herders, farmers

FROM PAGE 1

ban Roads Agency (TARURA) and the Tanzania Roads Agency (TanRoads) in Gairo District.

She acknowledged the challenges faced by the region, including limited access to clean water, assuring the community that efforts were ongoing to provide access to clean water by the end of the year.

The president similarly pledged to address challenges raised by legislators from the area, namely Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (Kilosa) and Ahmed Shabiby (Gairo), with the Kikosa MP requesting an industrial park in Dumila town to attract processing plants.

The Gairo MP called for the construction of a new market, a modern bus terminal and three irrigation dams to mitigate the effects of drought, raised as the president inspected various development projects.

The projects scattered across different sectors reflect extensive government investment to enhance the region's economic and social progress, she stated, assuring the residents that the government will address challenges raised.

She reminded the public that the government had allocated 34bn/- to ensure Gairo District receives clean water, while proceeding with the tour to Mvomero, Kilosa, Kilombero districts as well as Morogoro municipality.



This trench, found deep inside the Uzuri Kilimani segment of Dar es Salaam city's densely populated Manzese suburb, has for long turned into a virtual "river" of sewage mainly discharged from toilets that is seriously endangering public health. Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured the scene yesterday

Burundi joins EAC telecom networking

FROM PAGE 1

The measures would ensure a transparent, reliable and satisfactory user experience in the area network, it said, with the new entry widening the reach of cheaper calls and mobile data roaming charges across the region.

The EAC administrator said that Burundi joining the network adds to the ease of doing business in East Africa and the free movement of persons, services and capital as demanded in the EAC common market protocol.

Widening the network area strengthens the integration process removing the fear of high billing charges in mobile calls whether at home or in another partner state, he stated.

"ONA promotes easier communication among the business community spanning the entire region transacting merchandise or services," he said, noting that the EAC looks forward to seeing all partner states being fully on the network. "It will be a big boost on our journey to an integrated East Africa," he further noted.

The framework for harmonised EAC roaming was developed at the 30th meeting of the EAC council of ministers in 2014, accepted by the summit February 2015. It imposed price caps on roaming charges, asking the partner states to remove surcharges on cross-border telecommunications activity limited to the partner states, he added.

Half of Sudan's population face acute hunger, UN says

UNITED NATIONS

MORE than half of Sudan's population now face acute hunger, a UN spokesman has said.

"More than half the population, that is 26 million human beings in Sudan, now face acute hunger, including 755,000 people facing catastrophic conditions, with hunger-related deaths also being recorded," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at a daily briefing.

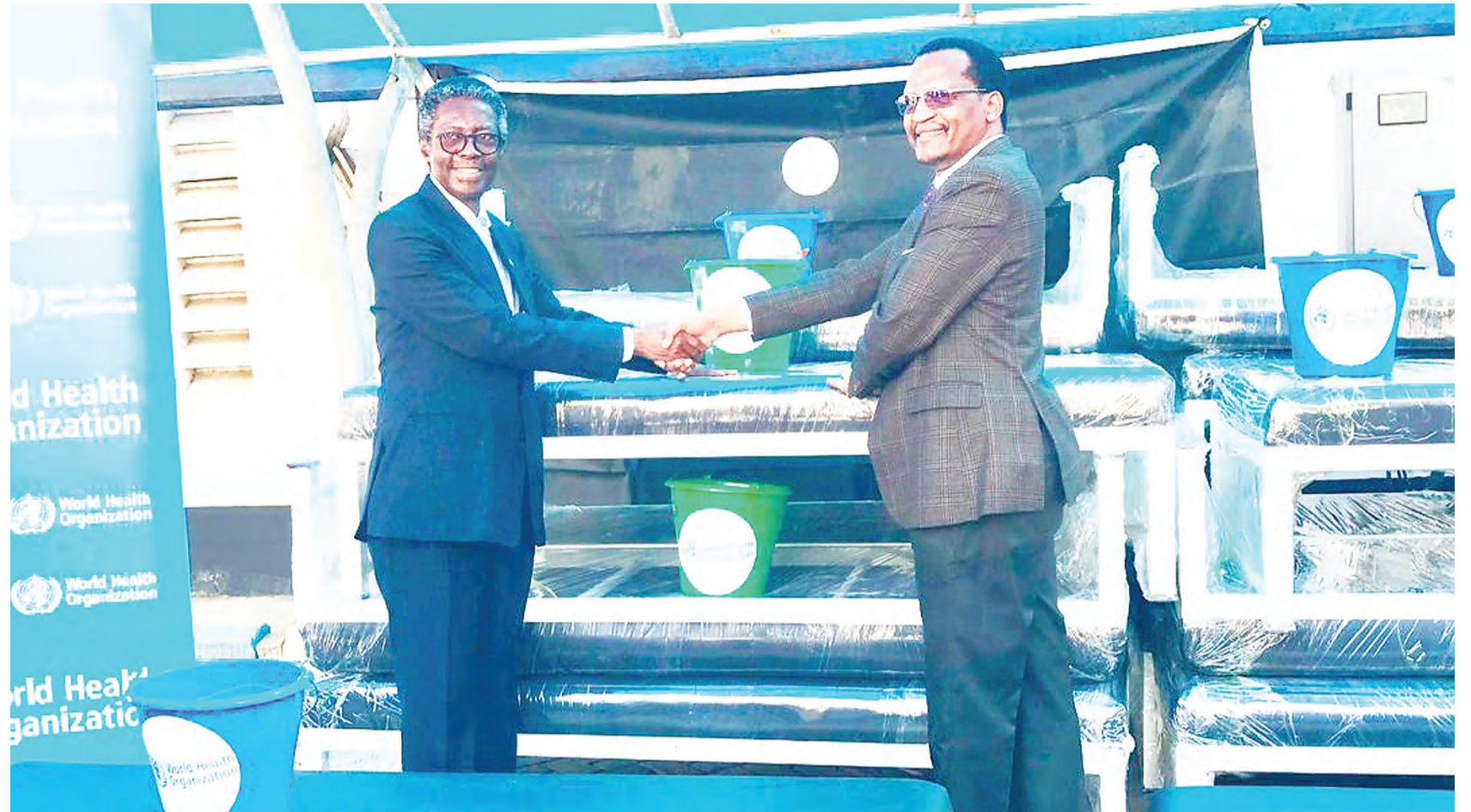
According to the latest report of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), catastrophic hunger conditions have been projected for the first time in the history of the IPC survey in Sudan, Dujarric said.

Fourteen areas in the country have been declared "at risk of famine" in the coming months, he said.

"Just to give you some context, one in every two Sudanese struggles to put enough food on their plates every single day," the spokesman added.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is scaling up its emergency response to save more lives in the country, by increasing the amount of assistance, and identifying innovative and effective ways to deliver immediate assistance to millions of people across Sudan and especially in hard-to-reach areas, according to Dujarric.

"WFP warns that we are in a race against time to stop famine in its tracks," he said, highlighting an urgent need for a massive increase in funding to ramp up assistance at the scale required to avert famine. The United Nations and its partners warn that more people in Sudan will be pushed into catastrophic levels of hunger if the current war, which started in April 2023, doesn't stop.



Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses (L), the World Health Organisation's Tanzania Country Director, presents 65 beds worth 29.9m/- to the Permanent Secretary in the Health ministry, Dr John Jingu, in Dar es Salaam yesterday to help in combating cholera outbreaks. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Zanzibar VP orders Pemba hospital to install incinerator

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has issued a one-month ultimatum to the management of Abdalla Mzee Hospital in Pemba to procure a new waste incinerator to prevent the spread of waste, which poses a risk of disease outbreaks.

He made the directives yesterday here when he inspected the hospital operations and service delivery, stressing the importance of timely and organized management to ensure all essential services are available as required.

He noted that having an incinerator will enable hospital staff to perform their duties more effectively and help meet the government's objective of delivering high-quality health services to people in the Isles.

Abdulla also expressed satisfaction with the availability of free services at the hospital, including dialysis, ultrasound, X-rays and other laboratory services, as well as adequate medication for patients. This aligns with President Dr Mwinyi's commitment to improving healthcare.

Additionally, the Vice President instructed the Health Ministry's oversight officer to address the welfare and entitlements of hospital employees promptly. He emphasized that this will help motivate staff to deliver excellent service to patients without delays or issues.

The Second VP also inspected the construction progress of Chanjaani Jombwe Primary School and Ole Secondary School, which are being built by contractors, Mwinyi Building Construction and Benchmark & Engineering Ltd.

Both projects are nearing completion and are expected to be

handed over to the government soon.

He further highlighted that the Zanzibar government is investing in the education sector to establish quality educational infrastructure, providing students with conducive learning environments to develop skills that will benefit the nation.

However, Hemed urged parents and guardians to prioritize providing quality education for their children and raising them with good morals. He urged parents and guardians to invest in their children's education, spending much time to ensure their development.

Deputy Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Ali Abdulghulam Hussein, stated that the government's goal through the Ministry of Education is to complete all ongoing projects, increase the number of classrooms, and build modern facilities so that by January 2025, all students will be on a unified academic path.

Ali Abdulghulam Hussein, Deputy Minister of Education and Vocational Training, reiterated the government's zeal to complete all ongoing projects, increase classroom availability, and build modern facilities.

Contractors said the projects were in the final stages of completion and expected to hand over to the government by the end of this month, ensuring that students can continue their studies in safe and well-equipped environments.

The projects inspected by the Second VP during his visit included Abdalla Mzee Hospital in Pemba, construction of Mwambe multi-storey school, Ukuthini-Mtangani road, Vitongoji fish and vegetable market, Vitongoji waste incineration facility and the progress of Ole Secondary School in Pemba South.



Camels and horses a crowd-puller at this year's edition of the Nane Nane (Farmers' Day) agricultural exhibition in progress at Nzunguni grounds in Dodoma Urban District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

AfDB vows \$20m to AIIF4 to boost African infrastructure development

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank has signed a \$20 million equity investment in the African Infrastructure Investment Fund 4 (AIIF4).

The deal, signed on Wednesday, reinforces the Bank's commitment to fostering private sector development and boosting infrastructure across the continent.

The investment, approved by the Bank Group's Board of Directors on 19 June 2024, will be financed from the Bank's ordinary capital resources designated for private sector operations.

Africa's infrastructure sector remains a significant investment opportunity, driven by substantial demand deficits and a scarcity of capital. With rapid urbanization and increasing local purchasing power, the continent requires between \$130 and \$170 billion annually in infrastructure spending. However, there's currently a substantial yearly financing gap of \$68 to \$108 billion.

AIIF4, with a 13-year term and a 5-year investment period, has completed its first closing at circa \$230 million, attracting international investors. To date, the Fund has raised more than the \$500 million target, with the final close expected to be concluded in Q3 2024.

The Fund is projected to deliver significant development outcomes, particularly in private sector growth and household income improvement. The Bank assesses the likelihood of achieving these outcomes on time as "High."

The investment also complements the Bank's 'High 5' operational priorities, along with its Ten-Year Strategy (2024-2033) relating to accelerating and scaling up its operations. Additionally, the Fund pipeline aligns with the Private Sector Development Strategy (2021-2025), the Climate Change and Green Growth Framework, and the Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience (2022-2026).

By providing this scarce private equity investment to AIIM to bridge the infrastructure financing gap in Africa, the Bank is reinforcing its commitment and support to developing infrastructure in Africa to private sector participation. Therefore, our confidence in AIIM as a fund manager is renewed and strong, given its proven expertise and track record in driving impactful investments.

Mike Salawou, Director for Infrastructure, Cities and Urban Development, African Development Bank.

The African Infrastructure Investment Managers have transacted an initial portfolio and identified a robust pipeline of investment opportunities in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and ports and logistics assets in South Africa, Kenya, and Morocco. They are also actively screening deals in Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, among others.

The AIIF4 investment underscores the increasing role of private equity in addressing Africa's infrastructure needs and highlights the continent's potential for sustainable economic growth.

WHO hands over 65 hospital beds to end cholera outbreaks

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has provided the Tanzanian government with 65 beds valued at 29.9m/- to address the cholera outbreak in the country.

Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses, WHO's Country Director handed over the aid yesterday at the or-

ganization's offices in Dar es Salaam and the donation aims at combating pandemic diseases like cholera.

He stated that cholera outbreaks are a threat due to their rapid transmission across African countries, with frequent outbreaks reported since 2021, including in Tanzania.

"According to the latest gov-

ernment report, over 4,000 cases of cholera and more than 80 deaths, which represent a mortality rate of 1.9 percent, have been reported from the onset of the outbreak up to September 2023," Dr. Sagoe-Moses explained.

He added that the WHO recognizes the substantial resources needed to control cholera and

other disease outbreaks and commends the government for its ongoing efforts to manage epidemic diseases in affected regions.

Dr. Sagoe-Moses noted that WHO will continue to support the health sector in the country by providing funding for various projects such as health education for professionals and

the public, as well as supplying medical equipment, vehicles, and guidelines for implementing health interventions.

Dr. John Jingu, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, stated that WHO is a key partner in strengthening health services in the country, having assisted in building the capacity of health providers to respond to epidem-

ic diseases.

He claimed that despite receiving support from health partners including WHO, the Ministry has established procedures to address epidemic diseases as they arise.

He further stated that the provision of beds will aid in managing the cholera outbreak and will be allocated to areas in need.



Dr Erdem Arioglu (L), vice chairman of Turkish construction company Yapi Merkezi, has a quick word with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at Thursday's grand launch of SGR's Dar es Salaam-Morogoro-Dodoma electric railway transport services in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister unhappy with power theft in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals, Shaibu Hassan Kaduara has expressed anger over the action by an employee of the Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (ZECO) who illegally connected his relatives with power services.

Minister Kaduara uncovered this yesterday here when inspecting an electricity infrastructure in Chuwini, in the outskirts of Zanzibar city.

He said that the employee identified as Mwinshaa Juma Kheri tampered with his meter to prevent it from recording electricity usage and had also illegally connected power to five additional homes.

Further investigation revealed that all the beneficiaries of the unauthorized connections were Kheri's relatives, resulting in significant revenue losses to the government.

"This situation is totally unacceptable" Minister Kaduara said, adding: "It is troubling that an employee of ZECO, who should be safeguarding the system, is instead undermining it by providing illicit connections to people."

He instructed the Police Force to immediately arrest Kheri and investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, Kheri has been suspended from his position at ZECO pending further administrative action. The minister further urged the public to avoid engaging in illegal electricity connections, highlighting that the government has recently reduced the cost of legal connections from 400,000/- to 200,000/- to encourage compliance.

Saidi Mzungu, director for energy and minerals assured that efforts to combat electricity theft will continue, with legal action being pursued against those found guilty.

He also advised ZECO employees to conduct self-assessments before departments conduct inspections for all staff, where strict measures to be taken against anyone found sabotaging the infrastructure to ensure employees use electricity legally.

Shaaban Abdalla Suleiman, Chuwini Ward Sheha, condemned the illegal actions and called on residents to avoid engaging in unauthorized connections to restore the ward's reputation.

Expert advises govt to emphasize ecological agriculture more

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE government has been advised to emphasize ecological farming as it is the cornerstone of agriculture, fostering unity in production, consumer rights, biodiversity, and environmental conservation of food sources.

Daud Manongi, Seed Expert from the Tanzania Biodiversity Network (TABIO) made the call here yesterday when speaking at the ongoing annual agro-sector produce and services exhibi-

tion. Manongi stated that if the government prioritizes ecological farming, it will address all the stakeholders involved in the sector, noting that ensuring farmers' practice ecological farming will lead to long-term productivity and sustainable land use for future generations.

"We, the stakeholders of ecological farming, urge the government to emphasize ecological farming because it is the pillar of agriculture, fostering unity in production, consumer rights, biodiversity, and environmental

conservation of food sources," he said.

Manongi, who is also the Chairman of the National Ecological Agriculture Stakeholders' Task Force, said they participated in the exhibitions to demonstrate the contribution of stakeholders in this sector. He highlighted that ecological farming significantly contributes to the agricultural sector, which involves over 65 percent of Tanzanians.

He mentioned that recent climate changes have affected agricultural systems, and the way

to return to productive farming is through ecological farming. He emphasized that ecological farming stakeholders carry the message that seeds are life, aiming to ensure all stakeholders participate in protecting, preserving, and developing indigenous seeds, continuing the inherited legacy.

The expert stated that the exhibitions included 17 participants, namely TABIO, Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), SJS Organic, McDonald, Inades, Floresta, IDP, KPC, Kijani Hai, Farm Radio Interna-

tional, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), Tanzania Farmers Federation (SHIWAKUTA), PELUM, Agroecology Hub Tanzania, Biovision Trust, Safari Organic Fertilizer, and Via Agroforest.

Manongi said the ecological farming system ensures market certainty to produce both domestically and internationally.

TABIO Coordinator, Abdallah Mkindi, mentioned that as stakeholders in ecological farming, they will showcase various products resulting from this farming method. Mkindi noted

that they have brought over 80 types of indigenous seeds to the exhibition, which, if emphasized and given a special strategy, will lead to positive revolutions in the food system.

"We would like the government to emphasize natural pesticides to control plant pests, especially during this time of climate change challenges," he said. The coordinator also stated that they are using the exhibitions to ensure that education on indigenous seeds is provided so that farmers can understand the benefits.

Daudi Gwabara, SAT assistant project planner said they are using the exhibitions to demonstrate to the government and the public the benefits of ecological farming if given emphasis.

"We urge farmers and the government to start changing because evidence shows that modern farming is not productive. We should invest in ecological farming, which benefits human health, the soil, and other living organisms," he said.

Gwabara noted that industrial chemical-laden soil harms future generations' harvests, so it

Zambia to buy electricity from SA, Zim amid deficit

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA'S state-owned power utility ZESCO has agreed to buy 218 megawatts (MW) of electricity from South Africa and Zimbabwe to cushion a shortfall caused by reduced hydropower capacity, its energy minister said on Thursday.

Zambia has a deficit of more than 1,000 MW which is expected worsen as water levels at the key Kariba hydropower plant recede due to lower rainfall and drier conditions. Hydropower generates over 75 percent of Zambia's installed capacity of 3,777 MW.

Minister of Energy Makozo Chikote said Zesco Limited, the national utility, has negotiated the procurement of 218 megawatts of power from South Africa's Eskom and the Zimbabwe Power Company.

"The electricity procured from the two companies is expected to be injected into the grid within the month of August 2024," he said during an update press briefing on the current energy situation in the country.

The new import will add to the

409 megawatts the country has been importing from neighboring countries.

He added that Zesco has reached an advanced stage in the procurement of generators to be installed at designated locations across the country.

He disclosed the sites have already been identified which include institutions such as hospitals and schools, critical business areas, and markets, noting that the first 12 megawatts shall be secured in August 2024.

Meanwhile, the minister said the Cabinet has approved the inclusion of more items to the tax exemption bracket for solar equipment as part of measures to encourage investment in alternative energy sources. He said the move is meant to ensure a seamless and efficient importation of essential items into the country to address the energy challenges.

According to him, as of July 31, the national peak demand for electricity stood at 2,400 megawatts while the available power generation was only 1,040 megawatts, leaving a deficit of 1,360 megawatts.



Simanjiro district commissioner Fakiil Lulandala (L) inspects a 'kiroba' variety of cassava from Mutuka ward, where a one-hectare farm reportedly yields an average of 80 tonnes of the crop. He was at the Babati Town Council pavilion at the Nane Nane (Farmers' Day) agricultural exhibition at Themti Njiru grounds in Arusha city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Samia applauds contractor for SGR project completion

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has praised Yapi Merkezi, the main contractor of the just completed standard gauge railway (SGR) project between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma for its exceptional contribution to Tanzania's development.

This milestone marks a new era of connectivity, economic growth and technological advancement for the country.

In her remarks when launching the project on Thursday, President Samia said the land-

mark achievement led by Yapi Merkezi will help heighten transport and stimulate development.

"This project is a testament to Yapi Merkezi's remarkable capabilities and professionalism. Their dedicated efforts and adherence to high standards have paved the way for a brighter future for our nation. The SGR railway will play a pivotal role in our journey towards economic prosperity and regional integration," she said.

Yapi Merkezi, an internationally renowned construction and

engineering firm, has delivered this transformative project with exceptional skill and dedication.

Their commitment to quality and innovation has been crucial in realizing the vision of a modern railway system. The new SGR railway is set to improve transportation efficiency, shorten travel times, and ensure smoother, more reliable movement of goods and passengers.

The SGR project, undertaken by Yapi Merkezi Insaat ve Sanayi Anonim Sirketi, involved designing and constructing key sections from Dar es Salaam to Isaka, cov-

ering over 1,000 kilometers.

More than 70 percent of the project's funds have been re-invested into the Tanzanian economy through local suppliers, subcontractors, and employees, reflecting Yapi Merkezi's commitment to the country's growth.

Masanja Kadogosa, Director General of the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC), also expressed gratitude to Yapi Merkezi saying the successful completion of the SGR railway showcases the strength of our partnership with the company.

"Their technical expertise and

commitment to timely delivery have been outstanding. This railway symbolizes progress and is a catalyst for socio-economic development across Tanzania," Kadogosa said.

Dr Erdem Arioglu, Vice President of Yapi Merkezi, thanked Tanzanian leadership and TRC for its close support.

"We are immensely proud to have contributed to this landmark project. We extend our heartfelt thanks to President Samia and TRC for their trust and support. This successful collaboration exemplifies the power of partner-

ship and shared vision. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this railway on Tanzania's future," Arioglu said.

Yapi Merkezi's dedication has set a new benchmark in railway construction and engineering. Their meticulous planning, innovative techniques, and focus on sustainability have resulted in a world-class railway system. The SGR project demonstrates the successful collaboration between Tanzania and Yapi Merkezi, highlighting the power of partnership in achieving monumental goals.

"As we celebrate this significant achievement, we anticipate the continued impact of the SGR railway on Tanzania's development. This project is a cornerstone of our nation's infrastructure and heralds a future of enhanced connectivity, economic growth and regional integration," Arioglu added.

Yapi Merkezi, a leading international construction and engineering company, is known for its innovative approach and commitment to excellence, consistently setting new industry standards.

RC urges teachers to visit natural wonders

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has urged teachers to allocate time to visit the country's tourist destinations to spur domestic tourism.

RC Chalamila made the call in the city yesterday during the flag-off that 1000 teachers will embark on a two-day SGR-Mikumi Tour. The tour was partly sponsored by NMB Bank at the tune of 22m/- where the lender dished out 12m/- for printing t-shirts and 10m/- to cover other logistics for the tour.

He said it is high time for teachers to have time to visit national parks and other natural wonders to refresh and in a way they will be promoting domestic tourism.

He also stated that teachers have been the first group to embark on the SGR railway project tour after its commissioning by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Thursday this week.

"I believe this initiative not only creates a memorable experience for teachers but also be a catalyst to the Royal Tour campaign," he stressed.

RC Chalamila noted that as part of the long-term strategy to create awareness for the SGR project, his office has organized another special group tour scheduled to take place on August 30, 2024.

He commended NMB Bank for its continued support of teachers' welfare. "The bank has been at the forefront of supporting various development efforts initiated by the Government. I take this opportunity to laud the bank for extending its support for supporting this tour," he said.

Dr. Toba Nguvila, Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) said the tour will give the teachers a practical experience of the Mikumi National Park ecology.

"This is indeed a productive tour and we believe it will not only help in boosting their work morale and uplift their work spirits but also ensure that they are ambassadors for the massive SGR project implemented by the sixth phase Government" he stressed.

Cuthbert Zimwe, the bank's relationship Manager during the event said the bank's relationship with teachers is unbeatable, reiterating the bank's commitment to continue coming up with tailor-made products and services for teachers.

"We have cultivated mutual relationships with teachers for years now. As a matter of fact, our bank has a long history with teachers. We believe our contribution to support this SGR project visit will help put a smile on their faces. As a bank, we wish you a safe trip," Zimwe said.



Vehicular traffic at a standstill along a Kimara Mwisho section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road, undergoing major rehabilitation and expansion, as witnessed on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Oil body wants member to give \$83m for Africa's Energy Bank

By Special Correspondent

THE African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO) has asked oil-producing African member countries to contribute their \$83m subscription fees, and so help establish the Africa Energy Bank (AEB), scheduled to be launched in Nigeria in September 2024.

In collaboration with the African Export-Import Bank, APPO established the AEB, which aims

to have an initial capitalisation of \$5bn to offer private sector funding for energy development projects related to oil, gas and renewable energy across Africa.

According to a press release, the AEB plans to collaborate with more than 700 African banks to create a profitable path for the continent's energy sector.

However, it seems as if there could be funding issues for the financial institution, which prompted Omar Farouk Ibrahim,

APPO's secretary-general, to call on members to pay their fees.

APPO was created in January 1987 in Nigeria to serve as a platform for the harmonisation of efforts, collaboration, and sharing of knowledge and skills among African oil-producing countries.

African energy projects typically rely on development finance institutions and multilateral development banks, which have recently limited funding

for fossil fuel projects due to climate change concerns.

Instead of relying solely on international banks, the AEB can potentially capitalise on the region's natural resources such as oil, gas and green hydrogen projects by directing pension funds into African projects.

"APPO has always been at the forefront of championing energy initiatives in Africa by ensuring access to necessary financing and providing its business expertise,"

said Sandra Jeque, event and project director at Energy Capital & Power, an Africa-focused investment platform.

She added: "Dr Ibrahim's presence reaffirms the organisation's commitment to making the MSGBC region the new frontier for oil and gas developments."

The MSGBC Basin derives its name from the initials of the countries where the basin, or a group of smaller sub-basins, is located: Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia,

Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry.

Nigeria is set to host the newly established AEB, beating off competition from three other countries.

Nigeria's efforts to secure the hosting rights picked up pace in late May, when the nation officially approved the bank's charter and President Bola Tinubu authorised a \$100m investment, exceeding the mandatory \$83.33m for member states.

Smartphone firm, UNESCO to come up with AI robot project

NAIROBI

CHINESE Smartphone Company and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have teamed up to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) robot project in Kenya.

Michael Zeng, brand manager of Infinix Kenya, said the CogLabs project, which will be based at the University of Nairobi, Kenya's oldest institution of higher learning, is an AI robot and machine learning educational platform that uses mobile phones as the brains of the robots to inspire creativity and accessible AI experiences for the next generation.

"The CogLabs approach guides users through building robots with 3D-printed parts and second-hand phones as well as training those using teachable machines and programming languages such as Scratch," Zeng said in a statement released in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Friday.

Zeng noted that CogLabs is a low-cost innovation project, as compared to current educational robots on the market that are expensive and complex to use.

Joan Nadal, master trainer of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Project at UNESCO, said the CogLabs project aims to promote STEM education, foster AI literacy, and empower young innovators.

The project will also benefit from UNESCO's capacity-building workshops to enhance their knowledge of AI technology, Nadal added.



Napendaweli Walieli (R), community projects manager with ChemChem Conservation and Tourism Institute, symbolically presents predator-proof enclosures to pastoralist Peter Martin in Babati town on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Herders near WMA given predator-proof enclosures

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

PASTORALISTS living within the Burunge Wildlife Management Area (Burunge-WMA) in Manyara Region and surrounding areas have been provided with predator-proof enclosures in efforts to curb human-wildlife conflicts.

The modern bomas are designed to protect their livestock from aggressive wildlife, including lions and hyenas.

The enclosures were constructed

by the Chem Chem Conservation and Tourism Institute, which operates in the area between Tarangire National Park and Lake Manyara National Park as part of its strategy to mitigate wildlife-livestock conflicts.

Speaking at the handover ceremony Babati District Administrative Secretary Khalifani Malipula, emphasized that the project aligns with government efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

He thanked the institute because

the current bomas are modern and strong unlike the previous ones which were built using indigenous tools including woods hence being easy for wild animals to attack.

Malipula, who represented Babati District Commissioner Lazaro Twange, highlighted the progress in conservation efforts but noted that addressing wildlife attacks on livestock remains a priority.

The inauguration of the enclosures coincided with World Ranger Day, a day intended to honour and

support wildlife rangers. The new enclosures are expected to alleviate the need for residents to sleep outside to guard their livestock.

John Bagary, a resident of Vilima Vitatu village, reported that before receiving his enclosure, he lost five cows and eight goats to lions.

"I used to sleep outside to guard my cattle, but now I'm grateful for this solar-powered enclosure that keeps lions out," he said.

Peter Martin, a resident of Ngoley village, also expressed apprecia-

tion for the enclosures. "Thanks to Chem Chem and the government, we can now sleep peacefully," he said. Napendaeli Wazoeli, community development project manager at Chem Chem, noted that the enclosures were handed over as part of the commemoration of World Ranger Day.

Wazoeli said each enclosure costs over 2.6m/- and Chem Chem has constructed a total of 15 enclosures to combat wildlife-human conflicts. In addition to the enclosures,

Chem Chem provided households with animal repellent equipment, including fire crackers, vuvuzelas, hot peppers and other repellents.

Erick Lilayoni, Burunge WMA chairman, praised Chem Chem for their ongoing support and commitment to conservation efforts in the area. "Today, we have seen all rangers receiving medals and wildlife-repellent equipment. This reflects Chem Chem's continued dedication to supporting conservation in our region," he said.

Kilombero Sugar builds new plant to end scarcity

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kilombero Sugar Factory is nearing the completion of its K4 factory expansion, in a significant move to bolster production of the sweetener in the country.

The development aligns with the government's efforts to achieve sugar self-sufficiency.

The expansion project which upon completion will cost 744bn/-, is set to be completed by June 2025. Once it goes into operation, it will boost the factory's sugar production capacity from 126,000 tonnes to 271,000 tonnes annually.

"The K4 factory is the largest and most modern Sugar production facility in East Africa, which was started two years ago," said Derick Stanley, Corporate Affairs Director at Kilombero Sugar Company. "Its completion will significantly reduce the country's sugar gap, eliminating the need for sugar imports."

President Samia Suluhu Hassan is tomorrow expected to lay the foundation stone for the new sugar plant, a move aimed at strengthening the country's sugar production as well as price stabilisation.

In two years ago, the company embarked on an expansion project in which a new, state-of-the-art factory dubbed K4, which its completion will greatly contribute to maintaining a sufficient supply of locally produced sugar in the country.

Stanley added that its completion will significantly close the country's sugar deficit, reducing the need for imports, highlighting the economic benefits, noting that the project will boost annual income for Kilombero's cane growers from 75bn/- to approximately 165bn/-. The number of farmers involved is also expected to double from 8,000 to around 16,000.

Victor Byemelwa, communications and stakeholder relations manager, invited the public to the foundation stone-laying



Kilombero Sugar Company corporate affairs director Derick Stanley (C) briefs journalists in Kilombero District on Thursday on progress in the implementation of the firm's factory expansion project, whose foundation stone President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to lay tomorrow. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ceremony, describing it as a historic event that will enhance farmers' livelihoods through increased sugarcane production.

Business affairs manager, Willa Haonga

encouraged women to seize the opportunities arising from the project.

She pointed out that while men often dominate farming businesses, this ini-

tiative provides women with a chance to improve their economic status, supporting President Samia's efforts to empower women.

EA distribution players meet to eliminate sector challenges

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

STAKEHOLDERS in the distribution sector from the East African region have convened in Nairobi, Kenya, to address challenges facing the sector and develop a strategic action plan to overcome barriers affecting distribution in the region.

The participants include stakeholders from the region's wholesale trade services, retailers and franchising sectors; representing public and private organizations, business associations, distribution firms, and e-commerce platforms.

The forum marks the inaugural EAC Peer-to-Peer Learning Conference, which focuses on tackling key obstacles in the distribution sector,

with particular attention on regulatory frameworks and growth strategies.

The Conference, organized under the EU-EAC CORE program, reviewed a diagnostic study on the region revealing that restrictive investment laws are impacting the entry and operations of wholesale and retail firms across EAC Partner States. The study identified major challenges ailing the sector such as; burdensome administrative requirements, weak links with local suppliers, high investor exit rates in the retail sector and insufficient industry skills.

The peer-to-peer learning approach aims to facilitate knowledge exchange between countries that have implemented successful re-

forms and foreign entities with advanced distribution practices, emphasizing inventory management, skill enhancement, and integration with local suppliers.

Elizabeth Miguda, Deputy Director & Head of Regional Trade at Kenya's State Department of Trade highlighted that the liberalization of this sub-sector presents significant opportunities for entering new markets within the East African Community.

"The efficiency of this sector is crucial for ensuring that consumers have access to a wide variety of goods and services at competitive prices. Enhanced efficiency and competition in the distribution system can lead to lower prices, as distribution margins significantly affect

final product prices, and help reduce price distortions," she said. She also addressed the ongoing challenges within the sector.

"The sector faces various issues such as fragmented regulatory obligations without a specific framework, which can foster anti-competitive practices. There is also a lack of business and management skills among entrepreneurs and insufficient digital skills to keep pace with the growing importance of online distribution channels," she noted.

Miguda emphasized that streamlining the distribution process could improve resource allocation and better align supply with demand. "This will reduce risks, lower costs, enhance quality, and

provide consumers with a wider range of products at competitive prices, thereby contributing to the sector's overall efficiency," she added.

Marie Angelique Umulisa, the Principal Trade Officer and Head of International Trade at the EAC Secretariat, underscored the significance of distribution services.

"Distribution services account for approximately 20% of global services trade and play a critical role in enhancing efficiency, quality, and economic contributions across other sectors," she said.

She stated that in the EAC region, these services contribute between 3% and 10% to GDP, highlighting their essential role in economic development and employ-

ment. "This Conference serves as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and progress," Umulisa added.

She described the conference as an invaluable opportunity for stakeholders from the government, the business community and other sectors to share experiences and best practices. "Liberalizing distribution services will enhance operational efficiency, create economies of scale, and offer consumers better pricing, quality, and a broader range of options," she noted.

Umulisa further noted that addressing inefficiencies in distribution systems will enable consumers to fully benefit from liberalized trade in products and services, particularly through reduced

costs and increased product diversity.

The conference which concludes tomorrow, will offer an opportunity to facilitate knowledge exchange among countries with successful reforms and foreign entities with advanced distribution practices, focusing on inventory management, skill enhancement, and local supplier integration.

The efficiency of this sector is crucial for ensuring that consumers have access to a wide variety of goods and services at competitive

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Kenya begins poison drive to eradicate invasive crows

NAIROBI

KENYA has pledged to poison a million invasive crows to protect its wildlife.

The Indian house crows are blamed of killing local species, disfiguring buildings with their droppings, mobbing people and attacking livestock.

A poisoning campaign began this week to stop the rapidly growing crow population from spreading inland from the coast towards the capital, Nairobi.

Conservationists blame the crows for significantly reducing the number of small indigenous birds, such as weavers and waxbills, by ripping their nests apart while targeting eggs and chicks.

The Kenya Wildlife Service said it wants “to eliminate one million house crows” from the coast by the end of 2024.

Bait laced with a specialist slow-acting bird poison called Starlicide will be used, which is highly toxic to crows, starlings and rooks, while less poisonous to other birds and animals.

‘Significantly affecting local birds’

Wildlife officials in June announced the birds were “invasive alien birds that have been a nuisance to the public for decades, significantly affecting local bird populations by driving them from their natural habitats.”

Thought to have originated from India and other parts of Asia, the birds are believed to have been deliberately introduced to the nearby island of Zanzibar in the 1890s to help tackle a mounting waste problem in what was then a British protectorate.



Rogasian Lukoa, a forestry officer with the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), makes remarks at a Sustainable Landscapes Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation Project meeting held in Iringa municipality earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Helios raises initial \$200million for Africa-focused climate fund

LONDON

HELIOS Investment Partners has raised an initial \$200 million for climate mitigation and adaptation projects with the backing of Britain's development finance institution, the European Investment Bank and other climate investors.

Other investors in the Helios Climate, Energy Access, and Resilience (CLEAR) Fund, which aims to raise

\$400 million and become the largest Africa-focused climate fund, included the Dutch development bank, the partners said in a statement.

The fund will target companies in low-carbon energy; climate-smart agriculture and food; climate-friendly mobility and logistics; recycling and resource efficiency, digital and financial climate “enablers”, they said.

Anneliese Dodds, UK Minister for Development, said the government

was “determined to restore the UK's reputation as a world leader on climate. We need to act now to avoid further environmental devastation that will fuel illegal migration, conflict, and famine across the world.”

“The UK-supported CLEAR Fund is a first of its kind to invest in mid-sized African companies seeking to avoid and reduce carbon emissions, helping people to become more resilient and to adapt to the

climate crisis.”

Research commissioned by the UK's Mobilising Institutional Capital Through Listed Product Structure programme, which aims to help drive sustainable development, said sub-Saharan Africa's renewable energy market represented a potential investment opportunity of \$193 billion by 2031.

Yet the International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that

Africa currently attracts only 3% of global energy investment, the statement said.

“As the UK's development finance institution, this investment also reinforces BII's commitment to supporting Africa's green transition,” said Christopher Chijitomi, managing director and head of Africa at British International Investment. Gilles Vaes, chief executive officer at InfraCo Africa, which also

invested, said it was “a watershed moment for African growth businesses – and the associated infrastructure – seeking to address the climate crisis.”

“CLEAR will unlock much-needed access to finance and exit routes for climate entrepreneurs whilst giving investors comfort that their investments will generate the growth they expect and support global efforts to address climate change.”



A sure public health hazard as garbage lies abandoned along Dar es Salaam's Madenge Street – a stone's throw away from the popular Buguruni mixed-goods market. Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured this scene earlier this week.

Shortages in commodities, prices hike worsen living conditions for Sudanese

KHARTOUM

RICES hike and scarcity of basic commodities across Sudan have exacerbated the living conditions of citizens already grappling with the repercussions of an ongoing civil war in the country.

In Omdurman city, north of the capital Khartoum, the prices of basic commodities witnessed a significant rise.

“During the recent period, prices have increased by nearly 35 percent,” Hamdan Abdullah, a merchant at a market in the city's Karari locality, told Xinhua.

Omer Idris, a resident from a south Khartoum neighbourhood, said essential items such as rice, flour, meat, and milk are often unavailable due to high prices.

In Al-Manaqil city in Gezira State in central Sudan, the flow of necessary commodities to the city has stopped due to the security situation, fuel shortage, and the heavy rains, according to Mohamed Mekki Ibrahim, a resident of the city.

Most of western Sudan areas, including Darfur and Kordofan States, have also been suffering from shortages in basic commodities and prices hike.

Hawa Ishaq, a resident of the Dalang city in South Kordofan state, said, the prices have doubled, where a bag of maize now costs 300,000 Sudanese pounds.

According to the Bank of Khartoum's daily exchange rates of foreign currencies, the exchange rate of one dollar was 1,885 Sudanese pounds on Monday.

“People here eat tree leaves. We are trapped as the roads are closed, and we do not have any source of income. The city is lifeless,” she told Xinhua.

Similarly, the markets in Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur state, are also witnessing an unprecedented rise in commodity prices, where Yaqoub Adam, a merchant in the city, told Xinhua that the price of a bag of millet has jumped from 145,000 pounds to 190,000 pounds.

The World Food Programme has warned that the ongoing war in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces “risks triggering the world's largest hunger crisis.”

Sudan's inflation rate reached 136.67 percent in the first half of 2024, the country's Central Bureau of Statistics said in a press release on Monday.

Study needed for countries to ‘prepare’ for next pandemic

By Special Correspondent

THE Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday called on researchers and governments to strengthen and accelerate global research to prepare for the next pandemic.

They emphasized the importance of expanding research to encompass entire families of pathogens that can infect humans – regardless of their perceived pandemic risk – as well as focusing on individual pathogens. The approach proposes using prototype pathogens as guides or pathfinders to develop the knowledge base for entire pathogen families.

At the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, WHO R&D Blueprint for Epidemics issued a report urging a broader-based approach

by researchers and countries.

This approach aims to create broadly applicable knowledge, tools and countermeasures that can be rapidly adapted to emerging threats. This strategy also aims to speed up surveillance and research to understand how pathogens transmit and infect humans and how the immune system responds to them.

The report's authors likened its updated recommendation to imagining scientists as individuals searching for lost keys on a street (the next pandemic pathogen). The area illuminated by the streetlight represents well-studied pathogens with known pandemic potential. By researching prototype pathogens, we can expand the lighted area, gaining knowledge and understanding of pathogen families that might currently be in the dark.

The dark spaces in this metaphor in-

clude many regions of the world, particularly resource-scarce settings with high biodiversity, which are still under monitored and understudied. These places might harbour novel pathogens, but lack the infrastructure and resources to conduct comprehensive research.

“WHO's scientific framework for epidemic and pandemic research preparedness is a vital shift in how the world approaches countermeasure development, and one that is strongly supported by CEPI. As presented at the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this framework will help steer and coordinate research into entire pathogen families, a strategy that aims to bolster the world's ability to swiftly respond to unforeseen variants, emerging pathogens, zoonotic spillover, and unknown threats referred to as pathogen X”, said Dr Richard

Hatchett, CEO of CEPI.

The prioritization work underpinning the report involved over 200 scientists from more than 50 countries, who evaluated the science and evidence on 28 virus families and one core group of bacteria, encompassing 1652 pathogens. The epidemic and pandemic risk was determined by considering available information on transmission patterns, virulence, and availability of diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatments.

CEPI and WHO also called for globally coordinated, collaborative research to prepare for potential pandemics.

“History teaches us that the next pandemic is a matter of when, not if. It also teaches us the importance of science and political resolve in blunting its impact,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

“We need that same combination of science and political resolve to come together as we prepare for the next pandemic. Advancing our knowledge of the many pathogens that surround us is a global project requiring the participation of scientists from every country.”

To facilitate this, WHO is engaging research institutions across the world to establish a Collaborative Open Research Consortium (CORC) for each pathogen family, with a WHO Collaborating Centre acting as the research hub for each family.

These CORCs around the world will involve researchers, developers, funders, regulators, trial experts and others, with the aim to promote greater research collaboration and equitable participation, particularly from places where the pathogens are known to or highly likely to circulate.

SATURDAY 3 AUGUST 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
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Resource advantage apart, praise right for low inflation, GDP rise

OFFICIAL economics and the presentation of research results or data surveys by multilateral agencies can largely be misleading in their emphasis.

That obtains where all economic results if they are good arise from good policies and if they are bad they arise from nature or external factors.

It is not easy to notice these things as the formulations are given in strict conformity with the data, whereas the ghost is in the causes, whether it is really out of policy that a country succeeds or due to nature that it fails. We recently had such a moment.

The point of reference was that Tanzania's real GDP growth by improved IMF-World Bank interpretation is projected at 6 per cent in 2025 from 5.7 per cent this year.

This was unveiled when the Finance minister was launching the Tanzania Economic Performance Review Report for 2024 prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Tied with positive growth was that inflation is set to decline to 3.3 per cent this year, inching up to 3.4 per cent next year, which evidently isn't assured that this be actually realised, but is a plausible possibility.

Going by the AfDB report and the minister's talking points at the Abuja conference, the key drivers of price stability are mainly stable food and energy prices.

This ingeniously skips over the fact that natural gas has since 2013 altered the import mix and consequently foreign exchange demand.

It is a wholly different monetary framework that emerges, in like manner as the emergence, less than 15 years earlier, gold exports and the way the budget picture was altered. This natural resource base has enabled us to steer clear of

sharp crises.

On the contrary, the dynamic of change and stability is laid at a different source, or axis, tied to the theme of driving Tanzania's transformation within efforts to reform the "global financial architecture".

There was of course tangible success in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism alongside public investments in infrastructure especially, and reforms to improve the business environment.

This is what the discussion was about, as to how better lending conditions by multilateral banks and agencies can help the country boost this curve.

It is true that Tanzania has made significant economic and social progress in recent years - and is even a leader among East African countries for its growth pace as all countries recover from the impacts of Covid-19, climate change and on-going conflicts.

All that notwithstanding, we definitely could have done more. Many countries compare with Tanzania in terms of their resource bases but lack the cohesion that we have.

Saying that the country will be strengthening its economy through the third five-year development plan aiming at a strong, inclusive and competitive economy with emphasis on agriculture, industry, crop value addition, investment flows and external trade that creates jobs particularly for the youth was simply to say more of the same.

Market economies don't badly need plans because investors come when they expect that conditions are positive enough to earn a profit and can that they can sell their goods locally.

Yet with state-run monopolies chocking off substantial investment avenues, maintaining stability with the natural gas and gold

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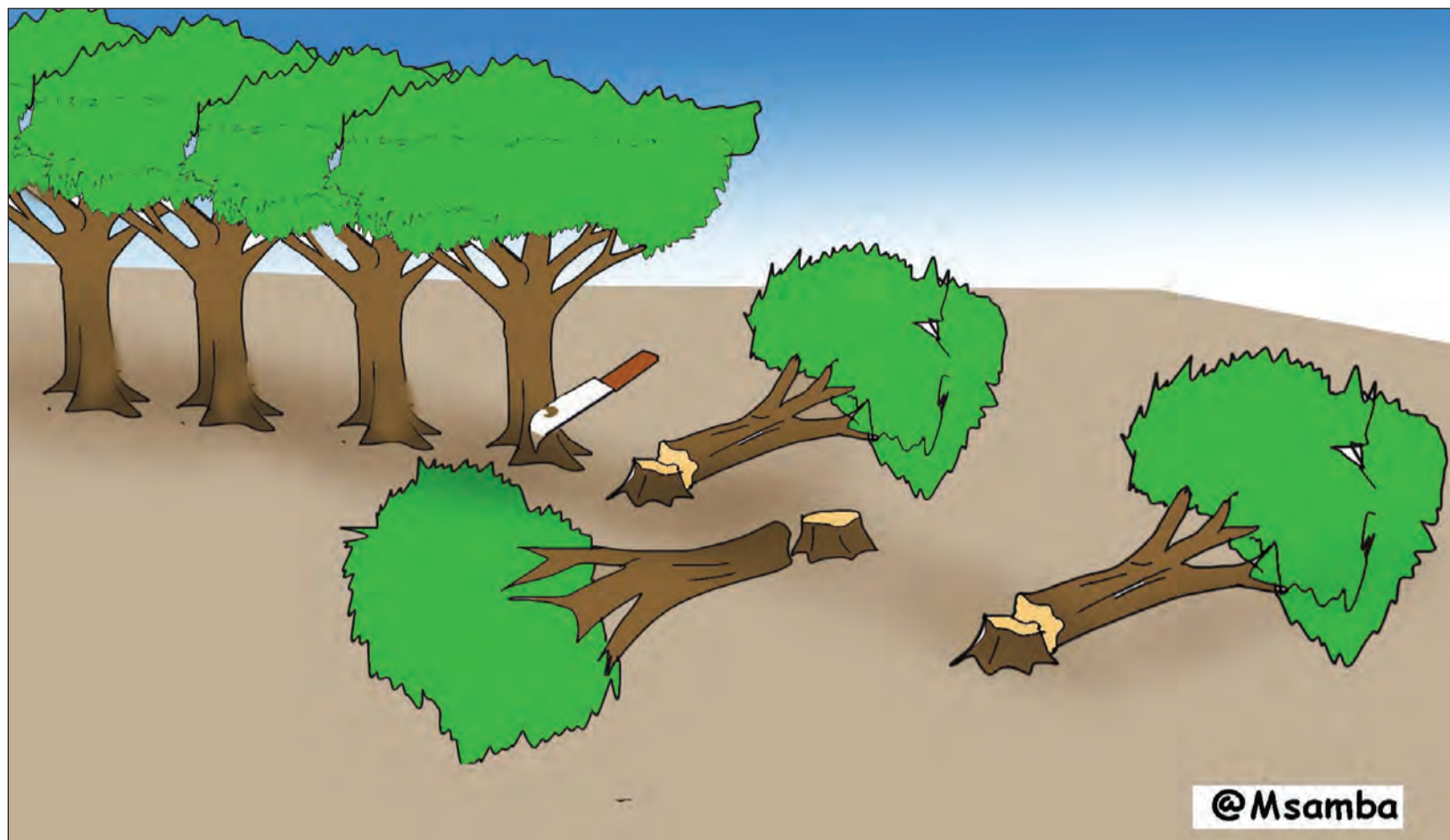
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Femicide and reproductive violence harm African women, girls

By Betty Kabari

INTERNATIONAL African Women's Day on July 31 recognizes the contribution of African women toward political, social, and economic freedom on the continent. But gender equality is still not a reality for most African women.

Many countries still have regressive laws, and even the more progressive laws in other countries are often poorly carried out. There is a lack of supportive frameworks to promote and safeguard women and girls' equality, such as research into rights violations and public education on gender equality and women and girls' rights.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, or the Maputo Protocol as it is known, provides a framework for fulfilling and upholding the rights of women and girls.

It identifies various areas in which women and girls are denied equality and calls on governments to take legislative, institutional, and other measures to combat all forms of discrimination.

Forty-four out of 55 African countries have ratified the Maputo Protocol and some have made progress in enacting legislation in the two decades that it has been in force.

But the lack of adequate progress is a reminder that governments have not met their obligation to address meaningfully the ways that laws, policies, and practices propagate patriarchal systems that discriminate against women and girls and entrench gender inequality in every aspect of life.

Article 4 of the Maputo Protocol recognizes women's and girls' rights to life, integrity, and security of their person, some of the most fundamental, foundational rights. Yet violations of these rights are frequent and manifest in a number of ways including femicide - gender related killings of women and girls; what is called obstetric violence - ill treatment of women and girls when seeking reproductive health services; and lack of access to safe, legal abortion care.

In 2022, the United Nations identified Africa as the continent with the highest incidence of femicide. More than 20,000 women and girls on the continent were killed by intimate partners or family members that year, averaging more than 54 deaths daily - the highest in absolute numbers of any continent.

However, only the government of South Africa has consistently collected data on femicide or made any efforts to develop laws, policies, or programs that address femicide, such as in its National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide. Other governments, such as Kenya, fail both to collect the relevant data and to effectively investigate and prosecute femicide.

African countries have also been slow to respond to mistreatment of women and girls during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care, including verbal and physical abuse, neglect, and non-consensual and medically unnecessary procedures.



If Africa is to achieve the milestones under the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development or the Africa Union Agenda 2063, countries urgently need to recommmit themselves to carrying out the Maputo Protocol. Credit: Shutterstock. Credit: ECW

Insufficient data hampers conclusions on the exact scope of the problem but global studies have found that, depending on the country, between 15 and 91 percent of women experience mistreatment during childbirth. There is also a dearth, globally, of data on abuses that occur when women and girls seek other maternal health services, including abortion services.

In Malawi, a 2019 report from the Office of the Ombudsman documented various forms of abuse and mistreatment during labor and delivery, including forced Cesarean sections and hysterectomies.

The causes included negligence by overworked and underpaid healthcare workers and a lack of medication and emergency obstetric care. Five years later, Malawi is lagging in carrying out the report's recommendations.

Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol recognizes women and girls' right of access to abortion care in cases when the pregnancy is a result of sexual violence or when the pregnancy endangers the physical or mental health of the woman, or the life of the woman or the fetus. But fewer than half of the countries that have ratified the Maputo Protocol have incorporated this right into their domestic law, and even fewer have implemented it.

In the absence of legally protected abortion care, 75 percent of all abortions on the African continent are unsafe. This results in maternal mortality as well

as complications that require over 1.6 million African women and girls to seek post-abortion care each year.

In Zambia, which is considered to have some of the most liberal abortion laws on the continent, unsafe abortion remains prevalent and accounts for 30 percent of the country's maternal mortality.

The law limits the availability of facilities and healthcare providers who can legally provide abortion services, contrary to guidance from the World Health Organization.

In addition, the government has not taken sufficient measures to address stigma against abortion or raise awareness of the country's laws on abortion, leading to many women, girls, and even healthcare providers believing incorrectly that abortion is illegal.

If Africa is to achieve the milestones under the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development or the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic framework to achieve inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development over a 50-year period, countries urgently need to recommmit themselves to carrying out the Maputo Protocol. That means including taking immediate action to address femicide, obstetric violence and inaccessibility of safe, legal abortion care.

Betty Kabari is a women's right researcher at Human Rights Watch.

SGR not firstly nirvana but scaling for revenues, other transport modes

A PORTION of the Tanzanian business community is unsurprisingly worried about the future of their transportation businesses in particular in the wake of the flagging off of passenger train operations from the commercial capital to inland centres, first Morogoro and now the national capital, Dodoma.

Indeed, this soul-searching also preoccupies the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) as all ears and eyes prime standard gauge speed train services, not the old railway line. Yet it is being forgotten that the government and a range of the country's well-wishers are disbursing resources for the rebuilding of what looks like an outdated railway.

Even more strongly expressed are feelings of commuter bus operators and those regularly hauling cargo into inland regions, apart from transit trade to neighbouring countries, who now seem to be standing on the edge of ruin.

Remarks by leading government officials on the issue were not exactly reassuring as they were being asked to place their vehicles on secondary routes not served by SGR. But these routes already have vehicles which aren't of the same tonnage as those being replaced by SGR facilities - meaning that there are thousands of jobs involved in it.

There is a way in which all these problems can be resolved, namely to put a premium on speed and those who just want to do regular activity where speed is not involved. For a student leaving Dodoma on holiday to return to Dar es Salaam or to proceed to Kigoma when SGR has reached there, the

trip doesn't have to be taken by speed train but ordinary train.

Similarly for goods in that one transporting flowers or avocados for export from the southern highlands regions would preferably use speed train, while a consignment of tobacco destined for foreign markets needs no speed train to arrive earlier. A price mark-up is in good order. Just recently, it was being said that the rapid bus operator in association with the Treasury Registrar wish to import more than 100 buses for the poorly equipped rapid bus routes.

Now it appears that, with any effort, half of the buses plying the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro route could be obtained for the city transit business with any usable arrangement. All it needs is a fare structure on SGR which makes traditional buses relevant but many users could opt for speed train, depending on their needs or immediate situation.

It is also a formula that the traditional railway lines need for them to remain relevant - that the 30,000/- fare is sharply marked up. It thus appears that, for SGR to be consonant with other transport needs, it needs to be priced well above the usual ilk as it basically competes with air travel in speed.

One can't just place air fares there but half of it will just work, as those leaving their vehicles in Dodoma or Dar es Salaam would save the government coffers plenty.

Admittedly, it isn't of much use seeking to woo business by making speed train of the same standards as regular commuter buses. Standards earn the government some revenue as transport modes breathe.

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at the concept and practice of equality before the law as provided for in Article 13 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (as amended until 2005) and said "there is no person who by virtue of his or her position is above the Constitution and ordinary laws." We said this in relation to laypersons' thinking that high ranking officials are above the Constitution and ordinary laws and may break the Constitution or ordinary laws if they so wish.

Yet, this thinking in the eyes of the law is obviously flawed. In support of this we quoted H.W.R. Wade & C.E. Forsyth in their book "Administrative Law (Eighth Edition, 2000) who suggest that "Every act of governmental power - every act which affects the legal rights, duties or liberties of any person - must be shown to have a strictly legal pedigree."

We then concluded that breaking the law is unlawful and is accompanied by sanctions. In a society in which the rule of law is practised, equality before the law is strictly observed and there is no person who is above the law. But where the law is bent to suit the interests of those with economic or political power breaking the law with impunity is common.

Today, I invite you again to briefly look at upbringing, especially with regard to some parents' tendency to be harsh to their children, thinking it is the only way of moulding them into future responsible adults. The parents of this kind believe and even may quote out of context some scriptural texts in support of what they do to their children because that is how they too were brought up.

So, parents give to their children nothing else, but what they have. The columnist has come back to upbringing because of what he often sees or hears par-

Loving, caring parenthood moulds children into responsible persons



sonably because it only turns them into obstinate children.

We can attribute children's obstinacy to maltreatment in childhood. A child who experiences maltreatment is likely to do it to his or her own children when he or she becomes an adult. That is why good upbringing is needed in childhood for it is going to determine what the child will be when he or she becomes an adult.

Although parents would blame their children's behaviour on modern culture, often western culture, the modern or western culture is just the scapegoat for the parents' failure to mould their children into better persons. This blame game doesn't help unless parents learn to change and start being loving and caring parents. The problem is that since most parents were maltreated during their childhood they too do the same to their children. Yet, as is often said: 'the repetition of wrongs does not make it right'.

Look at the way we maltreat each other and even if we are entrusted to lead others instead of serving others we often turn the leadership we entrusted with into serving personal interests. We must break this chain by changing ourselves because any change starts with us and unless we first change we will hardly see any change in others.

Today's legal maxim: "What is learnt in the cradle lasts to the tomb."

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The Law and You



ents talk about and thinks there is a need to enlighten each other on the kind of upbringing that moulds children into responsible adults. This is loving and caring parenthood.

The Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019) in section 9(3) provides for parental duties and responsibilities which include the protection of the child from neglect, discrimination, violence, abuse, exposure to physical and moral hazards and oppression; the provision of good guidance, care, assistance and maintenance for the child and the assurance of the child's survival and development and ensuring all the time the child is cared for by a parent or competent person.

The law in section 13 provides also for protection from torture and degrading treatment, including not subjecting a child to tor-

ture, cruel, inhuman punishment, degrading treatment and any cultural practice which dehumanises or is injurious to a child's physical and mental well-being.

Subsection (2) states: "No correction of a child is justifiable which is unreasonable in kind or in degree according to the age, physical and mental condition of the child and no correction is justifiable if the child is by reason of tender age or otherwise incapable of understanding the purpose of the correction."

In this section 'degrading treatment' means an act which humiliates or lowers the child's dignity. Children being what they are cannot resist or revenge when they are maltreated or corrected unreasonably. This means that it is up to parents to restrain themselves from maltreating or correcting their children unrea-

Ghana elections: Ethnicity is not allowed in the country's politics, yet it helps shape outcomes

By Clement Sefa-Nyarko

GHANA, which has more than 70 ethnic groups, has been among the most stable democracies in Africa since 1992. It has achieved this by outlawing the use of ethnicity in party politics. The 1992 constitution bars the explicit use of social identities in party politics. That includes ethnic group names, symbols, colours, or artefacts. Yet, Ghanaian politics is not completely devoid of ethnicity as the country prepares for another election in December.

Ethnicity has had a disruptive effect on Ghana since colonial times. The British used ethnicity to advance their indirect rule policy. Kwame Nkrumah, the country's first postcolonial leader, inherited this and struggled with the predominantly Asante National Liberation Movement over whether newly independent Ghana should be a federal or unitary state. A federal state would have given more autonomy to dominant chieftaincies and ethnic groups like the Asantes. Nkrumah didn't want this. The unitary model won.

However, the development of the unitary state was complicated by vulnerabilities associated with multiple social identities and socioeconomic decay. Ghana's five coup d'états since 1966 were all mediated by some degree of ethnic grievances. Ghana has nine major ethnic groups. The biggest are Akans, inclusive of Asantes (47.5 percent), Mole-Dagbanli (16.6 percent), and Ewe (13.9 percent). There is religious diversity too. Christians form two-thirds of the total population. There are also Muslims (17.6 percent), those who identify as non-religious (5.2 percent) and traditionalists (5.2 percent).

Successive governments, both democratic and military, have taken steps to curb the crisis of ethnicity in public life. For instance, Nkrumah dissolved ethnic and regional political parties through the Avoidance of Discrimination Act in 1956. The country's military leader from 1972 to 1978, Ignatius Kutu Acheampong, banned ethnic symbols or expressions from official documents. The 1992 constitution, currently in use, followed suit.

The de-ethnicisation of party politics in 1992 was accompanied by the removal of party politics and ethnicity from the local government level. This meant that officials were elected to administer cities and local authorities without considerations of political party affiliation. I recently analysed this innovation and its significance for political stability.

My findings confirm that ethnicity has widely been tamed in Ghanaian politics.

Fourteen of the country's 16 regions have narrower margins of voting or have swing constituencies. The Ashanti and Volta regions are the exceptions. They comprise about a quarter of the voting population; 76.4 percent and 71.7 percent of residents in the Ashanti and Volta regions are Asantes and Ewes respectively. Since 1992, the Asantes have voted consistently for the New Patriotic Party. Ewes, meanwhile, have voted for the Na-



Ghana's two leading parties rely on support from the Asante and Ewe ethnic groups

tional Democratic Congress. These two parties have won every election since the country returned to democratic rule.

I interrogated several possible explanations for this ethnic voting pattern. These include the backgrounds of party candidates, ownership of political parties and allocation of resources to strongholds. I also checked tensions between in-group and national identity (citizenship). And I assessed prejudices among the Asantes and Ewes.

None, by itself, offers an adequate explanation.

Ethnicity still influences electoral outcomes in Ghana. However, this happens on a limited scale and is to be expected in a multi-ethnic society. In silencing eth-

nic voices in party politics, the 1992 constitution introduced several alternative avenues for multi-ethnic self-expression. These include establishing locally led local government authorities and leaving customary land governance to chiefs and families.

These avenues provide options for local (and ethnically homogeneous) communities to make decisions on their development. They can also participate in local politics without explicitly referencing party politics.

The effect is that, while there are some elements of ethnicity in party politics, most Ghanaians do not see national elections as a zero sum game. Local assembly elections are also peaceful compared to

national, party-driven elections.

Together with other socioeconomic factors, ethnicity will continue to influence party politics in Ghana. This includes the upcoming December elections. However, this will not have security implications like ethnic based clashes for the country's democracy.

Support for the New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Congress in the Asante and Volta regions is unlikely to change. This is despite the exit of a prominent Asante politician, Alan Kyerematen, from the governing New Patriotic Party to form a new political party after he lost to the vice-president, Mahamadu Bawumia, in the primaries. It is instructive to note that the two major parties are led by

candidates from Mole-Dagbanli backgrounds.

The ethnic background of politicians has not mattered much in determining electoral outcomes in Ghana, and that is unlikely to change.

Beyond the Ashanti and Volta regions, support for the two main political parties over the last few decades have been widely influenced by factors such as the socio-economic conditions of urban populations and party campaign promises. Recent economic policies of the ruling government, such as its debt exchange programme and the banking crisis that hit the urban middle class the most, will likely have more of an impact on the urban population's voting decisions.

By Adam Williams

Indigenous midwives in Panama strive to preserve traditional medicine for maternal health childbirth



ONCE you're within the Ngäbe-Buglé Indigenous territory in western Panama, the vegetation of the rainforest grows thick and signs of industrial development are scarce. Dirt roads wind up muddy jungled hills to wooden homes with palm-thatched roofs, and the women of the group can be seen carrying babies on their backs in straw bags made of vegetable fibers called chácaras or krä. Unknown to many outsiders visiting this scene of lush green life, they're also surrounded by medicine for pregnant women.

The culture of Ngäbe-Buglé is ancient and enduring, and the group has maintained its traditions for generations. Birthing rituals among the Ngäbe-Buglé are particularly sacred, and for centuries women have used traditional medicines – from trees, herbs, roots and leaves endemic to the region – to ease pains and assist with complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Often administered by a midwife or traditional medicine doctor, expectant mothers receive multiple natural remedies, usually consumed in the form of teas or liquids, that represent a fundamental custom of the group's culture.

However, there's a growing concern within the group that the availability and knowledge of the curative properties of the plants used in childbirth will soon be lost. Deforestation, large-scale crop harvests, climate change and the increasing influence of Western medicine are altering the 7,000-square-kilometer (2,700-square-mile) landscape of the Ngäbe-Buglé territory and threatening long-standing traditions.

It's for this reason that an organization of midwives and traditional medicine doctors, known as the Ngäbe Association of Agents of Traditional and Natural Health, or ASASTRAN, is working to conserve and safeguard these ancestral plants and the Ngäbe-Buglé's birthing rituals. They understand the odds are stacked against them.

"The traditional medicines we use during pregnancy and at birth are produced in the forested mountains, and those forests aren't there anymore," said Silvia Salina, a co-founder and director of ASASTRAN. "Most of these plants grow wild and can't be reproduced in a nursery, so we're doing all we can to create spaces and designate plots of land for their cultivation so that they're not lost forever."

Founded in 1998, ASASTRAN started out as an initiative to provide basic health and hygiene services to residents within the Ngäbe-Buglé territory, where many communities didn't have working toilets until the 1990s. Salina said ASASTRAN realized there was a pressing need to train younger women in the group to act as midwives to teach them how to use medicinal plants to reduce pain and ease the birthing process.

The Indigenous territory, known in Panama as a comarca, lies in a region of dense rainforest and mountains. It's the largest of Panama's five comarcas, and the most impoverished: more than 60% of Ngäbe-Buglé's 215,000 residents live in extreme poverty, according to government figures.

For members of the group who live in remote villages of the comarca, health clinics and hospitals are often unaffordable and difficult to access, requiring long, arduous commutes on foot or horseback through the rainforest. This presents a particular challenge for expectant mothers in the Ngäbe-Buglé comarca, which has both the highest birth rate per family in Panama, as well as the highest maternal mortality rate.

"One of our main objectives has always been to lower the maternal and infant mortality rates in the comarca," Salina said. "Another has been to preserve the medicinal plants of this region, which need specific conditions to grow and are very delicate."

Trusted birth option

Since its creation, ASASTRAN has expanded to incorporate and train some 130 midwives and 105 traditional medicine doctors across the Ngäbe-Buglé territory. It has five primary locations within the expansive comarca, and at each site there's a neighboring plot of land, sometimes as large as 7 hectares (17 acres), where traditional medicinal plants grow wild.

In many remote communities of the comarca, the traditional healer and midwife associated with ASASTRAN represent the lone option for citizen health care, and their services are often preferred by Ngäbe-Buglé women during pregnancy and childbirth to seeking assistance at a hospital.

"I had my first child in a hospital, though I chose to birth my second and third children at my home with the support of the midwives of ASASTRAN," said Betzaida Rodríguez, a 28-year-old Ngäbe-Buglé woman in the village of Kuerima, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) inland from the Pacific Ocean.

Rodríguez, whose first language is the native Ngäbere, said she didn't feel comfortable navigating the birth of her first child, her only daughter, at a local hospital in Spanish, and that the attention she received felt impersonal and inadequate. She added that taking Western medicine, instead of the traditional curative remedies of the Ngäbe-Buglé, made her uneasy.

"During the second and third births, I was assisted by women I know, who speak my language and gave me traditional medicine that I'm familiar with," Rodríguez said. "It was a more personal experience performed by women I

trust."

Disappearance of medicinal plants

Alongside the concrete headquarters of ASASTRAN's sites in Kuerima and Lajero, located in the hilly rainforests near the Pacific Ocean, there are plots of land where thick vegetation grows wild. Among the dense jungle brush are the trees, bushes, leaves and flowers that, when consumed or processed into teas and liquids, act as remedies for a number of maladies, including headaches, fever, stomach pains, rashes, dysentery, hemorrhoids, and to reduce bleeding and hemorrhaging during the birthing process. In recent years, scientific studies have confirmed the curative properties of numerous Ngäbe-Buglé medicinal plants and their effectiveness in treating illnesses, and note that their extracts are often fundamental in the development of Western pharmaceuticals.

It's the role of the traditional medicine director on site to oversee the cultivation of these plants, remove their leaves and bark when ripe, dry them in an enclosed laboratory, and process them for consumption. Most of the medicines distributed to community members by ASASTRAN are packaged so they can be boiled and consumed as teas, or are processed into tinctures to be ingested as drops.

For medicines specific to the birthing process, there's a tea derived from bark and branches, known by the Ngäbe-Buglé as the "regulator," that's consumed to accelerate the birthing process and reduce pain. There's also a tea made from a root endemic to the region that eases contractions and limits bleeding during childbirth, while

another native leaf, known as asiria, is said to calm expectant mothers and normalize the heart rate.

Florinda Zurdo, a midwife who cultivates the medicinal plants used during pregnancy on her property, said the Ngäbe-Buglé prefer to withhold the names of these plants, given the risk of theft and invasion by outsiders. While members of ASASTRAN are working to preserve these ancestral plants and pass down knowledge of their curative properties to younger generations, elders of the group say these rare species are increasingly at risk of extinction.

"Many of the native plants here in our region have disappeared," said Armando Sire, an 83-year-old traditional medicine doctor and ASASTRAN co-founder. Sire, who learned the curative properties of regional plants from his grandfather, said he's seen the loss of thousands of species of endemic plants to the region during his lifetime.

"I can only recognize around 120 varieties of native plants in this region now, and there used to be thousands," he said. "It's a shame because, without the proper understanding of how to keep the plants alive, if you cut them in the wrong place, such as below the leaf or too high on a branch, they are lost and can't be conserved."

Although the Panamanian government passed legislation in 2016 to protect the practices and knowledge of Indigenous traditional medicine, the healers of ASASTRAN say that, without further state support or enforcement to protect native lands from deforestation or infrastructure projects, the ancestral curative plants of the Ngäbe-Buglé face an existential threat.

Volunteer midwives and doctors

During its 25 years of existence, ASASTRAN has received some intermittent funding, though the more than 200 midwives and traditional medicine doctors work on a volunteer basis. Despite the lack of funding, ASASTRAN is an organization that includes multiple sites and internal departments, such as human resources, and has trained hundreds of traditional medicine doctors and midwives across the comarca.

A recent program, known as Manchichi, which means "mother and child" in Ngäbere, has been introduced by outside organizations to provide ASASTRAN midwives with training and equipment to conduct health checkups during pregnancy. While the midwives of ASASTRAN say they've benefitted from the training and expertise, it hasn't provided additional funding for the group. Without further funding or government assistance, the future of ASASTRAN and the cultivation of ancestral plants that are vital to the health needs of the Ngäbe-Buglé could be lost. And that could leave residents of rural villages without options for health care, medicine or birthing assistance.

"Usually it is the people in the comarca with the least amount of resources that come directly to us for medicine and assistance during pregnancy," said Patricia Mendoza, ASASTRAN's general secretary. "We work as volunteers and would benefit from more resources, but we know that if we don't offer support to people in our communities, they don't have any other options."

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO) |

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Deal signed to boost resilience and food security in East Africa

NAIROBI/ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union (EU) have signed a four-year euros 47 million programme designed to strengthen the resilience of pastoralists in East Africa.

The initiative, named "Pastoralism and Livestock Adaptation to Climate Change in Eastern Africa Programme (PLACE)," is designed to address the challenges in developing sustainable, climate-resilient pastoral systems across the environmental, economic and social dimensions of pastoralism in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

"The EU has been a longstanding partner in Eastern Africa, especially in enhancing the resilience of pastoral livelihoods. We welcome this timely programme as the region's rangelands face increased incidence and severity of climate-related shocks and a gradual degradation of the natural resource base, which is further threatening the pastoral way of life," said Rein Paulsen, FAO's Director of the office of Emergencies and Resilience.

Livestock is a lifeline for over 250 million people in the region and is deeply embedded in the communities' social, cultural, and spiritual fabric. Pastoralists undertake livestock keeping not only as a commercial enterprise but also as a social investment. They have provided, over centuries, ecosystem services that are difficult to convert into commercial values, with these intangible values

comprising many interrelated cultural and environmental benefits.

However, pastoralism is at a critical juncture. Societal shifts in the region mean fewer young people are interested in what is traditionally considered a pastoral lifestyle. In addition, severe and frequent droughts have devastated rangelands, resulting in the loss of over 13 million livestock between late 2020 and early 2024.

PLACE's holistic approach aims to foster an environment that promotes comprehensive and innovative solutions to enhance resilience, improve food security, and establish sustainable livelihoods. It will be implemented across four cross-border cluster areas—the Bahr el-Arab, Karamoja, Mander, and Mara-Serengeti Clusters—spanning Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

It focuses on environmental sustainability, economic development, and social inclusion. Its implementation is expected to directly benefit more than 100,000 households.

Efforts will focus on several key areas, including strengthening land tenure systems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving biodiversity and natural resources, building strong local economies within the livestock sector, fostering sustainable economic growth, reducing resource-based conflicts and creating jobs.

The programme's initiatives will aim to improve living conditions, ensure fairness and inclusivity, and amplify the voices and participation of pastoralists, with particular attention to gender and youth inclusion.



Ivorian farmers turn to improved rice varieties for more production

YAMOUSOUKRO

IVORIAN rice farmer Francois Kasse Yao has struggled to make ends meet with only one harvest per year before he planted a new variety, resistant to unpredictable weather conditions capable of producing larger yields.

The grain, introduced as a part of a programme designed to increase output of the regional staple food and cut dependence on imports, allows rice growers to get two harvests per year, with a yield of up to 5 metric tonnes per hectare.

This shift signals a potential boost for local farmers and the nation as a whole, which could reduce its reliance on foreign rice imports.

Before the introduction of the new programme that includes better irrigation, mechanization and improved short-cycle drought-resistant seeds, farmers struggled to produce one metric tonne per hectare in some areas.

"Today's yields are better, this time we have started with a new variety, so today we're doing just fine," the 52-year-old farmer harvesting rice in the village of Subiakro, over 14 km from the Ivorian capital Yamoussoukro, said.

A farmer from another village, Hermane N'Guessan Kouame, praised the new variety's scent and flavour as well as its capacity to resist frequent water shortages – the



qualities that make the grain highly prized on the local rice market.

The average price for this type of milled rice is 650 CFA francs (\$1.09) per kilogram, Kouame said.

"When you plant it, no matter how the weather changes, it's always intact...It adapts to all climates," said the 50-year-old who farms a 44-hectare plot in Zatta located 20 km from Yamoussoukro.

Ivorian production of local white rice currently stands at 1.4 million metric tonnes, far below the national consumption of 2.1 million, according to a managing director of the Agency for the development of the rice sector (Aderiz).

To fully cover domestic demand, Ivory Coast imports rice mainly from countries such as India, Thailand and Pakistan.

A decision by India to curb its exports last year has raised shortage concerns in several African countries. But Aderiz says the latest investment of 330 billion CFA francs (\$551.38 million) made by the state, its partners and the private sector, will enable the country to self-sufficient in three years.

Production could reach 2.2 million tonnes by 2027, Yacouba Dembele said. "We are going to make progress. We're going to go fast, especially with the system we've put in place," he added.

Scientists uncover earliest evidence for plant farming in Eastern Africa

By Agatha Gontho

ANCIENT plant remains excavated in Kenya have helped archaeologists explain the history of plant farming in Eastern Africa.

The earliest evidence for plant farming was recorded from Kakapel rock shelter in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya.

The study was published on July 10 in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, by archaeologists from Washington University in St Louis, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Natalie Mueller, an assistant professor of archaeology in Arts & Sciences and co-author of the new study, said they found a huge assemblage of plants, including a lot of crop remains.

"The past shows a rich history of diverse and flexible farming systems in the region, in opposition to modern stereotypes about Africa," she said.

According to the newswire website, up until now, scientists have had no success in gathering ancient plant remains from East Africa.

As a result, they have had little idea where and how early plant farming got its start in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The new research revealed a pattern of gradual introductions of different crops that originated from different parts of Africa.

"There are many narratives about how agriculture began in East Africa, but there's not a lot of direct evidence of the plants themselves," Mueller

said. She said the remnants of cowpea discovered at Kakapel Rockshelter and directly dated to 2,300 years ago, constitute the earliest documented arrival of a domesticated crop.

The co-author said cowpea is assumed to have originated in West Africa and to have arrived in the Lake Victoria basin concurrent with the spread of Bantu-speaking peoples migrating from Central Africa.

Emmanuel Ndiema from the National Museums of Kenya, a project partner, said the findings at Kakapel reveal the earliest evidence of domesticated crops in East Africa.

It reflects the dynamic interactions between local herders and incoming Bantu-speaking farmers.

"This study exemplifies National Museums of Kenya's commitment to uncovering the deep historical roots of Kenya's agricultural heritage. It also fosters an appreciation of how past human adaptations can inform future food security and environmental sustainability," Ndiema said.

According to data from the National Museums of Kenya, Kakapel Rockshelter is north of Lake Victoria, in the foothills of Mount Elgon near the Kenya-Uganda border.

Kakapel is a recognised rock art site that con-

tains archaeological artefacts that reflect more than 9,000 years of human occupation in the region.

The site has been recognised as a Kenyan national monument since 2004.

"Kakapel Rockshelter is one of the only sites in the region where we can see such a long sequence of occupation by so many diverse communities," said Steven Goldstein, an anthropological archaeologist at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Using our innovative approaches to excavation, we have been uniquely able to detect the arrival of domesticated plants and animals into Kenya. We also study the impacts of these introductions on local environments, human technology and sociocultural systems," said Goldstein, who is also a co-author.

The scientists used direct radiocarbon dating on carbonised seeds to document the arrival of cowpea about 2,300 years ago.

Cowpea is also known as the black-eyed pea, and it is an important legume around the world. Researchers also found evidence that sorghum arrived from the northeast at least 1,000 years ago.

They also recovered hundreds of finger millet

seeds, dating back to at least 1,000 years ago.

This crop is indigenous to Eastern Africa and is an important heritage crop for the communities that live near Kakapel today.

Many of the plant remnants that Mueller and her team found at Kakapel could not be positively identified.

This according to Mueller is because even modern scientists working in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda today, don't have access to a good reference collection of samples of plants from East Africa.

"Our work shows that African farming was constantly changing as people migrated, adopted new crops and abandoned others at a local level," Mueller said.

"Prior to European colonialism, community-scale flexibility and decision-making was critical for food security, and it still is in many places."

Findings from this study may have implications for many other fields, Mueller said, including historical linguistics, plant science and genetics, African history and domestication studies.

Mueller is continuing to work on identifying the wild plants in the assemblage, especially those from the oldest parts of the site, before the beginning of agriculture.

By Marine Drouilly

Giant pangolin rediscovered in Senegal



IN March 2023, temperatures in eastern Senegal soared to 40°C, with the cooling rains still months away. Yet, for the dedicated field team from the NGO Panthera - committed to global feline conservation - and the Direction des parcs nationaux du Sénégal (DPN) (Senegal National Parks team), led by Mouhamadou Ndiaye, the work continued unabated.

On foot, the field team criss-crossed the Niokolo-Koba National Park, with the mission of surveying the populations of large carnivores and herbivores.

As the west and central Africa regional coordinator for wildlife surveys at Panthera, I'm relaying the great work of the field team.

Several months into the research, the field team made a remarkable discovery in the heart of the park: the giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), a species believed to be entirely extinct in Senegal. The field team photographed the animal for the first time since 1967.

This thrilling find has sparked great excitement and revives hopes for the species' survival in west Africa.

Scarce giant pangolins

Niokolo-Koba National Park is one of the national parks in west Africa. Located in eastern Senegal along the road between Tambacounda and Kédougou, it covers over 9,130km² of diverse ecosystems. From wooded savannahs to Guinean forests, these environments provide essential habitats for the region's last remaining populations of leopards, lions and wild dogs. The park's management team, supported by the NGO Panthera, oversees the conservation efforts, with a particular focus on monitoring these key species.

It's a challenging task. Mouhamadou Ndiaye and the national parks team set up over 200 camera traps to tackle it. These valuable devices operate around the clock in all weather conditions to capture wildlife activity. Every time an animal passes by, the camera clicks and automatically saves the image. Researchers are usually very enthusiastic when it's time to collect the cameras, eager to discover what species and behaviours have been photographed. Real treasures sometimes lie hidden in the heart of these parks.

Pangolins, including the giant pangolin, are becoming increasingly scarce and are classified as endangered in both Africa and Asia. They are heavily targeted by illegal hunters for their meat and scales, which are sought after in traditional medicine, especially in Asia. This has led to a dramatic decline in their populations. Despite its vast distribution - stretching from Senegal to western Kenya - the giant pangolin is considered "endangered" on the IUCN Red List, with populations declining sharply across its habitat.

The historical factors contributing to the giant pangolin's population decline in Senegal are challenging to pinpoint precisely. While no studies were conducted at the time, it's likely that poaching, habitat loss, and fragmentation - factors that cause the decline of pangolins elsewhere - contributed to their decline.

Pangolin discovery

On 28 December 2023, Mouhamadou Ndiaye inserted a memory card from one of the cameras into his computer. He expected to see images of a warthog, leopard or lion. Instead, he was surprised to find a large animal with scales, a long tail, and a thin snout. "It's a giant pangolin!" he exclaimed.

It was clear that it was a giant pangolin. There are eight pangolin species worldwide (four in Asia, four in Africa). Giant pangolins are much larger than the other species. They're about 12 to 20 times heavier than west African tree pangolins. The ID was verified by the rest of the team and by members of the

IUCN pangolin specialist group.

The giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*) is the only species historically found in Senegal. Weighing up to 30kg and measuring between 1.40 metres and 1.80 metres in length, it resembles a prehistoric creature with its body covered in keratinous scales. Despite its size, the giant pangolin is an insectivore, feeding exclusively on termites and ants with its long, sticky tongue. It is nocturnal and shy, making it a rare sight.

In fact, the species had not been documented in Senegal since 1999, and no photographic evidence had been captured since 1967. Researchers had considered it locally extinct, especially since five extensive surveys conducted in the park between 2019 and 2022 had failed to detect its presence. Rising human populations are driving a growing demand for wildlife products, placing immense pressure on pangolin populations. Coupled with habitat loss, this over-exploitation makes it challenging for pangolins to survive. Despite their exploitation, giant pangolins are protected in Senegal and their hunting and use are strictly prohibited.

A discovery that inspires hope

The rediscovery of the species in Senegal is wonderful news. It could benefit conservation efforts, scientific research, the economy, society, and conservation policies.

From a scientific and ecological point of view, this rediscovery enhances our understanding of the park's biodiversity. It presents new opportunities for research into the species' ecology, behaviour and genet-

ics, while also invigorating conservation initiatives.

From an economic perspective, this discovery may lead to increased subsidies and funding for the park to protect the species. It could result in new laws or regulations aimed at safeguarding the rediscovered species and its habitat.

Finally, from a social and cultural standpoint, the rediscovery may boost local pride and foster greater interest in conserving their natural environment.

Other species detected

Alongside the giant pangolin, the camera tracking expedition identified 44 additional wildlife species, including rare west African lions. These critically endangered lions are slowly recovering in the park due to the collaborative efforts of Panthera and DPN.


These findings underscore the crucial role of large protected areas in west Africa. Niokolo-Koba National Park maintains the largest habitat suitable for the giant pangolin at the north-western edge of its range.

The park also serves as one of the few remaining refuges for several west African species, including wild dogs, chimpanzees and Derby elands. Without the systematic

wildlife inventories conducted by the Panthera and national park teams in 2023, the giant pangolin might have remained undetected. We can now implement targeted protection and dedicated monitoring efforts for this rare and significant species.

The strategies planned to safeguard pangolins will align with those for the rest of the park's wildlife. This includes enhanced protection through increased, more frequent, and better-equipped anti-poaching patrols.

Poaching has been a significant issue for the park, leading to sharp declines in many species until the park's team and Panthera partnership was established in the 2010s. Although financial and human resources for park protection have recently increased, they remain insufficient.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



Radio One

SPECIAL REPORT

Transforming cooperatives' roles into business-oriented entities - 5



AIIF4 has identified robust investment opportunities, including in ports and logistics. Photo: Courtesy of AfDB

AfDB invests \$20 million in infrastructure fund to spur continental development

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has signed a \$20 million equity investment in the African Infrastructure Investment Fund 4 (AIIF4), which reinforces the Bank's commitment to fostering private sector development and boosting infrastructure across the continent.

The investment, approved by the Bank Group's Board of Directors on 19 June 2024 and on 31 July 2024, will be financed from the Bank's ordinary capital resources designated for private sector operations.

A statement availed to this reporter from AfDB, has that Africa's infrastructure sector remains a significant investment opportunity, driven by substantial demand deficits and a scarcity of capital.

"With rapid urbanization and increasing local purchasing power, the continent requires between \$130 and \$170 billion annually in infrastructure spending. However, there's currently a substantial yearly financing gap of \$68 to \$108 billion," the statement reads in part.

AIIF4, with a 13-year term and a 5-year investment period, has completed its first closing at circa \$230 million, attracting international investors. To date, the Fund has raised more than the \$500 million target, with the final close expected to be concluded in Q3 2024.

The Fund is projected to deliver significant development outcomes, particularly in private sector growth and household income improvement. The Bank assesses the likelihood of achieving these outcomes on time as 'High.'

The investment also complements the Bank's 'High 5' operational priorities, along with its Ten-Year Strategy (2024-2033) relating to accelerating and scaling up its operations. Additionally, the Fund pipeline aligns with the Private

Sector Development Strategy (2021-2025), the Climate Change and Green Growth Framework, and the Strategy for Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience (2022-2026).

"By providing this scarce private equity investment to AIIF4 to bridge the infrastructure financing gap in Africa, the Bank is reinforcing its commitment and support to developing infrastructure in Africa to private sector participation. Therefore, our confidence in AIIF4 as a fund manager is renewed and strong, given its proven expertise and track record in driving impactful investments," said Mike Salawou, Director for Infrastructure, Cities and Urban Development at the AfDB.

The African Infrastructure Investment Managers have transacted an initial portfolio and identified a robust pipeline of investment opportunities in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and ports and logistics assets in South Africa, Kenya, and Morocco. They are also actively screening deals in Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, among others.

The AIIF4 investment underscores the increasing role of private equity in addressing Africa's infrastructure needs and highlights the continent's potential for sustainable economic growth.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

AfDB is Africa's premier development finance institution. It comprises three distinct entities namely; the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF) and the Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF).

The bank is represented in 41 African countries with an external office in Japan, the group contributes to the economic development and the social progress of its 54 regional member states.

By Francis Kajubi
COOPERATIVE unions, together with the government, private sector, and development partners, are urged to join forces in a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing agricultural collective schemes into vibrant agri-business entities.

For far too long, these unions have been confined to merely offering basic agricultural value chain services. The moment for bold, decisive action is now—an opportunity to reshape the future of agriculture and unlock its true potential!

In a recent interview, Dr. Cyril Komba, Senior Lecturer and Dean of the Faculty of Cooperative and Community Development at Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU), emphasized that achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 2—ending hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture—requires cooperative unions to invest in large-scale, economically productive projects.

Dr. Komba believes that cooperative unions should diversify their investments into a range of profitable ventures. This strategy will not only provide additional income for members but also create revenue streams beyond the seasonal sales of agricultural products.

He argues that the moment has arrived for cooperative unions to make significant investments, empowering their members by exploring corporate shares, T-Bills, T-Bonds, and other sustainable projects across various economic sectors. By doing so, they can secure a more prosperous future for all involved.

"It has reached a critical juncture where cooperatives must transition to commercialized operations that facilitate the generation of substantial profits—investments that will enable cooperatives to deliver significant dividends to their members and improve lives for the better," said Dr. Komba.

He noted that cooperative unions investing in large-scale economic projects possess the potential to contribute up to 45 percent of the national income from the agricultural value chain, a notable increase from the current 29.1 percent, which encompasses the entire agricultural sector, including fisheries and livestock.

"The agricultural sector presents ample opportunities to inject foreign cur-



Dr Cyril Komba, Senior Lecturer and Dean of the Faculty of Cooperatives and Community Development at MoCU. File Photo

rency into the country's economy, especially through cooperatives.

The top priority now is to strengthen the financial capacity of these unions, enabling them to raise capital for large, sustainable projects in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals," he recommended.

Dr. Komba further stated that cooperative unions have consistently demonstrated their sustainability and contributions during periods of social and economic crises by continuing to provide essential services to their members.

Ress Mashurano, Chairperson of the Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU), shared that in its efforts to transform cooperatives for commercial investment, KCU has invested in the Mbinga Coffee Curing Co. Ltd.

"The union holds a 63 percent stake in Tanganyika Instant Coffee Public Limited Company (TANICA Plc) and has also invested in conference halls," he said.

Mashurano explained that the union has already established a Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) with a working capital of 1.164 billion shillings, has formed a board of directors, and is now operating with a Grade B license.

He stated that a notification letter has already been submitted to the Tanzania Co-operative Development Commission (TCDC) seeking approval for the hiring of SACCOS staff.

Anastazia Mkinga, Inspector of Prisons and board member of TPS SACCOS Limited, noted that the SACCOS has 11,000 members and a portfolio of 41 billion shillings, which it has invested in various economic projects within the agriculture and construction sectors.

She emphasized that these investments directly benefit the

community as part of the SACCOS' effort to commercialize operations and generate reasonable profits for its members.

Monica Fidelis, an Extension Officer and member of Magunga AMCOS in the Korogwe district of the Tanga region, shared that in 2020, the AMCOS borrowed 380 million shillings from NMB Bank Plc to secure modern agricultural tools and transform its operations into a commercialized model.

She stated that the loan was fully repaid as of June last year, and the bank issued a total of 1.15 billion shillings to five AMCOS in Korogwe district involved in the sisal cash crop value chain.

"Investing in economic projects is the smartest strategy to empower cooperative unions to make significant contributions to the national economy. Members of Magunga AMCOS are at the forefront of implementing this vision," said Monica.

This journalist has learned that, according to recent reports on the state of investment in the industrial sector by the Ministry of Industry and Trade for 2023, cooperative unions own 328 factories that process members' agricultural products and engage in various technical activities.

According to the current report by the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), as of April 2024, Tanzania mainland has 7,522 cooperative unions involved in diverse economic activities serving 8,358,325 active members.

The report by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for the fourth quarter of 2023 indicates that 80 percent of food crop production comes from farmers who are members of cooperative unions, thereby significantly contributing to the reduction of hunger

risk at the household level.

The report indicates that during the 2022/23 harvest season, cooperative union members were able to sell their produce through AMCOS and earned 1.56 trillion shillings.

However, the report also shows that cooperative unions created 153,982 direct jobs and an estimated 500,000 indirect jobs in the period ending December 2023.

Despite facing a severe shortage of farm inputs due to the impacts of climate change during the 2022/23 season, cooperative unions successfully coordinated the acquisition of farm inputs worth 4.5 billion shillings, which were distributed to both members and non-member farmers.

This journalist has learned that investment in cooperative unions is categorized into four areas based on the type of investment involved.

According to Article 74 (I) of the Cooperative Societies Act No. 6 of 2013, these investment areas include: (i) deposits that earn interest at cooperative financial institutions or other financial institutions approved by the Cooperative Commission; (ii) shares in any other registered union; (iii) government bonds and other securities; and (iv) other investments as advised by the Registrar, with approval from the Cooperative Commission and publication in the government gazette.

The same section of the Act also mandates cooperative unions to declare their approved investments, which may include factories, buildings, farms, livestock, fishing, transportation, and other investments as directed by the Cooperatives Registrar.

According to Rule 50 (2) of the Microfinance (Saving and Credit Cooperative Societies) Regulations 2019, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) can invest in the following areas: interest-bearing deposits in banks or financial institutions, government securities, other financial unions, non-earning assets, and other investment areas as approved by the Central Bank and the Cooperative Societies Registrar.

The regulations specify that sources of capital for investment in cooperative societies include: (i) members' shares; (ii) the legal units of the relevant union in accordance with Rule 67 (d) (iii) of the rules governing cooperative societies; (iii) loans from financial institutions based on the debt limit approved by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies; (iv) support from stakeholders; and (v) any source approved by the general meeting of the cooperative union in accordance with Rule 67 (d) (vi) of the prevailing regulations.

To enable cooperative unions to make large, sustainable investments, the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) prepared and released an investment guide manual in 2022.

The primary objective of this manual is to provide instructions, procedures, and steps that cooperative societies should consider before and after making an investment. This guidance aims to facilitate productive investments and help avoid potential consequences of non-compliance with the policies, laws, and regulations governing cooperative societies.

Additionally, the manual outlines directives that cooperative society leaders, particularly the investment committees and members, must follow in implementing all investment activities.

To be continued.

CBK raises KShs 23 billion in weekly auction as investors remain hesitant

Nairobi

INVESTORS remain hesitant to lend the government even with the high interest rates environment with demand skewed on short term papers.

Investors have continuously preferred the short term 91-day paper which was oversubscribed by a record 371.5 per cent albeit lower than the 645.3 per cent recorded in the previous week.

Of the KSh 4 billion on offer, KSh 14.9 bil-

lion worth of bids were received in this tranche, with CBK accepting KSh 13.6 billion.

The 182-day paper saw its undersubscription edge higher to 84.7 per cent, receiving bids worth KSh 8.5 billion.

The government received bids worth KSh 24.4 billion against the KSh 24 billion on offer, translating to a 101.7 percent mild oversubscription, during this week's auction. The CBK accepted bids worth KSh 23.01 billion, a 94.3 percent acceptance rate.

Further, the longer dated 364-day paper

was substantially undersubscribed, receiving bids worth KSh 1.1 billion, against the KSh 10 billion offered.

Rates on the three papers trailed above the 16.00 percent mark, however, yields on the 91-day and 182-day papers fell by 1 basis point to 15.99 percent and 16.85 percent respectively. Additionally, the 364-day paper saw the average accepted yields fall slightly 0.1 basis points to 16.92 percent.

This points to investors hedging against duration risk while adopting a wait and see

attitude regarding the bond market rates trend. Additionally, the notorious undersubscription in the bond market underpins investors' demand for higher yields to maximize their real returns with treasury keen on avoiding locking in higher debt costs. This follows a series of recently issued bonds in June and July missing targets by more than half.

The lingering high interest rates on treasury bills experienced for months on the back of the apex bank maintaining a higher for

longer stance with the current Central Bank Rate at 13.0 percent.

However, with the cooling inflation, partly as an effect of CBK's hawkish stance, investors pencil an easing in the Central Bank Rate with the Monetary Policy Committee convening on 6th August 2024.

Fresh inflation data which partly acts as a gauge for the CBK monetary policy stances, reflected a further easing to 4.3 per cent in the month of July.

Agencies

By Gerri Detweiler

IT'S never been easier to start a small business. There are valid arguments for just diving in, and not waiting until you have all the details ironed out. But as the adage goes: You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. An unprofessional launch could set you back, and you may find those things you planned to take care of later always get pushed to the back burner. In the meantime, you could lose business.

Set up a website

Your website doesn't need to be fancy, but make sure it professionally reflects your business and contains the information customers generally need to know, such as how to contact you, business hours, menu of services (or menu for a restaurant), etc. There are a variety of services that will help you create a simple but professional-looking site; if your needs are more extensive, you may need to hire someone to create it for you.

While you're at it, don't slap up pages that say "under construction" or "coming soon." Even if your site is a single page, make it look professional. You can always add more pages later.

A few businesses get away with not having a website, and instead use a Facebook business page or even an Instagram account. Think carefully about adopting this strategy, however. Almost anyone can access a website, but not everyone is a Facebook or Instagram user. And when you rely on a third-party platform, you lose some control over your prospects' and customers' experiences.

Create a professional email address

My daughter's new dentist asked me to have her medical records emailed to them at a Yahoo email address. Not only is that not secure, it didn't seem professional. Get an email address that matches your domain name; it's simple and not expensive. Your website host may provide that as service, or you can use G Suite email for as little as \$6

Uplift your business image: Tips for a professional look



Consider the impressions you want to make when starting your business. File Photo

a month. (Note that G Suite email can give you an email address at your domain name, which looks better than an @gmail.com address.)

Get a business phone number

Have you ever called a business and been taken aback when the phone is answered with a blunt "hello" rather than a pro-

fessional greeting? It doesn't inspire confidence. That's why you need a business phone number: If a phone call, text, or email comes in for your business, you can respond appropriately.

Fortunately, these days you don't have to spring for an expensive business landline if you don't want to. You can add a second line to your cell phone for just a few dollars a month. Here

are five affordable services you can use to get a business phone number.

Use a business address

It's perfectly fine these days to start your business from home, a coworking space, or really from anywhere in the world. But using a business address can add a layer of privacy and professionalism. If you aren't ready to invest

in office space, consider getting a PO Box. You can then use that address as if it is a street address.

Invoice professionally and promptly

You won't stay in business long if you don't get paid. Some 70 percent of freelancers report they've been stiffed by clients. Two things will help you avoid this scenario: a contract and

prompt invoicing. There are a variety of programs that make it easy to create and send professional invoices inexpensively. Many accounting platforms, for example, make invoicing painless. You may even be able to accept payments online through them.

Establish a social media presence

Sue B Zimmerman became enthralled with Instagram when she owned a retail business. She instructed her employees to post on Instagram—within guidelines—and her business boomed. (She now teaches business growth strategies, including how to leverage Instagram.)

Your business doesn't have to be on every social media platform, but find out where your customers congregate and consider developing a basic presence on the most popular ones. At a minimum, grab the social media handles for your business name before someone else does.

Build business credit

Your vendors, suppliers, and even some lenders may be willing to advance you goods or services that you can pay for later. Getting supplies on "terms" such as net-30 or net-60 can help your business cash flow. But often to get terms, you'll need a positive business credit history. Start building yours when your business is young, and you can have strong business credit scores when you need them. Plus, anyone can check business credit—that includes future business partners.

These basic steps will help you put your best foot forward. If you're feeling overwhelmed, consider reaching out for help from an experienced business advisor or mentor.

Gerri Detweiler is a credit and financing expert, she can be connected via social media



An unidentified woman serves street food while processing payment with her card machine. Photo: Raul Ariano/IMF

By Special Correspondent

CHINA'S economic development over the last several decades has been remarkable amid rapid growth. We project growth will remain resilient at around 5 percent in 2024, despite the continued property sector adjustment.

At the same time, China has relied too much on investment as opposed to consumption. Diminishing productivity and an

aging population risk restricting growth, which we expect to slow significantly in coming years, to around 3.3 percent in 2029. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and balanced policy approach.

Given these circumstances, the country's service sector is an underexploited driver of growth—which was also recognized at the Third Plenum. Reallocating resources to services has helped

boost productivity over the past two decades. And it can continue doing so in the years ahead if supportive reforms are implemented.

Expanding the service sector can also help put more people to work—especially young people, who are disproportionately employed in service sectors like technology and education. Moreover, since emissions are lower in services, expanding the sector would help China reach its climate goals

more efficiently.

China does have significant further potential for expanding services, as we show in our latest annual review of the world's second-largest economy. While the sector's share of value-added to the economy has increased in recent years to just over 50 percent, it is still well below the average of about 75 percent for advanced economies.

chart showing how China's service sector has a smaller share in value added compared to other similar economies

Even though service sector firms have been highly innovative in China, company-level data indicate that the allocation of capital and labor across firms has been increasingly less efficient in the sector. This means that highly productive firms

have been too small on average, suggesting difficulties attracting new capital and labor, while less productive firms were cornering too large a share of the market.

China should therefore prioritize reforms to improve the allocation of capital and labor in services. The sector remains subject to more onerous regulations compared with members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including restrictions on domestic and foreign entry as well as significant regulatory hurdles. Easing regulatory requirements, further reducing local protectionism, and allowing more businesses to enter and compete in services—including reduced trade and foreign entry restrictions—can boost productivity and support growth.

chart showing different countries on the service trade restrictiveness index

China should also prioritize rebalancing the economy to strengthen demand for services. Improving social safety nets and making taxes more progressive would reduce the need for precautionary savings, especially by middle- and lower-income households, and allow greater spending on services. Increased coverage and better unemployment and medical benefits would further boost consumption. In this context, this year's increase in old-age benefits by 19 percent for rural and non-working urban residents is a small but welcome step.

Overall, the service sector can create jobs and drive sustainable growth in China. Ideally, policies to help rebalance demand toward

consumption would be combined with reforms that lower barriers to entry and ease other regulatory restrictions that have prevented capital and labor from being efficiently allocated in the past. We estimate that a comprehensive package of market-based structural reforms, enhancements to the social safety net, and pension reforms can raise the GDP by close to 20 percent over the next 15 years relative to the baseline, or about 1 percentage point higher potential growth per year over the medium term.

This article was authored by Sonali Jain-Chandra, IMF mission chief for China, along with senior economists Siddharth Kothari and Natalja Novta from the Asia and Pacific Department.

Unlocking power of storytelling in building strong brand identity

By Romy Duggal

As cognitive beings, we are naturally drawn to something that gives us a sense of familiarity - something we feel as though we relate to and can resonate with. From an evolutionary perspective, people are drawn to things they resonate with because familiarity signals safety. When we encounter something familiar, we know it's unlikely to pose unexpected dangers. This inherent comfort with the known helps us navigate our environment more securely, making us naturally gravitate towards what we recognise and understand.

This is the same with brands. If people feel like they can relate to a certain brand, product or service, they are more likely to invest

in it because it gives them a feeling of trust and familiarity. Just as familiarity signals safety from an evolutionary perspective, a relatable brand makes consumers feel understood and valued. This connection reduces perceived risks and enhances their confidence in the brand's reliability, encouraging them to choose it over unfamiliar alternatives.

What is brand storytelling and why is it important?

In the context of branding, storytelling uses narratives to breathe personality into a brand, creating an emotional, value-driven connection between customers and products. It allows brands to share why their product exists, why it matters, and why it's worth your

time to invest in. In the over-saturated business climate of today, there are hundreds of thousands of people coming up with competitive ideas, fighting for the limelight. It's fundamental to your business' success to incorporate brand storytelling into your marketing strategies to stand out from the crowd. By focusing on making your brand thoughtful, memorable and real, you're giving the public a gateway to resonate with it, sharing their personal life experiences and motivations with the values behind the product. Brand storytelling helps businesses carve out a unique identity and memorable impression in consumers' minds, reinforcing brand loyalty and advocacy.

Crafting your brand story involves several key steps to ensure it resonates with your

audience and effectively communicates your brand's identity.

Define core values and mission; base your story on what your brand stands for, emphasising its purpose and beliefs.

Understand your audience; tailor your narrative to resonate with your audience's demographics, preferences, and aspirations.

Develop a narrative Arc; create a structured story with a beginning (introduce brand background), middle (highlight milestones and challenges), and end (future vision).

Emphasise authenticity; be genuine in portraying your brand's journey and values to build trust and credibility with your audience.

A well-crafted brand story can adapt seamlessly across



Brand storytelling builds emotional connections through personality. File Photo

diverse marketing platforms by tailoring its narrative approach to each channel's unique characteristics. Social media is designed for quick consumption, making it thrive on concise, visually compelling storytelling, allowing brands to capture attention quickly and effectively amidst a sea of competing posts. It provides easy digestible content that users can quickly interact with and share from the touch of their fingertips, making your brand

storytelling reach thousands of people across the planet.

Blogs offer a platform for brands to delve deeply into their stories and connect with their audience on a more profound level. Unlike the quick, often visual nature of social media, blogs provide space for detailed exploration and explanation. Here, brands can elaborate on their journey, values, and mission through thoughtful narratives, supported by customer anec-

dotes and real-life experiences.

Videos have a unique ability to captivate and engage audiences through emotive visual narratives. Unlike text-based content, videos leverage audiovisual elements to convey stories with heightened emotional impact. Consistency in storytelling across various channels reinforces brand messaging, enhances audience engagement, and strengthens overall brand presence in both digital and physical spaces.

How LCL shipping fuels a range of business growth

By Special Correspondent & Agencies

Understanding LCL Shipping

THE global trade industry involves the movement of goods, services, and capital across borders and involves a diverse array of participants and processes. It's also 24/7 and can be unforgiving due to economic conditions, trade policies, tariffs, and other considerations.

LCL shipping is a method of freight transportation in which multiple shippers share container space for their cargo, in contrast to Full Container-load (FCL) shipping, in which a single shipper occupies the entire container.

LCL is particularly advantageous when a company's shipment volume doesn't fill a whole container, allowing them to pay only for the space their goods occupy.

"LCL shipping opens doors for businesses worldwide," say experts at Pallet2Ship. "Solutions like LCL exist to make global trade accessible to smaller businesses."

Cost Efficiency: A Game-Changer for SMEs

One of the best reasons to consider LCL shipping is its cost-effectiveness. Mor-dor Intelligence estimates that the less-than-container-load market will grow by 3.5% from 2024 to 2029, highlighting its continued popularity as a cost-efficient shipping solution.

By consolidating shipments with other businesses, companies can dramatically reduce their transportation costs. This financial flexibility allows SMEs to allocate resources to other growth-oriented initiatives, such as marketing, product development, or talent acquisition.

Enhanced Flexibility and Inventory Management

LCL shipping provides businesses with heightened flexibility in their inventory management. Businesses do not need to wait to accumulate enough goods to fill an entire container. Instead,

they can ship manageable consignments more frequently, aligning with their operations. This approach minimises the need for extensive warehousing, reduces inventory carrying costs, and allows for quicker responses to market demands.

Global Reach and Market Expansion

LCL shipping opens doors to international markets that might otherwise be inaccessible due to high shipping costs.



Using less-than-containerload (LCL) services to ship smaller ocean freight volumes can reap large benefits. File Photo

transportation costs. This financial flexibility allows SMEs to allocate resources to other growth-oriented initiatives, such as marketing, product development, or talent acquisition.

With LCL, businesses can tap into a vast network of global destinations, reaching new customers and expanding their market presence.

This is especially beneficial for SMEs looking to diversify their revenue streams and reduce dependence on a single market.

Partnering for LCL Success

Navigating the complexities of LCL shipping requires expertise and industry knowledge, so it is essential to partner with a shipping handler who excels in these fields like Pallet2Ship.

Environmental Considerations and Sustainability In an era of growing environmental consciousness, the cargo shipping industry is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. LCL shipping offers an additional advantage: a smaller carbon footprint per business.

By consolidating cargo, LCL shipping reduces the number of containers needed for transportation,

leading to fewer trips and greenhouse gas emissions. This approach to more efficient shipping aligns with the increasing demand for sustainable business practices. It is an eco-conscious benefit that will be continuously explored and developed in the global market.

Customisable Solutions for Unique Needs

LCL shipping isn't a one-size-fits-all solution: services should always be tailored to each customer's requirements. Whether a business needs assistance with hazardous materials, temperature-sensitive goods, or oversized cargo, depending on your freight forwarder's expertise and resources is essential. They can handle it professionally and navigate the complex shipping challenges for you.

A personalised approach to pallet shipping ensures businesses receive the most efficient and cost-effective solutions for their unique needs. Integrating LCL into Your Business Strategy Incorporating LCL shipping into your business strategy can be a trans-

Formative decision.

By partnering with reputable providers, companies can leverage the power of LCL to optimise their supply chains, expand their market reach, and ultimately drive growth.

Whether you're a seasoned exporter or a first-time shipper, LCL shipping offers a flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable approach to logistics that can unlock new opportunities for your business.

Final Thoughts

LCL shipping is a strategic tool that empowers businesses to optimise their supply chains, reduce costs, and unlock growth potential. By embracing LCL, companies can gain a competitive edge in the global marketplace, reach new customers, expand their product lines, and achieve their business objectives.

Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of LCL can help businesses make informed decisions about their shipping strategies. For example, LCL does come with trade-offs, such as longer transit times and the potential for additional handling.

Understanding the advantages and disadvantages of LCL can help businesses make informed decisions about their shipping strategies. For example, LCL does come with trade-offs, such as longer transit times and the potential for additional handling.



Museveni's spawn: Bank almost seized our home

Kampala

THE daughter of President Museveni, Patience Rwabwogo (pictured), has opened up about a harrowing financial ordeal that nearly saw her family's home auctioned by a bank after they fell behind on mortgage payments. Speaking to her congregation at Covenant Nations Church, Ms Rwabwogo detailed how only divine intervention prevented the loss of their home.

The threat of losing their home, she explained, brought on a wave of fear and uncertainty. However, Ms Rwabwogo turned to her faith for guidance.

"I took the letter into my place of prayer. I said, 'Lord, look what the bank is saying. They're going to auction our home,'" she recounted, highlighting her deep anxiety over the potential foreclosure. It was during this moment of desperation that Ms Rwabwogo says she experienced what she believes was divine guidance.

Instead of focusing on the financial predicament, she felt compelled to use what little money they had to make new cupboards for their home. "God told me, 'Go and make some new cupboards,'" she said. "I thought, 'What? Have you seen this letter? I will not have any place to put cupboards if we don't fix this situation.' But He said, 'Don't worry about that. Go and make cupboards.'"

Despite initial doubts, Ms Rwabwogo followed the instruction, which she described as an act of faith. "I knew that I had connected with God in some way, even if it looked crazy," she said.

"In my heart, I felt that God was using that act of faith to communicate into my mind, 'Don't be afraid. You are going to live in this house for a long time.'"

The incident, which occurred over 18 years ago, began when the Rwabwogo family faced financial difficulties that led to a delay in their mortgage payments. Despite their prominence, they found themselves grappling with mounting interest and the threat of foreclosure.

"We were paying the loan with our income from our businesses, and at some point, we had some struggles," Ms Rwabwogo recalled. "We got behind in the mortgage, and the interest started piling up."

The situation escalated when the family received a stern warning from their bank. "One day we got a letter from the bank," Ms Rwabwogo said.

"The bank said if you don't pay the interest and also bring your account up to current within seven days, we're going to advertise this house."



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 3 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba Lulu
13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Min Jackpot
21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 4 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba Lulu
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21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Min Jackpot
21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 5 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

TUESDAY 6 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 7 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
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23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 8 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
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8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 9 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
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8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 10 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
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9:00 Watoto wetu
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23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
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SUNDAY 11 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
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23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
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MONDAY 12 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
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9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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TUESDAY 13 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
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23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

WEDNESDAY 14 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 15 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 16 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 17 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 18 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

MONDAY 19 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
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21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

TUESDAY 20 Aug

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 KumeKucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
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15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma
21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa Min Jackpot
21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 ITV Top 10
23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Sat 03 Aug

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Jajana rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business Edition rpt
13:30 Algeria
14:30 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:45 File doc
17:15 Eco@Africa
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt

Sun 04 Aug

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 DW
12:00 Jajana rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Dw
14:50 Mizengwe rpt
15:00 The Decor rpt
15:30 Meza huru
19:00 Eco@Africa
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Jajana
20:30 Out & About rpt
21:00 Dw News Africa
21:30 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
23:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 05 Aug

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 KumeKucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
10:30 Meza Huru Rpt
11:30 Business edition
12:00 Out and About
12:30 Our earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jajana
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 Eco@Africa
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism
20:00 Innovation rpt
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kijana Joto
23:00 Our Earth Rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 06 Aug

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 KumeKucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
11:30 Monday agenda rpt
12:15 Sports gazette
12:45 File doc
14:00 Business Edition Rpt

ITV

Wed 07 Aug

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 KumeKucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
10:30 In good shape rpt
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:00 Dw News Africa rpt
12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela In Love With Ramon rpt
13:30 Dw
14:00 Capchat
14:30 Out & About rpt
15:00 Sports Gazette rpt
15:30 Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism rpt
16:00 Business Edition Rpt
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt
20:45 Telenovela In Love With Ramon
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 08 Aug

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 KumeKucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette
12:00 Innovation
12:30 Culinary
13:00 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon rpt
14:00 Ripoti maalum
14:45 Sports Gazette
15:15 Jajana
16:00 Tomorrow Today
16:30 Eco@Africa
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Special Pgm : Culinary Tourism
20:00 Innovation rpt
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kijana Joto
23:00 Our Earth Rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 09 Aug

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 KumeKucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
11:30 Monday agenda rpt
12:15 Sports gazette
12:45 File doc
14:00 Business Edition Rpt

WORLD

Airlines avoid some Mideast airspace, cancel Israel flights as tensions mount

AIRLINES are avoiding Iranian and Lebanese airspace and canceling flights to Israel and Lebanon, as concerns grow over a possible conflict in the region after the killing of senior members of militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah this week.

Singapore Airlines stopped flying through Iranian airspace from early Friday morning and is using alternative routes, saying safety is its top priority, it told Reuters in a statement.

EVA Air and China Airlines also appeared to be avoiding Iran airspace for flights to Amsterdam on Friday which previously had flown over Iran, Flight-radar24 data showed. The airlines did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the route changes.

In a bulletin, OPSGROUP, a membership-based organization that shares flight risk information, advised traf-

fic between Asia and Europe to avoid Iranian and Iraqi airspace, a day after sources told Reuters that top Iranian officials will meet the representatives of Iran's regional allies from Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen to discuss potential retaliation against Israel.

Many airlines, including US and European airlines, already avoid flying over Iran, especially since the reciprocal missile and drone attacks in April between Iran and Israel.

Singapore Airlines' flight to London Heathrow early on Friday went north of Iran through Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, rather than crossing through Iran as it did the day before, Flightradar24 showed.

However, a significant number of airlines on Friday were still flying over Iran, including United Arab Emirates carriers Etihad, Emirates and FlyDubai,



Passengers look at schedule flights screen at Rafic Hariri International Airport after their flights were delayed or canceled in Beirut on July 29, 2024. AFP

as well as Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines.

Over the past two days, Air India, Germany's Lufthansa Group, US carriers United Airlines and Delta Air, and Italy's ITA Airways said they had suspended flights to Tel Aviv.

Airlines this week have also been canceling and delaying flights to the Lebanese capital Beirut after a strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Saturday. Israel has blamed the attack on Lebanon-based armed group Hezbollah, which denied involvement.

Canada on Thursday issued a notice to Canadian aircraft to avoid Lebanese airspace for one month

due to the risk to aviation from military activity.

Britain has for the past month advised pilots of potential risk from anti-aircraft weaponry and military activity in Lebanon's airspace.

Should an all-out conflict break out in the Middle East, OpsGroup said civil aviation will likely face the risk of drones and missiles crossing airways, as well as the increased risk of GPS spoofing - a growing phenomena around Lebanon and Israel where militaries and other actors broadcast signals that trick a plane's GPS system into thinking it is somewhere it is not.

Agencies

Biden: Killing of Hamas leader Haniyeh not helpful for ceasefire talks

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden said on Thursday the killing of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh was not helpful for reaching a ceasefire in Israel's war in Gaza.

There has been an increased risk of an escalation into a broader Middle East war after the assassination of Haniyeh in Iran drew threats of retaliation against Israel.

Hamas and Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed the death of Haniyeh, who had participated in internationally-brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in Gaza.

Anxious residents in Israeli-besieged Gaza feared that Haniyeh's killing on Wednesday would prolong the war.

Iran said the killing took place hours after he attended a swearing-in ceremony for its new president.

"It doesn't help," Biden told reporters late on Thursday, when asked if Hani-



Iranians hold portraits of late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh during his funeral procession, in Tehran, on Thursday, ahead of his burial in Qatar. AFP

yeh's assassination ruined the chances for a ceasefire agreement.

Biden also said he had a direct conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu earlier on Thursday.

Netanyahu's government has issued no claim of responsibility but he has said Israel had delivered crushing blows to

Iran's proxies of late, including Hamas and Lebanon-based Hezbollah, and would respond forcefully to any attack.

Israel's tensions with Iran and Hezbollah have fanned fears of a widened conflict in a region already on edge amid Israel's assault on Gaza which has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis.

The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered on Oct 7 when Palestinian Islamist group Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

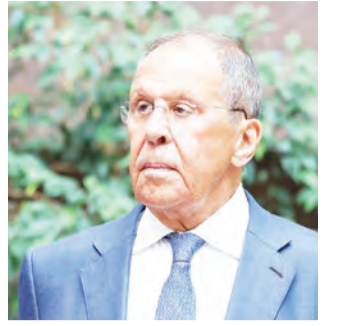
The Gaza health ministry says that since then Israel's military assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has killed nearly 40,000 Palestinians while also displacing nearly the entire population of 2.3 million, causing a hunger crisis and leading to genocide accusations that Israel denies. The United States has said it was not involved in the killing of Haniyeh.

Agencies

Top Russian, Iranian diplomats condemn Haniyeh's assassination

MOSCOW

FOREIGN Minister Sergey Lavrov and Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Bagheri Kani condemned the assassination of Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh and warned of potential escalation in the region against this backdrop.



"The parties condemned the assassination of the head of the Hamas Politburo in Tehran during his visit to the inauguration ceremony of President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian.

They pointed out that political assassinations were unacceptable and have extremely dangerous consequences, fraught with a sharp escalation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict zone and a landslide degradation of the regional situation," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The organizers behind such provocations clearly expect to disrupt the already stalled negotiation process and are counting on involving the United States in military actions in order to consign to oblivion the UN resolutions on the creation of a Palestinian state," the statement says.

According to the statement, Lavrov called on "all parties without exception that could influence the situation in the Gaza Strip and in the Middle East in general to avoid actions that could result in further destabilization of the situation and new casualties among the civilians."

On July 31, Hamas reported the death of its political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh as a result of an Israeli strike on his residence in Tehran, where he was taking part in the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian. The Al Hadath TV channel reported that Haniyeh had lost his life to a direct missile strike. Mousa Abu Marzouk, deputy head of the Hamas political bureau, vowed that this assassination would not go unpunished.

The Israeli military has not commented on the death of Haniyeh. According to The Jerusalem Post, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prohibited its ministers from speaking out publicly on the issue. Similar instructions were given to lawmakers.

Agencies

Feat of diplomacy: Joe Biden hails prisoner exchange deal with Russia

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden welcomed the prisoner exchange deal between West and Moscow, which will see the return of four Americans detained in Russia, terming it a "feat of diplomacy."

The United States and Russia carried out a historic prisoner exchange on Thursday, under which, two dozen detainees, including former US Marine Paul Whelan and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, are being released, CNN reported.

In addition to Whelan and Gershkovich, prominent Putin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza, who is a US permanent resident, and Russian-American journalist Alsu Kurmasheva were also freed.

"Today, three American citizens and one American green-card holder who were unjustly imprisoned in Russia are finally coming home: Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, Alsu Kurmasheva, and Vladimir Kara-Murza," President Biden said in a statement.

"The deal that secured their freedom was a feat of diplomacy. All told, we've negotiated the release of 16 people from Russia—including five Germans and seven Russian citizens who were political prisoners in their own country. Some of these women and men have been unjustly held for years. All have endured unimaginable suffering and uncertainty. Today, their agony is over," he added.

Biden, also shared his gladness on X and said that the American detainees have begun their journeys back to the US. "After enduring unimaginable suffering and uncertainty, the Americans detained in Russia are safe, free, and have begun their journeys back into the arms of their families," President Biden said in a post on X.

The US President, in his statement, also thanked Washington's allies who helped during the 'complex negotiations' adding that "Our alliances make Americans safer."

"I am grateful to our Allies who stood with us throughout tough, complex negotiations to achieve this outcome-- including Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Norway, and Turkey.

ANI

Donald Trump escalates race attacks on Kamala Harris' Indian heritage

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump has continued to raise questions regarding Vice President Kamala Harris' racial identity for a second day on Thursday.

A day after saying that Harris had "all of a sudden" decided to become "a Black person", Trump shared a picture on his social media site that features Harris dressed in a sari along with her family members. He mentioned that Kamala Harris' love and warmth for Indian heritage is appreciated.

While sharing the picture on Truth Social, Trump stated, "Thank you Kamala for the nice picture you sent from many years ago! Your warmth, friendship, and love of your Indian Heritage are very much appreciated."

Kamala Harris' ethnic identity is becoming a key issue in the US presi-

dential election campaign. It came under further scrutiny after Trump launched a strong personal attack on Harris by claiming that she, after being of "Indian heritage" for years, "turned black" a few years ago, CNN reported. He further claimed that Harris "all of a sudden, made a turn" in her identity and wants to be known as a woman of colour.

Trump made the comments at a gathering of journalists of colour in Chicago when an interviewer asked him why voters of colour should consider backing a candidate with his history of racist attacks on political rivals. He responded by questioning Harris' heritage.

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was black until some years ago when she happened to turn black, and now she

wants to be known as black. So I don't know, is she Indian or is she black?" CNN quoted him as saying.

"I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't, because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden she made a turn and she went - she became a Black person," he said. "I think somebody should look into that too," he added.

Kamala Harris' mother was Indian and her father is Jamaican. Her parents had immigrated to the United States. She is the first woman of colour and the first Asian American vice president. If Harris wins the upcoming polls, she will become the first woman president of the US.

Following the former President's remarks, Kamala Harris has hit back at Donald Trump over the latter's remarks against her racial identity and said the American people "deserve

better."

She asserted that today the country faces a choice between two different visions, and alleged that Trump and his campaign aim to take the country "backwards."

Harris was speaking at a Houston fundraiser on Wednesday (local time), hours after Trump claimed that Harris, after being of "Indian heritage" for years, "turned black" a few years ago.

"In this moment, we face a choice, between two very different visions for our nation. One focused on the future, and the other focused on the past. And we in this room, are fighting for the future," she told the donors.

"As we work to move our nation forward...there are those who are trying to take us backwards. You might have seen their agenda, they call it Project 2025 and it is a 900-page agenda of extremism," Harris added. ANI

PARIS

'Swimmer in stands' shocks world as 'flying fish'

PARIS, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- Breaking through the waves reveals true gold. At the moment Chinese swimmer Pan Zhanle touched the wall and broke the record, all doubts, grievances, and frustrations vanished.

"Awesome! It feels incredible!" exclaimed Pan after roaring to China's first swimming gold in Paris with a world record time. His explosive speed left his competitors far behind. He finished nearly a full length ahead of the second-place finisher, veteran Australian swimmer Chalmers.

"I carried everyone's hopes. I felt it all right up to the moment I hit the water!" Pan said.

Just as Usain Bolt is the fastest man on the track, China's Pan has now become the fastest man in the water. The Chinese swimmer, who will celebrate his 20th birthday on August 4, gave himself and

the world a perfect gift: an Olympic gold medal and a dazzling new world record.

The freestyle specialist clocked 46.40 seconds in the men's 100m freestyle, improving his own world record by 0.4 seconds to secure the thrilling Olympic victory.

He did not become ecstatic over his personal achievement. "In fact, this gold medal doesn't mean that much to me personally, because life has to go on. However, it is of great significance for Chinese swimming. This is the first time a Chinese swimmer has won gold in the men's 100m freestyle, which is a truly remarkable and joyous accomplishment."

The applause at the Paris La Defense Arena was thunderous when people saw Pan's result. Pan made history as China's first gold medalist in the men's 100m freestyle at

the Olympics and secured China's first swimming gold in Paris.

"I felt a great deal of pressure before the race because many of my teammates had not performed well and did not win the medals they were aiming for," Pan said. "Today, I did not expect to break the record. It's a perfect result and a big step for me and the Chinese swimming team."

Pan's old Weibo handle no longer suits him. He previously called himself "the swimmer in the stands," a name he chose during the 2021 World Short Course Championships in Abu Dhabi when he was always in the stands. From a former spectator to an Olympic champion, Pan achieved this transformation in just three years.

Pan began swimming at age four when he was selected into

Wenzhou Youth Swimming School in Zhejiang province due to his exceptional physical attributes.

His training was supported by his grandfather, who took on the role of his dedicated transporter. "He would take me to training in the morning and pick me up afterward. Rain or shine, he was always there," Pan reminisced.

During those formative years, Pan's grandfather witnessed his tireless efforts. "He is hardworking and has the spirit of a fighter, which has helped him mature quickly," he observed.

While most coaches increase training intensity for under-performing swimmers, Wang Shi, Pan's coach during his youth, took a different approach. "I would punish him by not letting him get into the pool, and he would be very uncomfortable because he

just loves swimming so much," Wang said.

Thanks to his dedication and hard work, Pan gained prominence in the swimming world at just 10 years of age. At the 2014 Zhejiang Provincial Games, he won seven gold medals in five days, including four individual titles and three relay championships.

Advancing through his career to the provincial and national teams, Pan entered a new chapter in 2023. With the refinement of high-level competitions, his performance soared rapidly. In May, he set a new Asian record in the men's 100m freestyle at the Chinese National Championships with a time of 47.22 seconds and further improved his record at the Hangzhou Asian Games, winning the title in 46.97 seconds, just 0.11

seconds off the world record.

After the race, Pan Zhanle remarked: "Without breaking the world record, you can't call yourself a 'flying fish.' My world record is something to look forward to." At the Doha World Championships earlier this year, he fulfilled his bold promise by establishing a new world record of 46.80 seconds in the lead-off leg of the men's 4x100m freestyle relay and helping China win the relay gold.

The 100m freestyle, often referred to as the "Battle of the Titans," saw its world record set by Brazilian swimmer Cesar Cielo at 46.91 seconds in 2009, a record that remained until Romanian swimmer David Popovici surpassed it at the 2022 European Championships with a time of 46.86 seconds.

"I was afraid my record might be broken," said Pan before the Paris Games. "Actually, it would even reduce my pressure."

Xi Focus: Building world-class armed forces for China

BEIJING

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) celebrates its 97th founding anniversary on Thursday.

The past few days have seen President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), engage in a string of activities concerning the military.

He convened a Party leadership study session, calling for modernizing border, coastal and air defense. He wrote back to officers and soldiers of an elite army company with its history dating back to the Red Army days, urging them to strengthen training in real combat conditions.

He also made an instruction on veterans' affairs, emphasizing the importance of making military service an honorable occupation and ensuring that ex-service personnel enjoy respect from the whole society.

On Thursday, Xi's article on modernizing national defense and the armed forces was published by Qushi, a flagship Party magazine.

In the article, Xi said developing the people's army into a world-class military at a faster pace is a "strategic task" for building a modern socialist country in all respects.

He said the military's political integrity must be enhanced and the military should be strengthened through reform, development of science and technology, as well as talent cultivation.

PRESERVE POLITICAL INTEGRITY

In the Qushi article, Xi said "the barrel of the gun" should always follow the Party's order, echoing Chairman Mao's most

famous dictum -- "political power comes from the barrel of a gun."

Since its founding 97 years ago, the PLA has always acted and fought under the Party's absolute leadership. Precisely due to this steadfast guidance, the PLA has grown from nothing into a strong force.

"History tells us that 'the Party commands the gun' is a basic guarantee to ensure the people's army maintains its essential nature and aim," Xi once said.

In June, Xi convened a pivotal political work conference of the armed forces in Yan'an, an old revolutionary base where the Red Army was stationed about 90 years ago after the Long March. It was in Yan'an that Mao led the people's army to regain its strength and fight the wars that led to the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

In Yan'an, Xi emphasized the need to uphold the Party's absolute leadership over the military and to build a high-quality team of cadres that is loyal, clean, responsible and capable.

Since becoming China's top leader, Xi has taken steps to address concerns over weakened Party leadership in the military, an issue that people feared could undermine combat effectiveness and threaten the fundamental political principle that the Party commands the military.

Over the years, the political climate within the military has improved significantly through the full implementation of the system of ultimate responsibility resting with the CMC chairman, along with advancements in integrity building and anti-corruption efforts, and adoption of other measures.

STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY THROUGH REFORM

In mid-July, a pivotal Party resolution



FILE PHOTO: Chinese President Xi Jinping stands on a military jeep as he inspects troops of the People's Liberation Army during a military parade to commemorate the 90th anniversary seven years ago. A lot have changed since.

adopted at the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee reiterated the importance of strengthening the military through reform to ensure the realization of the PLA's 2027 centenary goals.

Reform has been the key theme as Xi has reshaped the armed forces over the past decade.

Major changes have taken place within the armed forces since late November 2015, when Xi convened a key meeting in Beijing to launch "the most extensive and profound reform of national defense and the armed forces" since 1949.

The PLA has dismantled long-established systems of general departments and military area commands, altered the dominance of land forces within the overall force composition, and established

new leadership, management and operational command systems.

Five theater commands have been established, and services have been rebalanced. The country's navy and rocket forces have expanded, the number of non-combat personnel has been reduced and combat forces have grown.

The proportion of land forces in the military has dropped to below 50 percent, nearly half of all non-combatant organization personnel have been removed, and the number of officers has been reduced by 30 percent.

The PLA now has a system of services that comprises the army, navy, air force and rocket force, with branches including the country's aerospace force, cyberspace force, information support force and joint logistics support force.

During exercises and training, previously independent military units across different services now conduct joint operations under a theater command. Previously isolated information is now circulated efficiently among various military units within theater commands.

In the latest structural reform, the PLA's information support force was established and commenced in April.

Zhang Youxia, a CMC vice chairman, said the move, initiated by Xi, was to address "the most pressing need" to reshape the network information system and let it better empower joint military operations.

In the reform-themed resolution adopted in July, China's leadership again pledged to "deepen the reform of joint operations systems" and "refine the functions of the CMC command center for joint operations" to enhance combat capabilities.

WORLD-CLASS ARMED FORCES FOR PEACE

As reshaping continues within the military, the PLA's strength has increased significantly, bringing it closer to the goal of fully transforming into a world-class military by the mid-21st century.

With new types of combat forces, such as those related to strategic early warnings, long-range strikes, strategic delivery and information support strengthened, a joint combat force system primarily composed of elite forces has taken shape.

On May 23, the PLA launched drills around Taiwan Island as a strong punishment for the separatist acts of "Taiwan independence" forces and a stern warning against the interference and provocation by external forces.

The drills, carried out by the Eastern Theater Command, were a typical case of joint operation that involves the participation of the army, navy, air force, rocket force and other units.

Such drills focus on joint sea-air combat-readiness patrols, joint precision strikes on key targets, and the joint, comprehensive seizure of battlefield control. The drills involved vessel and aircraft patrols around the island of Taiwan, and integrated operations within and outside of the island chain to test the command's joint real-combat capabilities.

Xinhua

Massive looting, vandalism mar cost-of-living protests in Nigeria

ABUJA

NIGERIAN authorities on Thursday alleged massive looting and vandalism of public and private buildings, and the blockade of highways, as protesters turned out in their thousands across the country to express their grievances over the current economic hardships.

Some bonfires were set up by protesters in different parts of the country on the first day of the planned 10-day protests, which were intended to peacefully call on the government to address the economic hardships amid the serious cost-of-living crisis in Africa's most populous country.

The demonstrations turned violent in some major cities, including Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, and Gombe, prompting the police to beef up security.

Addressing the media late Thursday, Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun issued "a red alert" to all police commands and units across the country, and alleged "destruction of private

businesses."

"We have received reports of unprovoked attacks on security personnel, and police stations," Egbetokun said, adding several people were seriously injured during the protests. He said destruction was carried out in a total of eight out of Nigeria's 36 states on the first day of protests, questioning the real motive of the protesters.

In Abuja, the demonstration turned chaotic as the police dispersed the crowd marching toward Eagle Square, adjacent to the Three Arms Zone, where the Presidential Villa, National Assembly, and the Supreme Court are located.

Tear gas canisters were fired by the police to disperse crowds in several states. A small skirmish between protesters and police in the northwestern state of Kaduna turned violent as demonstrators allegedly marched toward the Government House to "burn the building," Mansir Hassan, police spokesman in the state, told the media. He said a police personnel was injured during the scuffle.

A local government office in the northeastern state of Yobe was torched by violent protesters, who also razed several government vehicles during the demonstration, police said.

In the northwestern state of Kano, the Digital Industrial Park of the Nigerian Communications Commission office was among the public properties that were vandalized, Bosun Tijani, the minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, said in a statement posted on social media

platform X.

Tijani lamented the vandalism of the facility, designed to be a tech hub in the northern part of the country, while alleging that the demonstrators also carted away computers, office furniture, air conditioners, and metal signboards, to mention a few.

Governor of Kano State Abba Yusuf imposed a 24-hour curfew following "the massive looting," noting that hoodlums armed with various weapons hijacked the protests. He said the protesters took to the streets in parts of the metropolis and attacked shops and offices, including the Digital Industrial Park.

Deji Adeyanju, the convener of the Concerned Nigerians, a group participating in the protests, said that concerted efforts were made in collaboration with security agencies, especially the police, to ensure a peaceful protest.

Adeyanju, who also serves as one of the lawyers offering pro bono services to the protesters, alleged that some "pro-government demonstrators" held a counter-protest to frustrate the "peaceful nature" of the demonstrations and instigate violence in Abuja.

In a bid to avoid "undesirable outcomes" of the nationwide protests, the Nigerian government had earlier appealed for calm while calling on the youth to shelve the demonstrations and make way for continued robust dialogue to address their grievances.

Minister of Information and National Orientation Mohammed Idris told the media early this week that while the government is not opposed to peaceful

protests, it appealed to the youth first to shelve the demonstration, "which might be hijacked by unscrupulous elements, and turn violent."

Last year, the Nigerian government removed the subsidies on petrol or gasoline and floated the local currency in the wake of ongoing economic and fiscal reforms in the country. The inflation rate in Nigeria rose to 34.19 percent in June amid the worst cost of living crisis in the West African country.



Tijani lamented the vandalism of the facility, designed to be a tech hub in the northern part of the country, while alleging that the demonstrators also carted away computers, office furniture, air conditioners, and metal signboards

Russian embassy works to release Russians who remain in US jails

WASHINGTON

RUSSIAN diplomats will do their best to secure the release of dozens of Russians who remain jailed in the United States, the Russian Embassy in Washington said in a statement.

"Dozens of Russians still remain behind bars in the United States, looking at their fatherland with hope and waiting to be released," the embassy said in a statement. "We will pay maximum effort in order to secure the release or improve the plight of our citizens, caught in the wheels of local justice."

The embassy added that it viewed "the well-being of our compatriots, who have found themselves in US prisons as a result of worldwide

manhunt by US special services," as its most important task.

Moscow and the West conducted a prisoner swap on Thursday. Eight Russians detained or convicted in NATO countries, as well as two minors, returned home, while 16 convicted foreign nationals and Russians linked to Western intelligence agencies, who had been pardoned by the president, left Russia.

The Russians that returned home in the prisoner swap particularly include a man known under the name of Krasikov, sentenced to life imprisonment in Germany, and Vladislav Klyushin, who had been in custody in the US, a source in a Russian competent agency said.

Agencies



PARIS

When world's best meets world's only

AMID the roaring applause at the South Paris Arena, 61-year-old paddler Ni Xia Lian waved to the crowd with tears of emotion glistening in her eyes, as if she had clinched an Olympic gold medal.

The Luxembourg veteran, however, had just been gracefully defeated in the women's singles round of 32 at the Paris Olympics by China's world No. 1 Sun Yingsha, thus concluding her remarkable Olympic journey in the French capital.

Yet Ni's mere presence on the grand stage, her sixth Olympic appearance, and being the oldest table tennis player at the Games, was a powerful inspiration to peers and fans around the globe.

After the 23-year-old Sun secured a decisive 4-0 victory, Ni warmly embraced her, visibly more jubilant

than her counterpart, just like a seasoned elder showing admiration for a remarkable youth.

"Auntie Ni is a role model for many of us younger Chinese table tennis players. She embodies a resilient athletic spirit," Sun said before their match, affectionately referring to the Shanghai-born Ni as "Auntie Ni," highlighting her respect and their close bond.

Just the day before, Sun, alongside her teammate Wang Chuqin, triumphed in the mixed doubles final, defeating the enigmatic DPR Korea duo and securing China's first-ever Olympic gold in the event - a redemption for China's loss at Tokyo 2020.

Ni, with her unique left-handed, long-pimpled technique, similar to DPRK female player Kim Kum Yong,



Sun (L) talks to Ni (C) and a member of China's coaching staff after the match. Xinhua

actively served as a sparring partner for the Chinese pair, helping them prepare for the unfamiliar playing style.

"I'm very lucky to have this opportunity to give back to the Chinese team. I'm very happy I was able to help. I

wish them all the best," the veteran stated.

Starting her table tennis journey at the age of seven in China, Ni made the national team in 1979 and captured two gold medals at the 1983 World Cham-

ionships in Tokyo. Then she left the team in 1986 to study abroad and eventually settled in Luxembourg in 1991. She even carried the flag for Luxembourg during the Paris Olympics opening ceremony.

"I came to Luxembourg, but I never thought, 'I want to play in the Olympics'. It was my goal at one time, but I never thought I could make it," Ni reminisced. "Luxembourg wanted me to coach, and I was 26 at that time. Then they realized I could play, and I too realized I could still play, so I just continued and after 10 years I was really good."

Ni's Olympic debut came at the 2000 Sydney Games, before Sun was even born. Their match at the Paris Games was humorously dubbed by many Chinese fans as a "grandmother-

granddaughter duel."

"What a rare opportunity this was. She is the best in the world. Meeting and competing with her at the Olympics is such a heartwarming moment. I feel so moved, so happy that I got this chance to play 'Shasha'," Ni remarked, referring to Sun by her nickname.

"We are all inheritors of the spirit of Chinese table tennis. While many [former Chinese players] are scattered around the world, our hearts are always together," she added.

Throughout the rivalry, Ni's eyes sparkled with excitement. She leaped in frustration over missed points and frequently smiled, thoroughly enjoying every moment with vibrant energy.

"This is the Olympic spirit. Winning or losing is secondary; what matters is passion-

ate love for a sport," commented a Chinese web user after watching their match.

"I know I am not the youngest, but I always say, 'Today I am younger than tomorrow.' If you set your mind on something, age will not be an obstacle," she stated in an interview.

Like a young dreamer, Ni remains hopeful about the limitless possibilities ahead when it comes to considering if Paris would be her Olympic swansong. "If we make it, great; if not, then we gave it a shot," she said.

After her Wednesday's match, Ni's coach and husband, Tommy Daniellsson, whispered words of encouragement and gave her a soft kiss.

"He told me I played well. He always uses these opportunities to give me a kiss," Ni shared with a shy smile, reminiscent of a young lady just falling in love.

Xinhua

Kibu returns to Simba training after failed move to Norway

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA attacking midfielder Kibu Denis has returned to training after attempting to force a transfer to Norwegian top-flight side Kristiansund BK.

The 25-year-old was desperate to secure a move away from Simba and missed the team's three-week pre-season training camp in Egypt.

Kibu's absence raised concerns among Simba supporters, prompting the club to issue a statement.

Simba announced that they would take appropriate disciplinary measures against Kibu for failing to report to the pre-season training camp, despite his recent contract extension that keeps him at the club until June 2026.

Kibu was reported to have flown out of the country to try to force a transfer to Kristiansund BK. However, he resumed training with Simba yesterday.

The club's media and communication manager, Ahmed Ally, confirmed that Kibu has been welcomed back to the team and was part of the first team squad that trained at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium yesterday.

"Kibu is one of our players with high discipline. You can find a very

high level of discipline in Kibu. He has a very high standard of obedience. It is very important to know this.

"With what has happened, he finds himself with the image of someone who is indisciplined and rude, but I am telling you that Kibu is a person who understands the value of his work. What happened has happened, but we still take him as our loyal young man who should continue to serve this club.

"There is room to talk with our lad. We spoke to him and we made it known that he is to continue with us. And to be honest, we would like to continue to work with Kibu because of the obedience, discipline, and also the quality he has," he said.

It remains to be seen whether Kibu, who made 21 league appearances, scoring one goal and providing three assists last season, will be involved in today's friendly game against Rwandan champions APR.

It is also unknown whether he is in the right frame of mind after failing to secure a move away from the club.

Kibu joined Simba three years ago following an impressive top-flight debut campaign with Mbeya City.

Simba now confirm arrival of Guinean star Moussa Camara

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe & Seth Mapoli

SIMBA have unveiled one more new signing as they continue to bolster their squad ahead of the 2024/25 campaign.

Yesterday they confirmed the arrival of Guinean goalkeeper Moussa Camara. He joins Simba from Guinean club Horoya on a two-year deal.

Camara (pictured) has been signed as a possible replacement for Ayoub Lakhred, who sustained an injury while in pre-season training in Egypt last week.

The goalkeeper is Simba's twelfth signing of this transfer window, after Nigerian midfielder Augustine Okejeapha from Rivers United and centre-back Abdulrazack Hamza, signed from South Africa's SuperSport United.

Other signings are winger Joshua Mutale from Power Dynamos, midfielder Jean Ahoua, striker Valentino Mashaka from Geita Gold, centre-back Chamou Karaboue from ASEC Mimosas, striker Steven Mukwala from Asante Kotoko, Yusuph Kagoma and Kelvin Kijiri from Singida Fountain Gate and Awesu Awesu from KMC.

After putting pen to paper, Camara, who also plays for the Guinean national team, said he is grateful to the management of Simba for giving him the opportunity to be part of the 2024/25 squad.

Camara said he is happy to join Simba as it is a big team and many players in Africa dream of playing for it like it was for him.



"I thank God for being here. I also thank Simba leaders for giving me this opportunity and believing in me that I can be part of this team. I'm here to make sure I help the team do well in cooperation with my teammates," he said.

The new arrival could make his debut when Simba play APR of Rwanda today at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to mark the celebration of Simba Day.

Simba, who finished third in last season's NBC Premier League, 11 points behind champions Young Africans, begin their quest for a first title of the campaign with a Community Shield semi-final match against their arch-rivals Young Africans next week.

Camara, renowned for his impressive shot-stopping abilities, is a 25-year-old Guinean nation-

al team player. His arrival at the Msimbazi Street-based side is expected to enhance the team's defensive strength as they prepare for the upcoming season. He will join Ali Salim and Hussein Abel in the goalkeeping department, providing Simba with a strong trio to rely on.

Camara was among the players who participated in the final training session yesterday at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, ahead of Simba Day, where the club will play a friendly match against APR FC from Rwanda today.

The club plans to replace Lakred's name on the Premier League registration list with Camara's, following the rule that permits only 12 foreign players. However, Ayoub might still be retained for international matches until the next transfer

window.

The Simba's new signing is expected to play a crucial role in the club's quest to remain competitive on all fronts.

As they gear up for the friendly match against APR FC and the Community Shield semi-final against long-time rivals Young Africans on August 8, fans are eager to see the new team in action. The club has undergone significant changes in its squad, with the hope of breaking a three-season trophy drought.

The addition of Camara is seen as a strategic move to address the goalkeeping challenges that have plagued the team in recent seasons. His experience and skills are anticipated to bring stability and confidence to the backline, ensuring that Simba can compete at the highest level both domestically and internationally.

Simba's focus on strengthening their squad reflects their ambition to reclaim their position as one of the top teams in African football. The signing of Camara is just one of the many changes the club has made in preparation for the new season. Fans and supporters are optimistic that these changes will lead to improved performances and, ultimately, silverware.

As the new season approaches, Simba are determined to put an end to their trophy drought and re-establish themselves as a dominant force in Tanzanian and African football.

The club's management, players, and supporters are united in their pursuit of success, with Camara set to play a key role in achieving these goals.

Azam face Rayon Sports in pre-season final friendly

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM will conclude their pre-season today by locking horns with Rayon Sports, following fixtures with Wydad, Union Touarga, US Yacoub Al Mansour, and Zimamoto in preparation for the 2024/25 campaign.

The Chamazi-based side have been invited to the Rayon Sports Day fete, a special ceremony during which the Rwandan club presents new signings and unveils their new squad, partners, and kits for the new season.

Azam are scheduled to play another Rwandan side, APR FC, in the preliminary round of the 2024/25 CAF Champions League.

This friendly match against Rayon Sports will not only serve as a good test to prepare them but also help them get used to the weather in Kigali.

They began their preparations for the new season with a 4-0 success over Zimamoto on July 12, followed by a 3-0 victory over Morocco's US Yacoub El Mansour and then they drew 1-1 with Moroccan Botola Pro side Union Touarga in their third pre-season outing.

Yousouph Dabo's side were last in action on Sunday, suffering a crushing 4-1 defeat to Wydad. They now face Rayon Sports at Amahoro

Stadium in their fifth pre-season friendly before opening their new campaign on Thursday against Coastal Union in the Community Shield semi-final match.

Rayon Sports, under former Simba head coach Robert Oliveira, began their preparations for the new season with a 1-1 draw against Gorilla FC at Kigali Pele Stadium on July 21, before edging out Muhazi United 1-0 in their most recent outing.

Robertinho's side will not play African football next season, having finished second in Rwanda's top flight in 2023-24 and crashing out of the Federation Cup in the semi-final stage.

Rayon Sports have made fourteen signings so far, bringing in former Azam midfielder James Akaminko, former Simba and Young Africans midfielder Haruna Niyonzima, Patient Ndikuriyo, Fitina Omborenga, Richard Ndayishimiye, Omar Gning, Olivier 'Seif' Niyonzima, Fiston Ishimwe, Emmanuel Nshimiyanama, Abdul Rahman Rukundo, Prinsse Elenka-Kanga, and Adama Bagayogo.

Other signings include Senegalese defender Youssou Diagne, who last played for Itihad Zemmouri de Khémis in Morocco, and striker Fall Ngagne from FK Viagem Píbram in the Czech Republic.



Tanzania national cricket team captain, Laksh Bakrania (c) speaks during a press conference in Dar es Salaam on the ICC U-19 Men's CWC Africa Qualifiers Division 2 which started yesterday at the Gymkhana and University of Dar es Salaam grounds. Looking on the left is the team coach, Salum Jumbe, and coordinator of the tournament, Atif Salim. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tanzanian teen launches football competition to promote youth sports

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A TANZANIAN student, Ashok Mittal (17), who is pursuing higher education in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), has launched a football competition for secondary school students aimed at promoting sports among youth in schools.

The competition, known as 'Champion of Tomorrow', kicked off on Thursday and involves eight secondary school teams

from both public and private institutions.

Participating schools include Lemara, Sombetini, Sinoni, Mataves, St. Patrick, Renea, Kilimanjaro Modern Boys Academy, and Brainy Heroes, all based in Arusha.

Ashok mentioned that all participating teams have received sponsorship from various companies in the country, which will provide them with pairs of football boots, t-shirts, footballs, and

gloves for goalkeepers.

"I am very happy to start the 'Champions of Tomorrow Football League' here in Arusha. My goal is to provide opportunities for underprivileged youth to fulfill their passion for football and ultimately reach professional levels by providing essential sports equipment," he said, adding:

"By collaborating with coaches from all teams and some trainers from football talent development centers (scouts) in Arusha, we will

be able to help our youth achieve their goals and dreams, contributing positively to our community."

He stated that the initiative is a joint effort between him and support from various sponsors who have come forward to sponsor the competition.

The competition, which is being conducted in a knockout format, will culminate on August 8, 2024, with the final to be played by the teams that have progressed through the knockout stages.

In the first match, St. Patrick vs. Sombetini secondary schools ended in a 2-2 draw in a tough contest held at the UWC International School football grounds.

Ramadhani Abbasi and Emmanuel Masanja scored for St. Patrick Secondary School, while Sombetini Secondary School's goals were scored by Boniface Exaveri and Yusuf Kassim.

In the second match, Lemara Secondary School triumphed over Kilimanjaro Modern Acad-

emy with a score of 1-0.

The winning goal for Lemara Secondary was scored by Hajiru Nassoro, who outmaneuvered the Kilimanjaro defenders.

Dennis Shemtoe, the coach of St. Patrick Secondary School's football team, praised the organizer of the competition and suggested that better preparations be made in the future due to the challenges faced by assistant referees.

FIFA offers talks to leagues, player unions amid legal filings and threats in soccer politics

PARIS

FIFA offered talks with global groups of soccer leagues and player unions to end a three-month deadlock after they threatened legal action over adding to the packed competitions calendar.

In a letter seen by The Associated Press, FIFA told the World Leagues Association and FIFPRO on Thursday "our offer to engage in dialogue remains on the table" amid a swirl of legal filings and threats in international soccer politics.

"FIFA believes there is a more productive way forward for football than the threat of legal action," soccer's world body said in a statement to the AP.

In May, the leagues and union said FIFA was "inherently abusive" for continuing to add games and competitions that forced their members to adapt.

FIFA has expanded the 2026 World Cup, hosted across North America, to 48 teams from 32, and added a 32-team Club World Cup that will also be played every four years. It launches next June in the United States.

Also in the coming season, UEFA is expanding its three season-long club competitions with extra teams and more games that squeeze domestic schedules.

The European groups of leagues and player unions also have targeted FIFA – but not UEFA – in a formal legal complaint to Brussels. That is being handled by the European Commission, the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union that can intervene on alleged breaches of competition law.

FIFPRO member unions in England and France also filed suit against FIFA at a commercial court in Brussels, seeking a referral to the European Court of Justice. That court in Luxembourg was critical of FIFA and UEFA last year in a ruling in the Super League case brought by some storied soccer clubs.

FIFA manages the calendar of international matches, which mandates when clubs must release players to national-team duty through 2030. The global groups of leagues and unions want talks on it reopened with them getting a greater say.

On Thursday, FIFA said it "serves and balances the overall interests of world football, including the protection of players."

FIFPRO did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

AP

Man U set decision date over whether to replace Old Trafford with new stadium

By Miguel Delaney

MANCHESTER United are exploring options to keep parts of the current Old Trafford stadium, potentially for the women's and academy teams, should they press ahead with the construction of a new stadium. Such plans would see the club retain iconic elements of the historic ground, especially the pitch, on which so much of United's mythology has taken place.

United minority owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe wants the club to decide on stadium plans by December after a recent review, and the petrochemicals billionaire personally favours the construction of a new 100,000-seater stadium next to the current Old Trafford.

That could mean parts of the old stadium being retained in order to house teams beyond the men's first team, but also as crucial recognition of the club's rich history.

While there are a number of potential proposals currently being assessed for the site, the Independent has been told that one more romantic plan gathering support is for a new state-of-the-art arena to sit alongside a scaled-down Old Trafford. The latter would still have the historic pitch and other elements important to the club's history. The site similarly features many memorials to the Busby Babes and the Munich air disaster.

The primary issue is that the plan would essentially mean two hugely expensive construction projects at once, since it would entail the redevelopment of the existing stadium to reduce capacity alongside the building of a completely new arena.

That would subsequently require the upkeep of two stadiums at the same time, which is why the more fanciful plan of keeping Old Trafford in its entirety can't really be considered.

Even a scaled-down Old Trafford alongside a new stadium brings huge challenges, as it would require both an innovative engineering plan and huge expense. The idea is currently seen as just a concept for now, as the club continues to explore what next. The most viable proposal along these lines, however, is for a reduced Old Trafford to sit in what amounts to a grander club complex while potentially serving as a home for the women's and academy teams.

THE INDEPENDENT

Simone Biles makes history with second all-around Olympic gymnastics title, 8 years after her first

PARIS

SIMONE Biles huddled with Sunisa Lee. She looked to her husband Jonathan Owens in the stands. Lost in the moment. And maybe a touch frantic.

The American gymnastics star knew she was trailing Brazil's Rebeca Andrade and Algeria's Kaylia Nemour through two rotations during the Olympic all-around final Thursday.

After a sloppy uneven bars that included a mistake Biles can never remember making in competition, she sat in a chair, closed her eyes, ignored the sea of cameras around her and attempted to refocus.

She and Lee tried to do the math. How bad was it? They weren't sure. It had been a long time since it was this tight.

Biles checked with Owens, who reassured Biles that she was fine, even though she was in third. His wife of 15 months might not have believed him in the moment.

"I've just never been so stressed before," Biles said.

Maybe because she hadn't been pushed – not in a long time anyway – the way Andrade pushed inside an electric Bercy Arena.

Yet the jitters eventually faded. The 27-year-old who is redefining what a gymnast can do and how long she can do it went to work.

One stoic beam routine and one floor exercise that is unlike anything ever done in her sport later, Biles found herself accepting a gold medal from IOC president Thomas Bach for a second time, this time with Lee standing next to her



Simone Biles of the United States performs on the vault during the women's artistic gymnastics all-around finals at the Summer Olympics on Thursday, August 1, 2024, in Paris, France. AP Photo

with a bronze.

Eight years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Biles was a teenage prodigy. Now, she's an icon. One who remains peerless even when she's not perfect.

Biles now has nine Olympic medals, six of them gold. And while she says she doesn't keep track of these things, she sort of does. The GOAT necklace she rocked in the aftermath isn't a coincidence, even if she maintains she's just "Simone Biles from Spring, Texas, that loves to flip."

Maybe, but she's also the third woman to become a two-time Olympic champion, joining Larisa Latynina of the Soviet Union in 1956 and 1960 and Vera Caslavskya of Czechoslovakia in 1964 and 1968.

Oh, and the oldest to finish atop the all-around podium since then 30-year-old Maria Gorokhovskaya of the Soviet Union won the first-ever Olympic all-around in Helsinki in 1952.

The sport then is not what it is now. The days of "little girls in pretty boxes" are long gone. Biles has fueled that transformation one performance at

a time. There's a reason stars like the U.S. men's basketball team and Kendall Jenner flock to watch her Thursday.

When Biles tried to downplay her impact, Lee corrected her.

"Honestly Simone, I think a lot of it has to do with you," Lee said.

Even if her 39th world or Olympic medal didn't come as easily as most of the 38 before it.

She misjudged a transition on uneven bars, the weakest of her four events, letting go of the upper bar too soon and forcing her to reach for a larger-than-expected gap.

While she didn't fall – Biles muscled her way back into the routine – it blunted her momentum and led to major deductions that left her behind Andrade through two rotations.

The deficit didn't last. Biles responded with a largely wobble-free 14.566 on the balance beam, the highest of the night among the 24 finalists, while Andrade was forced to do a major balance check during her slightly

easier set that dropped her down to second heading into floor exercise, Biles' signature event.

Andrade, the silver medalist behind Lee in 2021, needed the best floor set of her life to catch Biles. It didn't quite happen. Andrade stepped out of bounds at one point, a minor problem but enough to create plenty of wiggle room for Biles.

"I don't want to compete with Rebeca no more," Biles said. "I'm tired. Like, she's way too close. I've never had an athlete that close."

Biles incorporated music from pop icons Taylor Swift and Beyoncé into her current routine, a 75-second set that began with the opening bars of Swift's hit "Ready For It?" and featured the hardest tumbling done by a woman in the history of the sport.

When she was done – sealing gold that served as a redemption of sorts three years after pulling out of multiple finals in Tokyo to focus on her mental health – Biles sprinted to hug Lee just off the podium and blew kisses to the cameras that have become fixtures wherever she goes under the Olympic rings.

After the final score was announced, Biles and Lee – both Olympic champions – bolted onto the floor, waving an American flag.

Lee, the Tokyo winner with Biles sidelined, is the first to win gold in all-around one Games then earn another medal in the next since Comaneci in 1976 and '80. She did it despite spending much of the last 15 months dealing with multiple kidney diseases that left her return

to the Games very much in doubt. "I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do it because I didn't think that I could," Lee said.

While there may be more medals on the way – Biles is in three event finals later in the Games – the all-around puts her into the conversation as perhaps the greatest American Olympian ever. Yet she's also far more than that.

She's a vocal advocate for survivors of sexual abuse and the importance of proper mental health. She met virtually with her therapist before the Americans won gold in the team final on Tuesday. They kept their regular Thursday appointment too.

Biles relied on the internal work she's done over the years after that rocky bars routine. She sat with her legs crossed on a chair in her blue sequined leotard and joked she was "praying to every single God out there."

In reality, she was trying to re-center herself. And then she moved on. It's what she does.

Biles has said repeatedly over the last three years that what happened in Tokyo is a part of her past, not her present, and if critics have a problem with it, that's their issue, not hers.

She's moved on to bigger things. Like setting a standard that may never be reached. In her gymnastics for sure, and maybe others too. When trying to count the number of active Olympians who have stood atop their sport for 11 years and counting, no math is required.

There is only one.

AP

Arne Slot brings new 'theory' to Liverpool - now it's time to put transfer plans into practice

By Miguel Delaney

THOSE around the Liverpool squad might quip that it was a development even more inevitable than the club making signings. The players, predictably, have now started to talk amongst themselves about the considerable contrasts between Arne Slot's training sessions and Jurgen Klopp's.

That isn't to say they're either better or worse, but they are "different". The players can't help noticing it, which is pretty natural when anyone goes from one everyday working environment to another. Slot's sessions are described as much more technical, almost more about "the theory".

If the squad have now had the chance to get a feel for their new boss, their new boss has had more than enough time to get a feel for the squad. In short, Slot now has more of a handle on what he wants, and what he needs. The belief around the Liverpool camp is that transfer business will finally accelerate next week, as the opening Premier League game away to Ipswich Town on 18 August comes into view. The next 10 days are likely to see the first concrete bids put in.

Liverpool are now looking for a centre-half, a defensive midfielder and a wide forward, although potentially two



Arne Slot is Jurgen Klopp's successor at Liverpool. (Getty Images)

of the latter. The most high-profile of those is Newcastle United's Anthony Gordon, who has long been hugely keen on the move.

It is still an exaggeration to say any deal with Liverpool was close before the 30 June Profit and Sustainability Rules deadline in the middle of the Euros, despite rumours about medicals being booked. The two clubs were some way apart.

Liverpool's persistent interest may surprise people given that the pressure on Newcastle to sell around that period would surely have made it the opportune time for a purchase, but some other clubs and market figures suspect that the St James Park hierarchy could do with making one more major sale for their own plans.

That would almost cer-

Gordon.

It means Liverpool may have to go very high to secure the 23-year-old, which could amount to £80m plus add-ons. If there is a debate about whether Gordon is quite worth that, the decision would ultimately be taken by Anfield's revitalised recruitment department, amid a very different market to that which first operated in the seasons around Klopp's appointment.

Slot's requirements would obviously feed into that, which explains why business is only ratcheting up now.

As is always the case with a department headed by Michael Edwards, it is not just about the short-term needs of the team but also the medium-term outlook and players' potential for growth.

Gordon can already be electric when running with pace, but there is a belief that other elements of his game have huge scope for development. All of this comes as the hierarchy are also mindful of the succession plan, with Mohamed Salah having just one year left on his contract.

Elsewhere, since Leny Yoro surprised many in the market with a move to Manchester United, Eintracht Frankfurt's William Pachó has long been viewed as a potential option at centre-half. The 22-year-old Ecuadorian could cost around £50m, though. Liverpool are currently assessing a thinner market for defensive midfielders in the style they want. The price of players who might previously have been consid-

ered, such as Real Sociedad's Martin Zubimendi, has rocketed after Euro 2024.

All of this is likely to be offset by outgoings, with Slot currently deciding who he is making available to sell.

Amid all of that, one thing can so far be said for sure. Slot's "theory", and his different coaching, has translated into some promising football in pre-season. There's the obvious caveat that these are only friendlies but some of the players are starting to see why one prominent figure from a rival club described the Dutch coach as "maybe the best in the world on the training ground right now".

What matters is the pitch for real games and, until then, the transfer market.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Simone Biles makes history with second all-around Olympic gymnastics title, 8 years after her first

PAGE 19

Simba SC take on APR FC in 'Simba Day' international friendly match

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA lock horns with Rwanda's APR FC in an international friendly match later today as part of celebrations of Simba Day. The game is scheduled for 7:00 PM at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba Day, now in its 16th season since its inception in 2009, serves as a special occasion for the club to engage with its fans and unveil new players for the upcoming season. This year, Simba have introduced significant changes to both its squad and technical bench, under the leadership of head coach Fadlu Davids.

Discussing the upcoming match against APR FC, Coach Davids stated, "We have to take it into context. As we enter the fourth week of our training, we are focusing on readiness. While we are still building our form, we see this friendly match as an essential part of our pre-season preparations. We want to give our fans something to enjoy. The players and technical bench have prepared well, and we aim to win."

Davids emphasized that the match is more than just a friendly or a day to reveal the squad.

"We have analyzed APR FC thoroughly, considering it like any other competitive match. Each player will get time on the field, though not extensive minutes, to ensure everyone has a chance to participate," he added.

On the topic of new signings, Davids praised the club's recruitment efforts.

"First of all, huge compliments to the scouts, management, and the president for their recruitment. We have brought in 14 new signings who are young, energetic, and experienced, giving us a balanced squad capable of playing any system I want. Integrating the new players has been smooth as everyone started from scratch, and after six weeks, we will have a firm grasp of our playing style," he said.

Reflecting on the club's recent trophy drought, Davids acknowledged the challenge ahead.

"As a coach, I know I have a challenge to ensure Simba not only participates in leagues but also wins trophies. This club is big and has the ability to win," he added.

Simba will use the match to fine-tune their preparations for the CAF Confederation Cup. They are waiting to play against the winner between Uhamiaji FC (Zanzibar) and the Federation Cup winners of Libya. The victorious team in the second preliminary round will advance to the group stage of the Confederation Cup.

Team captain Mohamed Hussein, also known as Zimbabwe Jr., assured fans of a competitive team.

"We have a strong, competitive team, and tomorrow (today) they will start to find the happiness they used to have. We are ready for tomorrow's game. The tickets sold out three days ago, so the players know we have something big to accomplish," he said.

APR FC's assistant coach Thierry Hitimana expressed gratitude for the invitation and highlighted the match's significance.

"It is a good thing that we received this invitation from Simba SC. It shows they see us as worthy opponents for their special day, which strengthens our friendship," he said.

Hitimana also noted that the match serves as preparation for the CAF Champions League.

"International friendly matches like this have to be competitive. For us, it's not just another friendly. We will use this match to prepare ourselves and challenge Simba SC, keeping in mind that we will face Azam FC in the preliminary round of the CAF Champions League qualifiers," he added.

Following today's friendly against APR FC, Simba will shift their focus to the Community Shield semi-final against long-time rivals Young Africans SC next weekend on August 8 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The other semi-final will take place at the New Amaan Complex Stadium in Zanzibar, featuring Azam FC versus Coastal Union. The final is set for August 11 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

NBC Bank promises to enhance competition in all three leagues



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Gerson Msigwa (2nd L), presenting the NBC Premier League 2023/24 Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award to Young Africans midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki (2nd R), during the TFF 2023/24 Awards ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Witnessing the moment are the President of TFF, Wallace Karia (R), and NBC Bank's Financial Director, Waziri Barnabas. NBC Bank is the main sponsor of the league. Photo: Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

NBC Bank, the main sponsor of the NBC Premier League, fully participated in the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) 2023/2024 awards ceremony on Thursday and pledged to continue collaborating with all stakeholders of the three leagues it sponsors, including the Premier League, Championship, and Youth League, to build their capacity and stimulate greater competition among them.

During the event, Waziri Barnabas, the financial director of the bank, representing the bank's MD, Theobald Sabi, expressed the institution's determination to ensure that its sponsorship of the three leagues serves as a catalyst for clubs to improve their recruitment of higher-quality players and strengthen their technical benches.

"Today, everyone can testify to how these awards have increased the appeal among football enthusiasts in the country, thanks to the fierce competition among the players vying for these honors, including both domestic and

foreign players.

"This competition stems from the excellence of these players, which in turn originates from the quality recruitment carried out by the participating clubs. Our role as the main sponsors of these leagues is to ensure that the clubs continue to have that strength," Waziri emphasized.

Throughout the ceremony, various officials of the bank, including the director of retail banking Elibariki Masuke, the head of the bank's strategy unit, Msafiri Shayo, and the head of the bank's marketing department, Raymond David, presented awards to the deserving winners, further solidifying the

bank's active involvement in the TFF 2023/24 awards.

The highlight of the event was when Barnabas had the honor of presenting the NBC Premier League's Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award to Aziz Ki, a player from Young Africans, alongside the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Arts, and Sports, Gerson Msigwa.

Commenting on this prestigious moment, on behalf of the other officials and the bank's MD, Barnabas expressed the bank's pride in being entrusted with this honor, which further validated the positive feedback from the football community in the country.

"This honor we continue

to receive through this beloved sport drives us to invest even more of our efforts, not only in this game but also in other sports such as athletics, golf, and others that have supported us in pushing our various agendas aimed at helping society, particularly in maternal and child health issues," he added.

According to Barnabas, NBC Bank's unwavering commitment to the TFF 2023/24 awards ceremony is a testament to its vision of elevating Tanzanian football and empowering the broader community. By collaborating with all stakeholders, the bank is ensuring that its sponsorship not only fosters

fierce competition but also helps clubs enhance their talent recruitment and coaching capabilities, ultimately driving the sport's growth and development.

"As the world of Tanzanian football celebrates the achievements of its finest players and teams, NBC Bank's presence as the Main Sponsor stands as a shining example of the power of corporate partnerships in transforming the landscape of the beautiful game.

"This steadfast support is a clear indication of our unwavering dedication to the nation's sporting excellence and our unwavering commitment to the community we serve," he concluded.

...Aziz Ki: Individual accolades take backseat to team goals

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FRESH off his crowning as the Most Valuable Player of the 2023/2024 NBC Premier League, Young Africans' attacking maestro Stephane Aziz Ki has pledged to continue prioritizing collective triumphs over individual accolades.

The Burkinabe forward, who netted an impressive 21 goals and provided eight assists, expressed his desire to continue making significant contributions to the team's triumphs in the upcoming season and beyond. Aziz Ki edged out Azam FC's Feisal 'Fei Toto' Salum to claim the Golden Boot with 21 goals to the latter's 19.

Aziz Ki was also honored as the Best Midfielder in the NBC Premier League, while Salum was named Best Player in the Federation Cup after leading his side to the final, where they lost on penalties 6-5 against Young Africans.

After claiming the Best

Midfielder and Best Player awards, Aziz Ki expressed his determination to secure his place in the starting lineup and collaborate effectively with his teammates to achieve even greater success for the club.

He has declared his full focus on the upcoming season, prioritizing team trophies over personal accolades, and is eager to build upon the club's achievements.

"The last season is behind us, and we're gearing up for a new chapter. My primary goal is to contribute to the team's success and win more trophies. We anticipate a challenging season, and I'm hungry to deliver for the club and our fans," said Aziz Ki.

With the club bolstering its squad through new signings, Ki acknowledges the increased competition for places but emphasizes the importance of unity. So far, the Premier League defending champions have added five new players to

their squad: Clatous Chama, Prince Dude, Chadrack Boka, Aziz Andambwile, and goalkeeper Khomeini Abubakar.

"The coach will decide who starts and who sits on the bench. We need to support each other and push our limits to achieve something extraordinary. While individual awards are nice, they're not my main focus," he said.

This marks a record achievement for the Burkinabe international, who joined Young Africans and played for the Jangwani Street giants for the first time in the 2021/2022 season. Young Africans have solidified their three-year dominance in Tanzanian football, with multiple players and staff receiving prestigious awards.

Five Young Africans' players - Yao Kouassi, Dickson Job, Ibrahim "Bacca" Hamad, Mudathir Yahya, and Maxi Nzengeli - were named to the NBC Premier League's first eleven. The team's success

extended to the Federation Cup, where Clement Mzize won the Golden Boot for top scorer and goalkeeper Djigui Diara claimed the Best Player Award.

Additionally, Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi was recognized as the Best Coach in the NBC Premier League.

In other Premier League awards, Coastal Union's Ley Matambi was crowned the Best Goalkeeper in the NBC Premier League for the 2023/2024 season.

Matambi's exceptional performance throughout the campaign earned him the prestigious award, edging out stiff competition from Ayoub Lakred of Simba and Diarra.

Azam FC's Kipre Junior took home the award for the best goal of the season, while Mtibwa Sugar were recognized for their exemplary discipline, securing the title of the most disciplined team.

The award ceremony also celebrated the achievements

of Tanzanian players abroad, with Mbwana Samata and Aisha Masaka honored as the best male and female players, respectively.

Young Africans will host a grand finale to their 'Wiki ya Mwananchi' celebrations at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium tomorrow, where they will honor individual award winners and officially unveil the squad and technical bench for the upcoming season. A friendly match against Zambian champions Red Arrows will highlight the event, providing both teams with valuable preparation for the new season.

August 8 will mark the start of the new season with a Community Shield mini-tournament, Young Africans facing arch-rivals Simba SC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

In the other semi-final, Azam FC will take on Coastal Union at the New Amaan Complex.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

