



'Keep national debts below current 11.1pc of total GDP'

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

THE government needs to keep external debt servicing below the current limit of 11.1 percent and ensure that it does not reach the critical threshold of 15 percent of the gross domestic product, a parliamentary committee has declared.

Oran Njeza (Mbeya Rural), the chairman of the Budget committee of the National Assembly, made this appeal in the legislature yesterday while presenting the committee's insights on the proposed national development plan for 2025/26.

He cited Treasury reports showing that by June 2024, the external debt had reached 64.93trn/- with the total government debt reaching 96.88trn/-, a notable increase from 81.98trn/- in the same period of 2023.

This was an 18.18 percent rise, an additional 14.90trn/- where the total domestic debt stood at 31.9trn/-, with the committee's analysis

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pays his respects to former Chief of Defence Forces General David Bugozi Musuguri at Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

During this implementation period, 11.6 trn/- was approved for recurrent and development expenditures, where approved expenditure of 114.20 bn/- was funded through a short-term loan from the central bank, which remains within the legally acceptable limits

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

THE government expects to collect and spend 55.06trn/- during fiscal 2025/26, with funding preparations for the general election late next year among the key priorities.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, made this projection in presenting preliminary proposals for the next budget and the national development plan for 2025/26 in the National Assembly yesterday.

Priority areas will include infrastructure development, strengthening production sector segments and community services, he said, setting grants from development partners as projected to reach 1.02trn/-.

Concessional loans from multilateral and bilateral agencies are likely to reach 5.6trn/-, with commercial loans from domestic and interna-

tional sources reaching 9.4trn/-, he stated.

Key focus areas are listed as environmental management and climate change, improving governance systems to enhance accountability, promote gender equality and empower special interest groups.

Domestic revenue is expected to reach 38.9trn/-, compared to 34.6trn/- projection for fiscal 2024/25, reflecting an improvement in overall economic fundamentals, he said, pointing at strategies and ongoing measures to enhance revenue collection.

Encouraging the use of electronic payments, controlling the granting of tax exemptions and improving the business and investment environment to generate new revenue sources will be assiduously pursued, he said.

The government's intention is to ensure that

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Government sets project ceiling, funding sources

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is expected to allocate 16.4trn/- to fund development projects in the 2025/26 financial year, with plans to source funds from domestic revenues, grants, domestic loans with commercial terms, and

external loans with favourable terms.

Prof. Kitila Mkumbo, the Planning and Investment state minister in the President's Office, made this affirmation before the National Assembly yesterday, presenting an outline of the national development plan

for 2025/26.

He explained the need for the government to strengthen alternative financing methods for development projects by creating a conducive business and investment environment for implementing projects through public-private part-

nerships (PPP).

He said that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) reached 148.3trn/- in 2023, up from 141.2trn/- in 2022, reflecting a growth rate of 5.1 percent. "The GDP is projected to grow by

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SGR: TRC begins four daily rapid train trips

By Correspondent James Kandoya



Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba pictured in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday tabling the proposed guidelines on the preparation of the government's budget estimates for financial year 2025/2026. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) has introduced additional services using electric multiple units (EMUs) from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, responding to increasing demand for rapid rail transport.

Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC director general, explained the move at the launching event yesterday, affirming the start of the new route scheduled right away, being four daily trips from the commercial hub to the capital.

Despite this expansion of services, demand for regular passenger

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Malawi's First Lady, Monica Chakwera (3rd-R), in a souvenir photo when she visited the Kairuki Green In Vitro Fertilisation Centre in Dar es Salaam's Bunju Mianzini suburb on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Government sets project ceiling, funding sources

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5.4 percent in 2024, increasing to 5.8 percent in 2025 and 6.1 percent in 2026," he asserted.

Inflation is expected to remain single digit, averaging 3.0 percent to 5.0 percent in the medium term while domestic revenue is projected to reach 16.1 percent of GDP and tax revenues 13.0 percent of GDP during fiscal 2025/26, he projected.

Foreign exchange reserves are expected to be sufficient to cover import needs for at least four months, while export values of goods and services increased by 14.7 percent to \$14,663.9m, primarily driven by sales of gold and natural products, as well as tourism revenues, he said.

Imports of goods and services decreased by 5.6 percent to \$16,027m largely due to a decline in the cost of imports, including petroleum products, machinery, industrial equipment and fertilizers, he further noted.

He qualified the reduction in the external payments deficit as positive, indicating an improved capacity to manage foreign currency demand and build foreign exchange reserves.

In the 2023/24 period, foreign exchange reserves reached \$5,345.5m compared to \$5,208.3m during 2022/23, while meeting import needs for goods and services, he stated.

"This amount is sufficient to cover imports for 4.4 months, exceeding the country's target of maintaining reserves adequate for at least four months of imports," he remarked.

He asserted that the new national development vision will focus on making economic growth inclusive, reducing poverty and generating significant employment while stimulating the export of value-added products.

To achieve this goal, specific emphasis will be placed on production segments that engage a large number of people, with particular attention to promoting social and economic development in rural areas, he added.

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affirming that government debt remains sustainable in the short, medium and long term.

"The increase has been primarily driven by the depreciation of the shilling and the acquisition of new loans to finance development projects," he stated, advising the government to broaden and enhance domestic revenue collection to ensure it can effectively service

the debt.

"It would be beneficial for the government to direct all available loans towards projects that stimulate economic growth and promote the export of goods and services," he said. Priority should be given to loans with concessional terms and medium-term conditions to alleviate the burden of interest payments, plus seeking innovative revenue sources such as green bonds, Diaspora contributions and private financing for mu-

nicipal infrastructure projects, he said.

He said the government needs to allocate budget resources for the 2025/26 financial year to conduct research on household income and expenditure in order to update poverty statistics, as the most recent data from 2017/18 is now outdated.

"The committee stresses the need for population growth to align with economic growth, as currently out of every 100 people, 87 are dependents," he said,

focusing on issues of human development

The committee argued for separating standard gauge railway (SGR) management from the meter gauge railway (MGR) system, transforming the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) into a holding company overseeing both entities.

The government needs to leverage the funding plan for SGR construction through the Export Credit Guarantee Agency

(ECGA) supervised by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to expedite the completion of the remaining segments, particularly the Uvinza-Malagarasi-Msongati and Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema sections, he said.

They urged an increase in flight frequencies in areas where Tanzania has significant commercial ties, enhancing domestic airports by installing night lighting to facilitate evening and early night flight frequencies, he added.

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transport niches remains high, with 9,000 to 10,000 passengers using the route on a daily basis, highlighting the need for enhanced transport solutions, he said.

"To address this, TRC plans to deploy two more pairs of EMUs to accommodate future increases in passenger numbers," he elaborated, asserting that the new EMUs accentuate the faster, more comfortable travel between the two cities.

There is a shift in the charges with passengers traveling by EMU from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma set to pay 120,000/- for business class and 150,000/- for VIP class, with Rosemary Senyamule, the Dodoma regional commissioner, praising the move.

She highlighted the significant economic impacts of the new transportation route, its potential to enhance business flow and increase income for local entrepreneurs, applauding efforts by the government in this direction.

This project is expected to create new opportunities and bolster local commerce, as with increased connectivity and anticipated economic growth, the region looks forward to the transformative

effects of this project on its community and local businesses, she stated.

Edgar Bakuza, a TRC mechanical engineer, said that the new EMU trains feature high acceleration speeds that reduce travel time, from 3.45 hours at the start to 3.15 hours.

The train has an innovative L-foil shape which enhances performance by allowing it to glide efficiently through the air, the technician specified.

The passenger service was launched in July when President Samia Suluhu Hassan set the ball rolling for electric train services of the standard gauge railway (SGR), urging TRC to integrate these services with other sectors to improve the transportation of goods.

"This is not just a railway; it is a lifeline that will enhance trade and spur economic growth," she remarked, demanding that the Transport ministry work to ensure that Tanzanians fully benefit from these services.

TRC needs to prioritize the timely completion of ongoing construction while maintaining high standards, she said of the ongoing project.

As the rail network expands, TRC seeks to position itself as a key player in Tanzania's transport sector fostering greater economic connectivity across the country, the CEO intoned.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Pindi Chana (C) speaks at the East African Community's 10th Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources Management Meeting in Arusha city yesterday. Photo courtesy of NR&T ministry

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domestic revenues cover not less than 70 percent of the total budget, he said, underlining that the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and other fiduciary institutions will be implementing a medium-term revenue collection strategy to uplift domestic revenues and reducing dependence on loans and grants.

Total expenditure is pegged at 55.06trn/-, with 38.6trn/- allocated for recurrent expenditure while 16.4trn/- for development, well below a third of total expenditure.

The fiscal plan guidance outlines various instructions which responsible officers are directed to fully consider during the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of the development plan

and the budget, he said.

These instructions include ensuring the completion of ongoing projects before initiating new ones, settling debts related to ongoing or completed projects and ensuring that all collected revenues are deposited into the consolidated fund.

Allocations must use the digital payment system for all government expenditure, with electronic revenue collection systems undergoing regular verification, reconciliation and audits at all collection points to control revenue leakage, he said.

Equally important is to avoid contracts with suppliers without adherence to existing laws, procedures and guidelines, with adherence to tax laws as a

substantial prerogative, he said.

New projects will require to put up foundational preparations such as compensation payments for project clearance or feasibility studies, he said, stressing on the need for closely monitoring the performance of public institutions.

Those operating commercially have to and prepare strategies to enable them to list on the stock market to reduce the government's liability for guaranteeing and financing those institutions, he specified.

The government will engage relevant stakeholders in multi-sector projects, taking up environmental and climate change issues along with social needs in the planning and implementation of development projects, he said.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2024/25, the government collected 11.5trn/- from all domestic and external sources, with 7.9trn/- being domestic revenue, a welcome result on account of attaining 99.4 percent of the 7.9trn/- target, he further noted.

Grants and concessional loans climaxed at 1.37trn/-, local commercial loans stood at 1.6trn/- and foreign commercial loans totalled 593.65m/-.

"During this implementation period, 11.6 trn/- was approved for recurrent and development expenditures, where approved expenditure of 114.20 bn/- was funded through a short-term loan from the central bank, which remains within the legally acceptable limits," he added.

Three more CNG filling stations to ease access for keen motorists

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has unveiled plans to open three new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations by December as part of its efforts to expand infrastructure in the country.

The initiative comes in response to a growing number of Tanzanians converting their vehicles to CNG, drawn by its cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits.

Deputy Minister for Energy Judith Kapinga announced in the National Assembly on Thursday that the government in collaboration with the private sector aims to increase more CNG filling stations nationwide.

She said by December 2024, the country is expected to have eight CNG stations, adding three new locations to the existing five.

"With the increase in CNG-powered vehicles, the demand for additional filling stations has also risen," she said.

Kapinga was responding to Donge legislator Soud Mohammed Jumah (CCM) who inquired about the government's plans to broaden the availability of CNG centres across the country.

Current data indicate that over 1,000 vehicles have already made the switch to CNG.

"In addition, we plan to inaugurate 13 more stations by 2025, including two large stations, six mobile stations and five smaller ones," Kapinga said.

Experts emphasize the benefits of CNG, describing it as a "green fuel" due to its lack of lead and sulphur content. Its properties also enhance safety as it has high auto-ignition temperature. Moreover, operational costs are lower compared to other fuels and CNG supports dual-fuel systems which can help prolong the life of engine oils.

By investing in CNG infrastructure, Tanzania stands to gain significantly in economic, social and environmental aspects.



Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande, South Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation minister, addresses the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology community yesterday. He is on a tour aimed at strengthening collaboration in satellite technology and innovation as well as research on ways to advance economic and social development in technology and higher education projects. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Zanzibar compensate over 3,000 residents affected by oil, gas exploration activities

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has stated that a total of 3,577 residents have received compensation for damages to their homes caused by seismic activities related to oil and natural gas exploration.

This was said here yesterday by Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries Shabani Ali Othman when addressing reporters on various achievements as the government approaches four years under President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi's

leadership. He noted that the number of compensated citizens corresponds to 83 households affected by the seismic activities.

The minister reported that the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Authority is currently working to complete payments for the remaining 17 percent of citizens who have not yet received compensation, with a focus on the financial year 2024/2025.

In addition to compensation efforts, Othman highlighted the ministry's major achievements,

including establishment of a modern market and fish landing site in Malindi, which now serves over 10,000 people. The facility aims to enhance local fishing operations and improve livelihoods of those in the fishing community.

Furthermore, the ministry has successfully built a seaweed processing plant at Chamanangwe, Pemba, with a robust capacity for processing dried seaweed to bolster local economy and provide job opportunities in the area.

"Over the past four years, the

ministry has also constructed a fish feed production facility at Kama area, capable of producing five tonnes of feed daily. The facility will support local aquaculture efforts, promoting sustainable fishing practices," he said.

The minister further emphasized that among the key achievements of the past four years are important amendments to the oil and gas laws, aimed at attracting more investors to Zanzibar.

The legislative changes are designed to create a more conducive

environment for investment in the sector, which is vital for the region's economic development.

In a major outreach effort, the ministry has distributed 1,927 boats across Unguja and Pemba, with 70 percent benefiting young people and 90 percent of the seaweed farming boats allocated to women. "This aims at empowering local communities and encouraging sustainable fishing and farming practices," he said.

Revenue generated from fishing and conservation fees has seen remarkable growth, increasing from

1.65bn/- in 2021 to 6bn/- in 2023. The rise in revenue reflects the ministry's commitment to enhancing the fisheries sector and promoting sustainable practices.

The Minister called on the society to collaborate with the ministry to ensure that all villages have access to opportunities.

He urged local leaders and the public to actively participate in ongoing initiatives and support the ministry's efforts to foster economic growth and sustainable development in Zanzibar.



Dr Godwin Sharau (R), a paediatric heart surgeon with the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday briefing visiting Malawian Health minister Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda (2nd-L, foreground) on services available at the specialised medical facility. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

Minister calls for national nutrition assessment for combating malnutrition

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Health Jenista Mhagama has instructed all councils across the country to conduct a comprehensive assessment of nutritional status in order to identify malnutrition issues in each locality.

She directed that the evaluation should occur alongside implementation of nutrition improvement initiatives such as fortification of foods with essential nutrients.

Mhagama issued the directive here on Thursday while delivering a report on observance of National Nutrition Day, which was themed 'Your Health is Your Wealth, Consider What You Eat'.

She stated that if each council allocates funds, it will enable communities to gain better education and understanding at the grassroots level, particularly in schools, thereby reducing malnutrition and fostering healthier communities for economic and social development.

"I remind our health and nutrition professionals at all levels to ensure they provide education, including community awareness about proper eating habits and the use of fortified foods through various platforms," she said.

"I urge all councils to strengthen management of nutrition interventions at every level to ensure these vital initiatives are implemented effectively in accordance with existing policies, guidelines and regulations."

She also noted that communities continue to face various forms of malnutrition, including stunting and underweight particularly among children as well as micronutrient deficiencies, hidden hunger, anaemia, over nutrition and obesity hence non-communicable diseases.

"Malnutrition undermines children's physical and mental development, increases the risk of disease and leads to significant healthcare costs as the government allocates 5bn/- annually to health institutions to combat non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, kidney disease, heart conditions, and hypertension," she said.

Minister wants research to guide well drilling to address severe water shortage on Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Water Juma Aweso has instructed experts in the ministry to conduct thorough research to facilitate drilling of water wells to address severe water shortage in Dodoma city.

Aweso made the directive yesterday while speaking to residents of Nkuhungu Ward during a visit to inspect areas facing significant water

challenges.

According to Dodoma Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA), the daily water demand in Dodoma is 147 million litres while production stands at only 79 million litres, resulting in a shortfall of 68 million litres per day.

He explained that while the government has long-term plans, including sourcing water from Lake Victoria and constructing Farkwa

Dam, citizens cannot afford to wait.

He acknowledged that immediate alternative solutions must be identified to address the pressing issue.

"Water is irreplaceable; we cannot postpone action until these major projects are completed. We must ensure that research is conducted to drill wells that guarantee reliable access to water for residents," he said.

He emphasized the need for research to commence as soon as pos-

sible, enabling wells to be drilled and residents to start accessing water to alleviate the current hardships.

"As minister, my greatest satisfaction comes from seeing people receive water. There is no greater solution for someone without water than to provide it. Therefore, I will not be an obstacle preventing residents from accessing the essential resource," he said.

Additionally, he urged water

authorities across the country to implement prepaid water meters to eliminate complaints about residents being billed for water they do not receive.

"Prepaid meters are the solution to the problem of incorrect billing. There have been numerous complaints whereby individuals go without water for three months yet receive bills for 100,000/-. This is unacceptable; we must embrace tech-

nological advancements," he said.

Antony Mavunde, Minister for Minerals and Dodoma Urban legislator, expressed gratitude to the government for its efforts to address water challenges in the city.

"I sincerely thank you, the minister, for visiting Dodoma to inspect the areas facing significant water shortages. This city is growing rapidly, and the demand for water has doubled," he said.

REA now to focus more on renewable energy projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rural Energy Agency (REA) has said it will focus on developing renewable energy projects across Tanzania to enhance environmental conservation, ensure reliable electricity generation and create job opportunities.

This was said yesterday by Advera Mwijage, REA Director for Renewable Energy and Alternative Technologies, during a visit to Mwenga Hydro Power Project in Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

The facility generates four megawatts of hydroelectric power and plays a crucial role in meeting local energy needs.

Mwijage said that the project has received considerable support from the government through REA which has allocated approximately 16.6bn/-.

She said the funding includes 10bn/- earmarked for connecting new customers and 6.6bn/- dedicated to the project's implementation.

"We are committed to financing these projects while encouraging and empowering those involved in their construction to advance economic activities throughout the country," she said.

She expressed gratitude to the government for its ongoing efforts to collaborate with development partners.

The partnerships, according to her, have been instrumental in facilitating generation of electricity for the national grid, improving access for communities and creating much-needed em-

ployment opportunities.

Deograsias Massawe, Mwenga Hydro Company General Manager, highlighted the positive impact of the project, noting that it has enabled residents of 32 villages in Mufindi District to access reliable electricity.

"The access has greatly enhanced local economic activities, allowing businesses to thrive and improving quality of life for residents," he said.

Massawe further pointed out that the project has been particularly beneficial for entrepreneurs, as it has created jobs and increased operational efficiency.

By transitioning from fossil fuel usage to electric power, local businesses have seen substantial reduction in operating costs, thereby enhancing profitability.

He commended REA for its critical financial support of 16.6bn/-, which has facilitated connection of over 8,000 customers, including households, schools and health facilities.

Massawe thanked the government for support in enabling the project's implementation, including both funding and establishment of supportive policies within the renewable energy subsector.

The Mwenga Hydro project officially began production in 2012 and is poised to attract an additional 2,900 customers over the next two years. The expansion will further solidify the project's role in driving economic growth and promoting sustainable energy practices in the region.



Prof Kitila Mkumbo, Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), tables the proposed National Development Plan for financial year 2025/2026 in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt to merge, shut down dependent public entities

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's office (Planning and Investment) Prof. Kitila Mkumbo has announced that the government is examining 63 public enterprises that generate plenty of revenue but still rely on government subsidies.

He told the National Assembly on Thursday here that draft legislation has been prepared to merge some similar institutions while others may face closure due to

outdated operations.

Addressing the Public Investment Committee (PIC) report, Prof. Mkumbo noted the frustrations expressed by members of parliament regarding the inefficiency of some public institutions and their continued dependency on subsidies, which has resulted in significant losses for the government.

According to the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report for the 2022/23 fiscal year, the dependency of public enterprises

rose from 13.2bn/- to 17.4bn/-, prompting calls for the government to consider restructuring, liquidating or seeking public-private partnerships (PPP).

"The government undertakes substantial reforms in the management of these enterprises and addresses the recommendations made by the committee regarding the 63 public entities that generate considerable income while still receiving subsidies," he said.

He emphasized the critical nature of the issue, questioning jus-

tification for subsidies when the enterprises generate significant revenue.

"The entities make more income than the subsidies they receive; so, why do they still depend on government support? We take this advice seriously and will conduct a thorough analysis to determine the best way forward," he said.

The minister confirmed that the government conducted an assessment of the enterprises and identified several that are either no longer relevant or could be better

managed by the private sector.

"Several institutions are to be merged and we have prepared draft legislation that will be presented to parliament when the time is right for discussion. If deemed appropriate, we expect parliament to take action to enact the necessary laws," he said.

Additionally, he indicated that there are public enterprises recommended for dissolution based on their outdated mandates. The relevant sector ministers will bring the proposals before parlia-

ment. "This is a complex process, as the committee has indicated; no one wishes to be dissolved or merged. However, the President has initiated these steps, and as a government, we will implement them and present relevant bills to parliament at the appropriate time," Mkumbo said.

However, he clarified that not every public enterprise is expected to be profitable, nor should every organisation operate as a business.



Prof Peter Msofe (R), Director of Higher Education in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, and visiting World Bank Team Leader Prof Roberta Malee follow remarks by University of Dar es Salaam officials on Thursday on the ongoing construction at the university of a World Bank-funded building dedicated to addressing gender and disability issues. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

UDSM to have special centre for gender, disability support

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has launched a project to construct a dedicated building aimed at addressing gender issues and providing services for individuals with disabilities.

During a site inspection of the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Lulu Mahai, UDSM Institute of Gender Studies Director explained that the new facility will support students, staff and guests with various disabilities, offering both social and academic assistance to ensure everyone receives the necessary services.

Dr Mahai emphasised that the building will help create a safe environment free from gender-based violence, aligning with the university's goals of teaching, research and community engagement.

"It will also be equipped with modern assistive devices to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access services they require," she said.

She added: "The University is committed to making the space a safe haven, free from gender-based violence and any form of abuse. This centre will feature a gender desk to address challenges related to gender issues and ensure rights and gender equality for all students and staff."

Dr Mahai noted that construction of the centre is part of UDSM's long-term strategy, outlined in its policy from 2021 to 2061, focusing on improving gender issues and ensuring inclusion of all groups in higher edu-

cation.

She mentioned that the centre is expected to serve over 45,000 students and 3,000 staff members.

Erick Nyanda, a student with disability at UDSM, expressed optimism about the project, stating that the centre will serve as a vital link between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers.

He highlighted that the centre will enable all students to share ideas, participate in sports and engage in various physical activities, fostering unity and collaboration.

"We will receive direct support for our specific needs, including psychological counselling and access to modern assistive learning technology," Nyanda said.

Mashukura Kabwogi, a sign language expert at UDSM, remarked that the centre will facilitate access to appropriate services for students with disabilities, allowing them to learn without barriers.

"UDSM is the first university in Tanzania to build a facility dedicated to addressing gender issues and serving people with disabilities," he noted.

Dr Liberato Haule, Deputy Coordinator of Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project at UDSM, announced that the university has secured \$47.5 million (109bn/-) to enhance education infrastructure. He explained that the funds will be allocated for construction of facilities across campuses in Kagera, Lindi and Mtwara regions, including classrooms, dormitories and laboratories.

Health threats of climate change reach record level, report shows

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A NEW report by global health experts has found that climate change is raising temperatures to dangerous levels, resulting in more deaths and spread of infectious diseases.

The Lancet Countdown report published on Wednesday found that people in every country face record-breaking

threats to health and survival from the rapidly changing climate.

Conducted by 122 leading global experts, it shows that heat-related deaths, food insecurity, and the spread of infectious diseases caused by the climate crisis have reached record levels.

"Once again, last year broke climate change records, with extreme heatwaves, deadly

weather events, and devastating wildfires affecting people around the world," said Dr Marina Romanello, executive director of the report at University College London.

She said the evidence shows that climate change "is a fundamental health issue" and no individual or economy on the planet is immune to it.

"We're seeing that the death of a very vulnerable age group

of people over 65 years of age that is due to extreme heat exposure have increased," she said.

"We're also seeing, as a result of extreme heat exposure, that people's capacity to work outdoors is increasingly limited. And the health of workers is being put at risk."

The authors found that in 2023, people were exposed to, on average, an unprecedented

50 more days of health-threatening temperatures than expected without climate change.

They also say that the higher frequency of heatwaves and droughts was associated with 151 million more people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity in 124 countries in 2022.

"Almost 50 per cent of the global land area is now affect-

ed by extreme droughts. And we've seen what this looks like in terms of the threats to people's health," said Romanello.

"In cases like we've seen in Somalia in the Horn of Africa, that acute hunger situation that was exacerbated by the drought. So, health implications are enormous."

Ahead of the COP29 climate summit in November, the experts are calling on govern-

ments to redirect the trillions of dollars spent on fossil fuels towards protecting people's health, lives, and livelihood.

"There are resources that could be used to strengthen our health systems to support vulnerable communities. Those are resources that should not be going to perpetuating the use, the expansion of fossil fuels," said Romanello.

Pakistan begins export of tractors to Tanzania

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN has started export of tractors to Tanzania with the first consignment of Pakistan-made tractors, marking a major milestone in the country's trade relations with East Africa.

According to the country's commerce ministry, the development came as a result of concerted efforts by Pakistani authorities at the highest level.

The process was facilitated by Pakistan's High Commission in Kenya, where High Commissioner Ibrar Hussain and Commercial Counsellor Adeela Younis coordinated closely with the Kenyan and Tanzania-based Masai Trekta Company Ltd to make the transaction successful.

Masai Trekta Company Ltd, having recently opened its tractor distribution head office in Tanzania, has become a key partner in distributing Pakistani ATS tractors across Tanzania and potentially expanding further across the region.

The tractors were imported from Pak-Tractors House, a prominent manufacturing company based in Lahore.

The commerce ministry further stated that the arrival of these tractors is expected to strengthen Pakistan's export

portfolio in East Africa and opens up the possibility for an increase in tractor exports to Tanzania and neighboring countries.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan praised the collaborative efforts between government officials, TDAP, and the Pakistani High Commission in Nairobi, expressing hope that this achievement would inspire similar partnerships in the future.

He emphasized that such trade developments would not only support Pakistan's manufacturing sector but also enhance the nation's economic footprint in the African market.

This accomplishment reflects Pakistan's commitment to expanding trade partnerships globally, with a strong focus on Africa.

The partnership with Masai Trekta Company Ltd is expected to drive further export growth, benefitting Pakistan's agricultural machinery sector and providing East Africa with high-quality, reliable equipment.

Under the guidance of Federal Minister for Commerce Khan and Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul, Pakistan High Commission in Nairobi facilitated a Kenyan and Tanzania-based Company Masai Trekta Company Ltd to import tractors from Pakistan.



Riziki Juma Pembe (L), Zanzibar's Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children minister, opens the First Tanzania Women in Aviation Leaders' Conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa must demand equity in global health, demands AHF

By Special Correspondent

AIDS Healthcare Foundation has urged African leaders to shape Africa's future in global health security by demanding an equitable agreement that works for all nations, particularly those in the Global South.

The foundation made the call as part of its Save Our Society (SOS) campaign, leading up to the next round of World Health Organization Pandemic Agreement negotiations on November 4-15, 2024.

The pandemic agreement is to ensure responses to future pandemics and ensure equitable access to commodities and vaccines, among others.

The foundation, in a statement on Wednesday, stated that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep inequalities, with 85

per cent of African countries unable to vaccinate their populations while wealthier nations hoarded vaccines.

It noted that the upcoming Pandemic Agreement talks are Africa's chance to ensure these disparities are never repeated.

The AHF Nigeria Country Programme Director, Dr Echezy Ijezie, said, "For a Pandemic Agreement to truly serve Africa's needs, leaders across the continent must demand equity at its core, including ensuring fair and timely access to vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments through the establishment of regional manufacturing hubs and binding commitments on technology transfer across Africa.

"The pandemic has shown us that the health of one nation affects the health of all. Africans cannot wait for handouts in times of crisis, as was the case with COV-

ID-19 and what is currently happening with insufficient access to vaccines in response to the Mpox outbreak. We must demand the tools, knowledge, and capacity to protect ourselves and ensure no country is left behind."

It highlighted that African nations must be able to secure the knowledge and resources necessary to produce vaccines and other critical health commodities independently, reducing reliance on external suppliers and empowering the continent to respond to future pandemics with greater resilience.

It emphasised that sustainable financing is another vital component that African leaders must push for to support pandemic preparedness and health infrastructure.

"Africa's leaders have an essential opportunity to influence the final terms of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. By standing firm on

these issues—equity, regional production, technology transfer, and sustainable financing—African nations can secure a fairer and more resilient future for the continent. The time to act is now," it added.

The foundation, however, demands concrete mechanisms to facilitate the local production of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics in the Global South.

"This requires a binding roadmap for the transfer of knowledge, technology, and long-term sustainable financing, as outlined in Articles 9, 10, and 11 of the draft agreement.

We are asking for enforceable provisions that ensure technology transfer is not restricted to voluntary and mutually agreed terms but allows low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) the same flexibilities that rich nations like the United States

have to use non-voluntary means and ancillary measures to address public health emergencies and other crises.

"The agreement must secure long-term, binding financial commitments from high-income countries to support pandemic preparedness and response in LMICs. Voluntary contributions alone will not suffice, as outlined in Article 20, and effective global health governance now recognizes the crucial role of civil society and other non-state actors in decision-making processes. Embracing a governance model that includes their meaningful participation can enhance legitimacy, bolster accountability, and transform the global health security architecture into a more equitable and effective system to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to global health threats," it concluded.



Works ministry permanent secretary Aisha Amour (R) receives a gift from Tanzania Women Contractors Association president Judith Odunga shortly after opening the Fourth Women Contractors conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

UN to help famers in four regions boost production via digital data

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AT LEAST 500,000 smallholder farmers in Tanzania are set to gain essential support from the United Nations Joint Programme on data for digital agricultural transformation, targeting Ruvuma, Manyara, Kigoma and Dodoma regions.

The three-year programme aims to drive agricultural transformation through digital innovation, equipping farmers with needed assistance to boost production.

Speaking during the official launch of the programme in Dodoma recently, Gerald Mveli, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture emphasized that the initiative will empower farmers, with 60 percent of the beneficiaries being women and 20 percent youth.

"The approach aims not only to boost productivity but also to improve farmers' access to markets and financial services, ultimately enhancing their livelihoods," he said.

The three-year, \$3 million programme, co-financed by the European Union and the UN through the Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund, seeks to transform agriculture and people's livelihoods.

"Today marks a significant step toward our shared vision of a digital future for agriculture—one that empowers smallholder farmers, strengthens agri-food systems and accelerates the achievement of Agenda 10/30 and the SDGs," Mveli said.

He encouraged stakeholders from public and private sectors, as well as smallholder farmers, to embrace digital technologies as essential tools for agricultural transformation, rural upliftment and a brighter future for Tanzania.

Mveli highlighted that agriculture is a cornerstone of Tanzania's economy; contributing 26 percent to the GDP, employing 65 percent of the workforce while also supplying 65 percent of industrial raw materials and accounting for 30 percent of export earnings.

Despite its potential, the sector faces systemic challenges, including low productivity, limited market access and the increasing impact of climate change.

UN warns of famine worsened by conflict and climate shocks

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SEVERE food crises threaten hundreds of thousands of people in vulnerable areas, including the Palestinian territories, Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, and Mali, where populations face or near famine, says a report by the United Nations' food agencies released on Thursday.

Conflicts, economic instability, and climate shocks -- combined with reduced funding for emergency food and agriculture assistance -- are driving alarming levels of acute food insecurity, the report warned.

"Immediate, scaled-up intervention is needed to prevent further deterioration in these already vulnerable regions," it added.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme said acute food insecurity is projected to worsen across 16 "hunger hotspots" during the next six months in 14 countries and two regions.

Sudan, South Sudan, Haiti, Mali and the Palestinian territories remain at the "highest concern level," the report said.

Chad, Lebanon, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen are classified as "hotspots of very high

concern," where large numbers of people are facing or are projected to face critical levels of acute food insecurity.

"Conflict and armed violence continue to be the primary drivers of hunger in numerous hotspots, disrupting food systems, displacing populations, and obstructing humanitarian access," the report warned.

FAO and WFP experts believe that the conflict in Sudan is likely to expand, "driving mass displacement, resulting in famine levels likely to persist and the number of people in catastrophic conditions to increase."

That will further aggravate the regional

humanitarian crisis, resulting in increased cross-border movements to neighbouring countries, primarily Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic.

The UN agencies also stressed that the ongoing conflict in the Palestinian territories has driven "unprecedented needs, with near-total displacement of the population and an increased risk of regional spillover."

In Lebanon, the ongoing escalation of conflict is significantly increasing the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and is severely impacting levels of

acute food insecurity, they added.

Since the last report in May 2024, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia and the Niger have been added to the hunger hotspots list, partly due to the impact of climate extremes.

Beyond conflict, weather extremes and increased climate variability are exacerbating acute food insecurity in many regions, the report said.

La Niña -- a natural climate pattern that influences global weather marked by cooler ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific -- is expected to persist through March 2025, with a significant impact on rainfall patterns and temperatures.

Chinese delegation visits Namibia to strengthen cordial bilateral ties

WINDHOEK

A DELEGATION from the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by Vice Minister of Education Wu Yan, visited Namibia from October 24 to 28 to discuss areas of bilateral cooperation with officials in the southern African nation.

During the visit, the CPC delegation met with key Namibian leaders, including Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who also serves as vice president of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party Secretary General Sophia Shaningwa, and Nathalia Goagoses, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation.

The delegation also connected with grassroots organizations in the Erongo Region, where they discussed Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the recent outcomes of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee.

Namibian officials highlighted the importance of the third plenary session and expressed a strong commitment to work with China to implement key agreements made between their respective heads of state. Both sides emphasized their mutual interest in advancing the stable development of the comprehensive strategic partnership

between Namibia and China.

CPC is the founding and sole ruling party of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Under the leadership of Mao Zedong, the CCP emerged victorious in the Chinese Civil War against the Kuomintang.



The delegation also connected with grassroots organizations in the Erongo Region, where they discussed Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era and the recent outcomes of the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee



Kai Mollel, Head of Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Business Incubator Unit, speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the seventh phase of supplier development programme for women and youths engaged in food businesses. The aim was to arm them with much-needed skills and knowledge and connect them to capital and quality markets. This was also expected to help their goods meet international standards. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South Sudan declares cholera outbreak in big refugee camp

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's Ministry of Health on Monday declared a cholera outbreak in the congested Renk transit camp in the northern Upper Nile State, which is currently hosting people fleeing conflict from neighbouring Sudan.

Yolanda Awel Deng, the minister of health, said that they have since Sunday confirmed 49 cholera cases among refugees, returnees and the

host community.

"The Ministry of Health is aware of the difficult conditions refugees and returnees face, such as overcrowding and poor water and sanitation, which can lead to outbreaks; however, the ministry is working with health and water sanitation and hygiene cluster partners on the ground to ensure that the risk of the outbreak spreading is minimized," Awel said in a joint statement with the World Health Organization

(WHO) issued in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. The minister disclosed that the Ministry of Health and WHO have taken steps to manage cases reported, adding that they are ensuring that every contact on the ground is followed. She urged the communities to practice good and safe behaviours, such as consistent handwashing, use of latrines, and proper food handling throughout the outbreak season.

The declaration of the cholera

outbreak comes after reports of 44 suspected cholera cases and six laboratory-confirmed cases on Oct. 23 in Renk. It follows a meeting with President Salva Kiir aimed at securing government support for better access to affected areas.

The ministry said that the first suspected case was reported on Sept. 28 after the Renk County Health Department got a report of a suspected cholera patient at Renk's point of entry.

Humphrey Karamagi, the WHO representative for South Sudan, believed the announcement by the Ministry of Health about the outbreak enables the public to take prevention measures and helps health partners take the necessary steps to contain it and unlocks the required resources for fighting the outbreak. Karamagi said that the UN health agency remains committed to supporting the Ministry of Health in enhancing

disease surveillance, improving response coordination and ensuring the availability of medical supplies. "This includes assistance with case management, laboratory testing, sample collection, transportation, and follow-up."

South Sudan is currently hosting more than 810,000 individuals, including returnees and refugees who fled fighting in mid-April 2023 in neighboring Sudan, according to the UN Refugee Agency or UNHCR.

Botswana unveils electric boat to strengthen e-mobility initiative

GABORONE

BOTSWANA has officially launched its latest innovation in electric transportation, the Electric Boat (eBoat), marking a significant milestone in the country's commitment to achieving e-mobility.

The initiative adds to a series of green transport products unveiled by the government in recent weeks, as highlighted by President Mokgweetsi Masisi in a speech delivered on his behalf by Vice President Slumber Tsogwane on Sunday.

"We stand at the forefront of a pivotal moment as a nation in our journey toward a greener, environmentally-friendly, and more sustainable transportation future," said Tsogwane at the launching ceremony held at Botswana's northwestern resort township of Kasane.

While recognizing that the steps may seem small, Tsogwane affirmed that Botswana is aligning with the goals outlined in its Energy Transition Strategy, which aims to increase the use of renewable energy sources across various sectors, including the production and distribution of goods and services.

The e-mobility initiative is seen as a vital response to pressing environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and the depletion of natural resources, said Tsogwane, pointing out that petroleum-powered transportation contributes to pollution in waterways and exacerbates climate-related issues.

"We, in Botswana have not been spared, as our rivers and related ecological systems continue to bear the brunt of these life-threatening developments, which demand of us to transition to cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable alternative modes of transport," said Tsogwane.

Earlier this month, Botswana unveiled its first locally assembled electric vehicles in Gaborone, the country's capital, with support from two Chinese vehicle manufacturing companies.

These electric sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and buses are set to hit local roads soon, as the government promotes them to generate interest in e-mobility solutions, according to Tsogwane.



CHAOS: No way through as all manner of traffic comes together, blocking a busy street in Dar es Salaam's Kwembe suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Rwanda launches mass tree planting campaign

KIGALI

THOUSANDS of Rwandans participated in a mass tree-planting campaign at the weekend in eastern Rwanda, advancing the nation's goal to plant 65 million trees by the end of the fiscal year.

Championed by Rwanda's Ministry of Environment, this campaign aims to boost forest

cover, support environmental conservation, combat climate change, protect water resources, and enhance local livelihoods.

During the launch in Kamamana Village, Rwamagana District, where 25,000 trees were planted across 17 hectares, Environment Minister Valentine Uwamariya encouraged residents to foster a tree-

planting culture and maintain planted trees to ensure their growth and intended impact. Uwamariya emphasized the collective responsibility of safeguarding Rwanda's forests.

Data from the ministry show that forests now cover 30.4 percent of Rwanda's land area, totalling 724,695 hectares – a result of ongoing reforestation and conservation efforts. To

further protect these forests, the government urges citizens to reduce wood and charcoal usage by adopting alternative energy sources like biogas, gas, and electricity.

Explaining the rationale behind launching the afforestation season in Eastern Province, Minister of Environment Dr Valentine Uwamariya stated: "The Eastern Province

has limited forest cover and receives minimal rainfall. By increasing the number of trees, we aim to enhance future rainfall. Whether they are indigenous or exotic species, planting more trees will contribute to increased precipitation."

Fruits trees donated by the Embassy of Israel in Rwanda were among those planted

during the Umuganda in Rwamagana to promote overall well-being and healthy nutrition.

Minister Uwamariya emphasized the importance of planting trees at home, particularly fruit-bearing ones, to support good nutrition. Schools are also encouraged to plant edible trees to enhance children's diets.

Regarding tree management, Dr Uwamariya assured that measures are in place to ensure the successful growth and maintenance of the newly planted trees. He highlighted the ongoing TREPA project in the eastern province, emphasizing the commitment to monitoring and achieving the project's goals to safeguard the trees.

Agriculture ministers meet in Kenya to tackle locust threat

NAIROBI

AFRICAN ministers of agriculture began a two-day meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday to discuss ways of controlling the locusts that threaten the region's food security.

The Governing Council of Ministers of the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa is expected to forge a stronger regional collaboration mechanism for sustainable management of migratory and new emerging pests and diseases in the region.

Andrew Karanja, Kenya's cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, called for sustained monitoring, surveillance and information sharing.

"We need to continue pooling resources to facilitate burden sharing, expertise and equipment to promote regional development," Karanja told ministers and experts from East, Central, and Southern Africa.

Migratory pests negatively impact national food security and pull back efforts toward the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals on zero hunger and poverty reduction, Karanja said.

Kenya experienced the worst desert

locust invasion in 2019-2021 after a calm period of over 70 years.

The swarms spread in over 28 counties across the country, decimating thousands of hectares of pasture and cropland.

Karanja said efforts need to be undertaken in the detection of pests in natural breeding sites such as game parks and conservancies for quelea birds and African armyworms. He called for intensified research and development focusing on innovations of environmentally friendly biopesticide products that target tree locusts, African migratory locusts, desert locusts and quelea birds.



We need to continue pooling resources to facilitate burden sharing, expertise and equipment to promote regional development," Karanja told ministers and experts from East, Central, and Southern Africa



Pupils of Kazamoyo Primary School in Endiamtu ward in Simanjiro District perform a play during the school's Standard Seven graduation ceremony on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Food delivery service booms in Ethiopia with rising awareness

ADDIS ABABA

INSIDE a tall building in Adama, the capital of Ethiopia's Oromia regional state, Kalkidan Daniel fields calls from customers one after another, serving them their favourite meals from hotels and restaurants across the city.

Daniel works for Pick Delivery, the first online food delivery service provider in Adama, about 100 km east of Addis Ababa.

"We faced a very difficult time when we launched the business two years ago. Local residents lacked awareness on online food delivery service in the city," said Daniel, who heads the company's customer care service.

The number of food delivery service users in the city has since

surged as many realize how easy it is to get their favourite dishes through Pick Delivery.

Founded in July 2022, Pick Delivery operates as an intermediary between restaurants and customers and fills orders placed on its service app or through its call center. The meals are delivered by backpack bikers.

"The business is going well and becoming more and more popular," Daniel said. "We are witnessing an increasing number of orders every day via app and phone calls."

Yisak Sisay, co-founder and chief operating manager of Pick Delivery, said the firm learned from experience with a China-invested food delivery company in Addis Ababa.

Food delivery service is relatively new in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous nation with a population of about 120 million. A small portion of residents in Addis Ababa or Adama are familiar with the service, leaving the market untapped across the East African country.

Sisay said Pick Delivery had to make intensive promotion of the service after its launch as it was a new experience for city residents.

"In a city like Adama where online food delivery service was unknown, it was difficult to launch the business due to absence of the necessary technology, infrastructure and know-how about the business," he recalled.

"At the beginning, we were receiving five orders a day. These

days, however, we receive and serve up to 80 customers a day. That is really a big leap," said Sisay, noting that the company now gets orders from all corners of the city.

Pick Delivery also delivers products from traders, who sell their products online, to potential buyers across the Adama.

According to Sisay, foods are delivered to customers in less than 45 minutes. "Any loss will be upon us in case customers shift locations or fail to receive calls from backpack bikers."

He said online food delivery services require a friendly and easy platform to enable customers to place orders quickly and a strong partnership between the food delivery company on one side and restaurants on the other.

Amanuel Demissie is one of the 25 backpack bikers hired by Pick Delivery to pick up foods from hotels and restaurants and deliver them to customers after receiving calls or text messages from the company.

"I used to ride a bicycle just for recreation and move from one place to another. I had never imagined that I would have got a job with it," said Demissie.

Bilisuma Teshome, one of the customers of Pick Delivery, said food delivery service provides a range of benefits to customers including saving time and energy.

"I order my favourite food online or by making calls to the company. I really enjoy their swift delivery service," she said.

Teshome, a manager of an ad-

vertising and printing company, said she gets her favourite food in less than 25 minutes after she makes an order unless the restaurant from which the meal comes from is located far away from her office.

Africa's food delivery business, just like the entire e-commerce industry, is yet to fully develop, due to such factors as inadequate internet connectivity and payment gateways, and logistics barriers.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa are the only African countries where the share of online shoppers exceeds 8 percent of their respective population. In most other African countries, the ratio is below 5 percent



It's a hearty welcome to passengers aboard an Air Tanzania maiden flight from Dubai shortly after landing at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Malawi announces fuel rationing as shortages continue worsening

LILONGWE

MALAWI Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) has introduced fuel rationing in response to a worsening shortage in the country.

Henry Kachaje, MERA Chief Executive Officer, said in a statement dated October 29 that the move is meant to "ensure fair access to fuel across Malawi."

He said MERA will direct deliveries to specific filling stations, ensuring full compliance to prevent hoarding, black-market sales, and attendant overcharging.

Malawi has been experiencing a fuel shortage since October 13 due to a shortage of foreign exchange, which forced importers to stop their operations.

On October 23, Minister of Information and Digitalization Moses Kunkuyu told local media that since June, the government had been sourcing only \$37million every month, far less than the 51 million dollars needed for importation of commodities.

He said Malawi had secured \$50million from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to help ease the fuel shortage.

Experts say Africa needs to integrate AI into healthcare sector to enhance service delivery

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

WITH proper safeguards in place, AI can become a powerful ally in enhancing healthcare delivery in Africa, experts said on Wednesday during the ongoing Africa HealthTech Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

Rwandan Minister of ICT and Innovation Paula Inga-

bire called for collaboration to address challenges in delivering equitable and quality care, ensure equity and unlock AI's potential for improved diagnosis, disease surveillance and access to healthcare.

Ingabire noted that emerging technologies like AI, robotics, Blockchain, and internet of things are critical in reshaping community

healthcare across the Africa region.

"Imagine a future where community health workers use AI-powered mobile devices for diagnostics in remote areas, and governments can predict disease outbreaks weeks or months in advance," Ingabire said. "Technology isn't just about the tools, it's about the people. It's about improving

lives, fostering well-being, and building resilient health systems that leave no one behind."

Marc Twagirumukiza, a delegate from Ghent University, Belgium, said that AI should not be viewed as a replacement for medical doctors but rather as a tool to empower them and enhance their work. He said that Africa has all the necessary

elements to integrate AI into its healthcare sector effectively, eliminating the need for further experimentation.

Twagirumukiza also called for collective efforts to co-create solutions that are tailored to the unique needs of local African communities, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in advancing healthcare innovation.

Hiroki Ishida, a partici-

pant from Africa Healthcare Master Fund, a non-governmental organization, said collaboration is essential for driving meaningful change and enhancing the impact of innovations in the healthcare landscape.

The third edition of the Africa HealthTech Summit, due to close Thursday, drew ministers of health and ICT, leading tech innovators and

healthcare professionals from across the continent.

Held under the theme of "Innovating for Community Health Unleashing the Power of AI," delegates have been exploring ways to realize the potential of innovations like artificial intelligence, the internet of things, robotics, drones and blockchain to tackle Africa's most pressing health challenges.

The Guardian

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
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With 'largely below normal' rains likely, challenges will be different

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has just unveiled its predictions on the outlook for end-of-the-year rains and the long rains expected between this month and April 2025.

One predictable piece of advice is that farmers need to plant early and adopt best practices for managing soil moisture if they are to make the best out of the climate outlook.

The key prediction is below-normal rainfall in a big number of regions and normal in other areas.

For the record, a recent TMA briefing showed that largely below-normal rains are expected in Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe, Singida and Dodoma regions, northern and eastern parts of Lindi, and northern areas of Mbeya and Iringa regions.

This is to say that agro-extension officers - rather than farmers, really - need to focus on irrigation and water conservation.

There was equally an appeal for strengthening agricultural infrastructure and implementing timely pest control strategies.

Whatever one makes out of this projection, as it relates to a particular district and its rainfall outlook and indeed different parts of that district in relation to how rainfall areas are grouped, it needs a careful and intense presentation for localised understanding.

It is one thing to say that many regions will have below-normal rainfall and much fewer normal or above normal rainfall. What would have to be raised at a community extension session on the rainfall outlook is how rainfall is changing this year.

A farmer, and even an extension officer, does not become more informed merely by understanding that there will be less rain this year than last year but rather how far a particular district risks flooding, drought or late rains.

If possible, the prediction needs to be detailed enough right to the ward level so that extension officers can foretell how quickly and seriously this or that safeguard needs to be taken.

Risk of floods is one thing while risk of drought is quite another, in which case giving a general prediction on the outlook for rains when addressing farmers directly might serve little purpose.

What goes for below-normal rains equally applies to regions or areas predicted to have basically normal and even above-normal rains, predicted for Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara, southern and western parts of Lindi, plus southern areas of Mbeya, Iringa and Morogoro regions.

Surprisingly, there was something like a prediction that rains 'will' fall from the fourth week of October, starting with Kigoma.

Weather prediction is, admittedly, not an easy matter as it has divergent sources of precipitation leading to rains - not just ocean currents and temperature convergence, wind or atmospheric pressure changes, etc.

While the problem stands to limit ability by weather agencies to pinpoint the likely weather pattern as the regional and district levels are mired in probability the more one tries to be specific, that doesn't allow for the tonality of appealing to farmers directly on what to do.

Weather prediction needs to be a course for the Regional Administration and Local Government authorities, along with Agriculture, Works and the Disaster Unit in the Prime Minister's Office also using a detailed rainfall map to sketch out what precautions are needed and where.

Appealing directly to farmers may have its utility but it might also look evasive, leading to a blame game involving agencies supposed to move forward as a united army but not really doing so.

WWF collaboration in conservation is technical, as the rest is budgetary

RECENT pleas to WWF to empower communities in the country economically chiefly as a way of helping address environmental degradation look valid from a factual viewpoint.

These were remarks at a private meeting with top WWF policy makers, but the agency's reaction or position is likely to conform to donor 'usage' as it stands. UN agencies play a technical role in working with government departments, as aid is bilateral.

This time around the occasion was a meeting on the sidelines of the 16th summit for environmental conservation held in the Colombian city of Cali.

It was an appropriate venue for the meeting as the city is almost enveloped by a part of the continental Amazon forest, a biodiversity cornucopia. The issue was costs for tackling the root causes of environmental degradation and how to meet them.

While the minister leading our country's delegation was right in observing that communities face challenges in the form of low income, the presumed answer was inaccurate: that WWF invest in ways for such people to counter impacts of environmental degradation. It isn't a question of investing that is raised but something like facilitation or compensation, but in donor literature all funding is investment, even when it isn't geared at making profit or doing business.

On a positive note, the WWF executive praised Tanzania for establishing national biodiversity targets that stand a chance of making a

substantial contribution to reducing biodiversity loss.

The 2019 decision to scrap most hand-carried single-use plastic bag usage came in for praise, with our said to have set the pace in the sub-region.

While that may not be where the minister was standing, the point was clear - that in both cases one is talking about national targets, objectives and decisions.

Let us see how much the government can make use of the WWF executive's advice that Tanzania seek to increase its international influence and momentum in ongoing global discussions on establishing an International Agreement on Plastic Management (Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee on Plastic, ICNP).

We don't hear much about the issue and the government isn't seeking to canvass views in the region on the matter, as it is a regulatory matter left to each country to chart out. Much the same goes for climate issues.

The issue about climate change effects is not whether it is from our budgetary funds or it is the multi-lateral agencies that need to foot the bill. Asking the world to finance climate change or environmental conservation generally, outside specific projects following the usual modality if presented to the likes of the World Bank, is much similar to suggesting that the matter is not important enough for budgetary privations to meet such needs or targets. One way is to convert idle conservation sites into assets, not just forests, as tried.

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Law and order can't thrive without justice

By Jerry Rawlings

IT is an honour to be invited to speak on the theme "How good governance could be achieved in Africa". Our continent continues to bleed from its inability to institute permanent structures that will guarantee good governance and lead us into economic prosperity.

The continent is still saddled with some politicians and personalities who have a parochial agenda and are aided by international interests to impose their selfish and exploitative agenda against the will of the majority.

It is significant that this subject is being discussed as we celebrate the centenary of Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah - the man who led Ghana's independence and served as a beacon for the rest of the continent.

Nkrumah had a dream of self-sustainability and social democracy that many on the continent have today decided to embrace after years of wandering and tinkering with unbridled capitalism to disastrous results.

What is good governance and what are the yardsticks for measuring these? The World Bank refers to good governance as effectiveness and efficiency in public sector management, accountability and responsiveness of public officials to the citizenry, rule of law and public access to information and transparency.

Good governance also involves effective policymaking, transparency of governmental programmes and actions, accountability, the protection of human rights and working relationship between the public, private and civil sectors in determining how power is exercised.

In discussing such topics I am always inclined to use Ghana as a reference. One basic tenet of good governance is ensuring that the will of the people remains supreme in all governmental decisions.

Governments often issue statements after forcing bitter policy decisions down the throats of the people, saying such bitterness is temporary and will subside sooner rather than later.

What many in leadership positions forget is that the ordinary citizenry, however low their educational levels are, can be discerning and have alternative opinions that may very well work as well as - or better than - what the government proposes.

When we talk of good governance, the international community or the West always refers to their version of democracy as the best antidote.

Ghana had to endure over a decade of painful political metamorphoses. The inability of our leaders to stay focused on the national vision and to respect the will and wishes of the people eventually led to the violent revolt of 1979 when Ghana had totally collapsed, a minority had hijacked the country and corruption was at its peak.

The 1979 insurrection, short-lived as it was, later gave birth to the December 31, 1981 Revolution - the revolution that came



to stop the rot and re-awaken the Ghanaian to participatory governance. I do not wish to digress but it is important to outline the sequence of events that led eventually to the resumption of multi-party democracy in Ghana in 1992.

The period between 1982 and 1992 saw a Ghanaian re-awakening only comparable to the period leading up to independence. Ghanaians took up the mantle to manage their own destiny. There was leadership all right but right from the grassroots decisions were being taken that affected the very wellbeing of the people and such decisions did not emanate from Accra or Central Government.

People's Defence Committees, Workers Defence Committees, District Committees were all established to tackle matters at local level. This level of decentralisation eventually led to the District Assembly concept that has been adopted to this day and which ensures that government keeps in touch with the people. The period in question saw the Ghanaian people tasting real power.

In 1992 Ghana once again reverted to multiparty democracy under the fourth republican constitution. We did not adopt the process hook, line and sinker as the West clamoured for. We ensured that the District Assemblies

concept still remained to support the central government in grassroots democracy.

District and municipal assemblies have till today supported the central government and allow for people to identify directly with what the government is doing through their own active participation.

For Africa to achieve good governance, countries, sovereign as they are, have to adopt effective means of allowing the populace to play a sustained role in governance.

Views have to be sought not only from parliamentarians, as they most often are unable to sample general opinion and also tend to support policy on strict party lines sometimes to the detriment of their communities.

Politics of impunity and terrorising the citizenry as witnessed in Ghana between 2000 and 2008 could lead to revolt of different dimensions. In the last Ghanaian election it had to take General Muktarr, an envoy of President Umaru Yar'Adua of Nigeria, to warn John Agyekum Kufuor of the dire consequence of stealing the election as he had done in 2004.

Try as the incumbent did to doctor the result, the people decided that enough was enough and booted the New Patriotic Party out of power.

Many talk of law and order as an

other ingredient of good governance, emphasizing that enhancing these will lead to good governance. However, law and order can only work well if there is justice.

One of our failings as a continent is our inability to punish so-called white-collar crimes even though they lead to the impoverishment of our people oftentimes leading to their deaths or incapacitation.

We have been witnesses to politicians of the immediate past ignoring the needs of the people and looting the nation's wealth, contracts awarded to their kith, kin and cronies and funds allocated for national development misappropriated in nonchalant fashion.

Sadly, while the people voted for change to ensure that such criminality is punished, some of our leaders today seem to think that punishing these wrongs is not right for the political climate and will rather lead to instability.

This is bizarre and an affront to the ideals of good governance. Good governance will never thrive if the wheels of justice are not seen to be grinding at steady pace.

Without justice law and order will never thrive. The people will eventually take the law into their own hands to extract the justice that their chosen leaders have refused to apply.

Africa cannot afford to delay justice. The moral and social fabric of the society must not be allowed to degenerate. Justice is what makes most advanced economies thrive and which ensures a sense of confidence in the political system, as no politician or political leader can hold the people to ransom. Everyone must be seen to be equal to the law.

A UK court has recently indicted some leading political appointees during my tenure, some of whom are in the current government, for accepting bribes ostensibly to influence contracts for the construction company Mabey and Johnson.

I issued a statement immediately supporting the government's call for investigations. I hope that when these allegations are proven those guilty will receive no preferential treatment.

As leader and founder of the NDC, I will continue to harp on the need for justice at all levels and I am hope President (John Atta) Mills will do the right thing by pursuing this matter to its logical conclusion. As we call for good governance across the continent, we must be seen to be practising the ideals that we preach.

• This is a slightly abridged version of part of address delivered by FL. Lt. (rtd) Jerry John Rawlings, former President of Ghana, at the Pan African Congress in Munich on October 24, 2009.

Telesphor Magobe

Judiciary as organ with the final decision in dispensation of justice

THE Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (as amended until 2005) acknowledges that Tanzanians have firmly and solemnly resolved to build a society founded on the principles of freedom, justice, fraternity and concord.

It also acknowledges that those principles can only be realised in a democratic society in which the executive is accountable to a legislature consisting of elected members and representative of the people. Likewise, the executive is accountable to a judiciary which is independent and dispenses justice without fear or favour to ensure all human rights are preserved and protected and the duties of every person are faithfully discharged. When this happens justice is not only done, but is also seen to be done.

By virtue of Article 107A(1) of the Constitution, the judiciary is the organ with the final decision in the dispensation of justice in the United Republic of Tanzania. In delivering its decisions, the judiciary shall exercise impartiality to all without due regard to a person's social or economic status and shall not delay the dispensation of justice without reasonable ground.

It shall also award reasonable compensation to the victims of wrongdoing committed by other persons, and in accordance with the relevant law enacted by parliament, it shall promote and enhance dispute resolution among persons involved in disputes and dispense justice without hiding behind technicalities



other two pillars of state was unquestionably a very useful thing in the governance of a country, but the desire to achieve that relationship could not be permitted to stand in the way of justice.

"Total or unqualified harmony between the three pillars would unavoidably have its victims: justice, democracy and the rule of law. That kind of relationship would not serve the supreme interests of the people," he said. He concluded his public lecture in encouraging words to the judiciary of Tanzania and these words worth pondering. He said the unyielding courage of judges was a priceless asset of any country, stressing that there was not no substitute for it.

"Judges must not hesitate to make decisions they consider just however unpopular those decisions are likely to be to parliament, the executive or political parties, including the ruling party, and regardless of their impact on the relations between the judiciary and the other pillars of the state. Their destination must be justice. That is the only high-way." These encouraging words of Samatta remind the judiciary of its role in the dispensation of justice and that it shouldn't avoid or even hesitate to dispense justice by hiding behind legal technicalities or that it has no power to do so.

People still believe the judiciary is the organ vested with the final decision in the dispensation of justice in civil and criminal matters when they see that their rights are violated. However, some of the court decisions puzzle them to the extent of suspecting of a miscarriage of justice where the court seems to suggest that it has no final decision.

Quote of the day: "If we desire respect for the law, we must first make the law respectable." - Louis Brandeis.

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The Law and You



which may obstruct the dispensation of justice. This is the type of judiciary Tanzanians have in mind and in this way, wherever possible when people think that their rights are violated go to the judiciary because they believe they are going to be listened to and have their issues determined as the law requires. However, there are occasions people go to the judiciary and then get the impression that it has no power to determine their issues and are referred to other organs where they can seek justice.

In light of this, some people have been asking themselves how come the judiciary, which has power with

the final decision in the dispensation of justice in the United Republic of Tanzania, is unable to determine their issues, and instead, they are referred to other organs? What does it mean? Similar impression is expressed in Chief Justice (rt'd) Barnabas Samatta's public lecture at Ruaha University College in Iringa in 2010. The title of his lecture was "Judicial Protection of Democratic Values: The Judgement of the Court of Appeal on Independent Candidates".

One of the Court of Appeal's statements which seemed to have puzzled Samatta was: "The issue of independent candidates has to be settled by Parliament which has the jurisdiction

to amend the Constitution and not the Courts which, as we have found, do not have that jurisdiction. Thus, the issue of independent candidates is political and not legal."

Samatta expressed that: "The issue of independent candidates' system was thus buried again, this time by a court of justice! No one knows for how long, and who will resurrect it. What one knows is that it will have to be the Court of Appeal, Parliament or the people themselves in the exercise of their sovereignty."

Samatta went on to say that the maintenance of administrative harmony between the judiciary and the

UN remains paralysed as 'rogue nations' violate charter & escalate war crimes

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations continues to be virtually paralyzed - and remains politically impotent amidst two raging conflicts—as Russia and Israel keep defying the world body.

The killings of civilians and the destruction of cities, particularly by Israel, are devastating and continue despite repeated warnings from the UN, its humanitarian agencies, the International Criminal Court (ICC), UN human right experts and the Security Council.

Which prompts the question: has the UN outlived its usefulness—even as it commemorated its 79th anniversary on the annual UN Day on October 24?

The United Nations, which has failed to help resolve some of the world's ongoing and longstanding civil wars and military conflicts—including Palestine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Western Sahara, Myanmar, Syria, and most recently, Ukraine—was challenged by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his address to the Security Council last April.

And he rightly asked: "Where is the peace that the United Nations was created to guarantee? And where is the security that the Security Council was supposed to guarantee?"

The repeated US calls for a ceasefire by Israel have fallen on deaf ears—even as violations of the UN Charter continue with accusations of war crimes and genocide in Gaza since October 7 last year.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an Asian diplomat, was right on target, when he told IPS the countries that violate the UN charter and commit war crimes are "rogue nations" and should be driven out of the world body.

But that will never happen with a Security Council empowered with vetoes.

Sarah Leah Whitson, Executive Director, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN) told IPS the UN Security Council has served as the principal obstacle to global peace and security, hindering rather than helping efforts to end conflicts around the world.

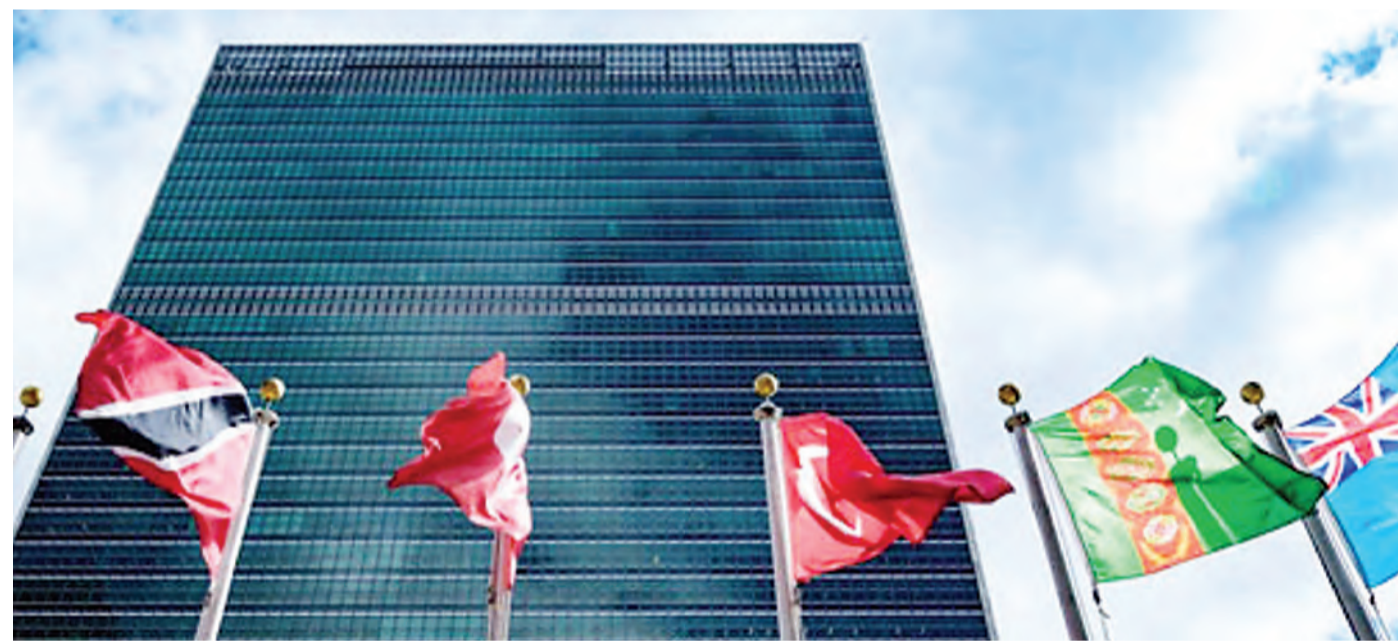
Both the United States and Russia have used their veto power to ensure the wars they support, whether Russia's conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, or the US supported wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen, continue.

Without ending the veto power of these two global powers that are fomenting the worst conflicts in the world, the UN will continue to be a toothless and discredited institution, Whitson declared.

Dr Ramzy Baroud, a journalist and Editor of The Palestine Chronicle, told IPS the question of whether the United Nations has outlived its usefulness or not, depends on how we choose to comprehend the initial formation and the original purpose of the organization.

"If we believe, and many rightly do, that the UN was formed to protect the interests of those who emerged victorious following the devastation of WWII, then, largely it has succeeded in its mission."

Indeed, the UN, especially its executive branch, the Security Council, has mainly reflected the balances of global power, which, until recently, was mostly titled



in favor of the US and its western allies, he said.

Though this is somewhat changing, he pointed out, the UN continues to prove that it is still capable of being a major obstacle before allowing the institution to serve even a nominal role in imposing international and humanitarian laws on guilty parties, the likes of Israel.

"However, if we subscribe to the misconception that the UN existed as a global guarantor of peace through the generation and implementation of international laws, then there is no question it has miserably failed", he declared.

Responding to a question at a press briefing early October, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said: "Well, when people talk about the failures of the UN, my question back to you is, which UN are you speaking about?"

"Are you speaking about the inability of the Security Council to come together on critical issues? Are you speaking about Member States not respecting and not implementing resolutions? Are you speaking about Member States not upholding the rulings of the International Court of Justice, which every Member State has signed up to?"

And are you speaking about the Secretary-General feeling that you think he's not doing enough or his humanitarians are not doing enough? So, I think those types of questions are extremely valid, but I think one has to examine which part of the organization you're speaking about," said Dujarric.

On the margins of the BRICS Summit in Kazan on October 24, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met with Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation and reiterated his position that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was "in violation of the United Nations Charter and international law."

But Russia's response went unannounced—even as violations continue.

Responding to a question at a press conference in Colombia on October 29, Guterres said: "We need peace among ourselves. That is the reason I've been asking, in line with the Charter, in line with international law, and in line with the General Assembly resolutions."

"That is why we have been asking for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, releasing all hostages and massive humanitarian aid to Gaza. That is why we have been asking for peace in Lebanon and

peace that respects Lebanese sovereignty and Lebanese territorial integrity and paves the way for a political solution".

"That is why we have been asking for peace in Sudan, where an enormous tragedy exists," Guterres said.

Perhaps these are appeals that will continue to remain unanswered.

Elaborating further, Dr Baroud told IPS what is particularly exasperating is that despite its obvious failures, the UN continues to carry on as if it served any other purpose aside from mirroring the existing imbalances of power around the world, and as a publicity platform for the US, Israel and others, who violate international law with complete impunity.

The UN was formed following the atrocities of WWII. Now, it stands completely useless in its inability to stop similar atrocities in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. There is no moral, let alone rational justification of why the UN in its current form should continue to exist, he argued.

Now that the Global South is finally rising with its own political, economic and legal initiatives, it is time for these new bodies to either offer a complete alternative to the UN or push for serious and irreversible reforms at the currently ineffectual organization, said Dr. Baroud, a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA). www.ramzybaroud.net

In an oped piece for IPS Dr. Alon Ben-Meir, a retired professor of international relations, most recently at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University (NYU), pointed out that the UN Security Council's structure, particularly the veto power held by its five permanent members, often leads to inaction.

This power allows any one of these countries to block resolutions, even if there is broad international support. This has resulted in deadlocks on critical issues such as the Syrian Civil War, the Ukraine War, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said.

"The killings of civilians and the destruction of cities and towns, particularly by Israel and Russia, are devastating and continue unabated even through the UN and its humanitarian agencies."

The International Criminal Court and UN human rights experts have repeatedly called on the Security Council to act. In

these cases, the US and Russia's adversarial relations prevented them from reaching solutions to mitigate these conflicts, he pointed out.

Although there is broad agreement on the need to reform the UNSC, achieving that involves piloting multifaceted geopolitical landscapes and balancing various national interests.

That said, incremental changes, especially those not requiring formal amendments to the UN charter, may offer a feasible path forward, said Dr Ben-Meir, who has taught courses on international negotiation and Middle Eastern studies.

"If the UNSC does not adopt some of these reforms, the UN will virtually outlive its usefulness, especially in the area of conflict resolution, where the daily horrific death and destruction around the world attests to its dismal failures," he declared.

Meanwhile, the UN's declining role in geo-politics, however, has been compensated for, by its increasingly robust performance as a massive humanitarian relief organization.

These efforts are led by multiple UN agencies such as the World Food Program (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN children's fund UNICEF, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), among others.

These agencies, which have saved millions of lives, continue to provide food, medical care and shelter, to those trapped in war-ravaged countries, mostly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, while following closely in the footsteps of international relief organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, international Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), CARE International, Action Against Hunger, World Vision and Relief Without Borders, among others.

IPS

By Bertie Jacobs

What impact will the US election have on Africa?

THIS Tuesday (Nov 5) Americans will cast their votes to elect the 47th president of the United States of America.

The latest polls shows that the current vice president and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris has a slight, one point lead, with Republican and former president Donald Trump a very close second.

This is a neck and neck race with no certain outcome, and the world is waiting to see who will lead the last global superpower from 2025 to 2029.

Across the Atlantic, Africans also have a vested interest in the outcome of the election. Here is what two political experts from the North-West University (NWU) in South Africa have to say about what a Trump or Harris victory will mean for the continent.

Prof Kedibone Phago, director of the NWU's School for Government Studies: "We have already noticed several of Donald Trump's domestic and foreign policy positions that largely prioritised the US during his previous administration.

He focused his attention on growing the US economy. This also occurred against a backdrop of several threats of reducing funding for international bodies such as the World Health Organisation, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and similar arrangements.

His focus on the US economy, immigration, conflicts and climate change is expected to be more aggressive.

There are at least two key issues to consider regarding Africa. The first is the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a trade agreement between African countries and the US that allows duty-free access to US markets.

South Africa is a major beneficiary, and its participation is largely a lifeline for AGOA. Excluding South Africa from AGOA would be both meaningless and counterproductive, though a Trump presidency might be expected to threaten this agreement.

Secondly, the US is one of the main trading partners for a number of African countries. A Trump presidency could mean that some African countries' geopolitical positioning may be put under immense pressure to either choose



Prof Kedibone Phago, director of the NWU's School for Government Studies



Dr Sysman Motlout, Political and international relations expert

friends and allies of the US to maintain favourable and friendly relations with the US."

Kamala Harris is currently the vice president representing the Democratic Party and is likely to retain most policies of the (President Joe) Biden administration.

She has already visited Africa, pro-

jecting a positive stance of her administration towards the continent. She is expected to support the continuation of AGOA with eligible African states that are benefiting from this agreement."

Dr Sysman Motlout, Political and international relations expert:

"The 2024 US elections focus on is-

suues surrounding racism and sexism, with some alleging that Donald Trump embodies these values, versus the restoration of reproductive rights, including abortion, championed by Kamala Harris.

Trump has also been blamed for disrupting abortion rights in the US.

However, he claims to protect wom-

en by addressing illegal border crossings and crime.

The US elections are a domestic affair, with both presidential candidates making strong statements to portray each other as unfit for the White House. Kamala Harris describes Trump as 'unhinged', a 'fascist', a 'Nazi', and even compares him to Hitler, while Trump retorts by labelling Harris a fascist.

Take South Africa as an example. For us South Africans observing this political discourse, it's reminiscent of local rhetoric, where terms like 'rented black', 'anti-revolutionary', and amasela (thieves) are commonly used.

Similarly, the Democratic Alliance often calls on South Africans to 'save' the country by voting the African National Congress out. In this vein, Harris urges Americans to 'save the country' by voting Trump out. Such is the nature of political battles.

Regarding what it would mean for African countries if Trump or Harris wins, the impact is minimal.

Again, let's look at South Africa as a point of departure. US foreign policy is generally consistent, and the US will remain committed to maintaining bilateral and trade relations with South Africa. Military cooperation between the two countries will continue.

Trump, if elected, would not push South Africa to reverse its abortion rights simply because of his stance on the issue within the US. The US presidency will still expect South Africa to address the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey listing, and collaboration on combating organised crime will persist. Other African countries can expect the same.

The US has a vested interest in ensuring that the US dollar maintains its status as the world's reserve currency.

A close look at both candidates' platforms reveals a primary focus on domestic issues, with little emphasis on foreign policies that might negatively impact African countries. In other words, life will go on, with much remaining the same." Time will tell.

• **A North-West University (South Africa) dispatch.**

Transforming Africa with the power of education

NEW YORK

AFRICA has the youngest population in the world today. Around 40% of the population is 15 or younger. They have a non-negotiable right to an inclusive and continued quality education, just like young people everywhere across the globe.

As we celebrate Africa Youth Day - and the African Union year of education - we call on world leaders to substantially increase investments in education across the African continent. We can no longer leave them behind. It is time to put them at the forefront.

It is inconceivable that only one in ten children aged 10 in sub-Saharan Africa can read and comprehend a sentence. This is a distressing fact and cause for real alarm.

The potential of the children and adolescents of Africa is unlimited. I have seen their eagerness to learn, their gratitude for every opportunity and their powerful desire to get an education - from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Sadly, another fact remains: the needs far exceed the financial resources available - especially on the frontlines of armed conflicts, forced displacement and climate change.

Fact is that we can collectively change this. Between 2000 and 2022 primary school completion rates across the region rose from 52% to 67%, and about half of students were able to complete lower secondary education, according to analysis by UNESCO.

In all 17 million young Africans are in university today,



and more girls than ever before are able to attend school. This progress, however,

fails to present a full picture of education in Africa. "Of all regions, sub-Saharan Africa

has the highest rates of education exclusion. Over one-fifth of children between the

ages of about 6 and 11 are out of school, followed by one-third of youth between the ages of about 12 and 14. Almost 60% of youth between the ages of about 15 and 17 are not in school," according to UNESCO.

Our collective support is now more urgent than ever. It is the smart thing to do for economic progress. It is the right thing to do for equality and equity. It is the least we can do for the people with such immense potentials and yearning to study, to become and to live a full life.

As the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises within the United Nations, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and our strategic partners are working tirelessly to create sustainable education and lifelong learning pathways for all of Africa's children and

youth. According to our latest Annual Results Report, ECW investments reached over 900,000 children in East Africa with quality learning supports in 2023 alone. In West and Central Africa, we reached over 1.8 million!

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, young mothers like Meda are realizing their dreams of finishing school. In Chad, where the Sudan regional refugee crisis is straining budgets and resources, girls like Khadija Abdoulaye are gaining valuable vocational skills in sewing, mechanics and gardening.

This is what collective support can achieve. It gives us a peek into what the African continent of young people can achieve - not just for themselves, but for all of us.

IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Govt observes cargo increase and revenue collection at Dar port

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendopole

THE government has reported an increase in cargo handled at the port of Dar es Salaam, rising from 141,889 tonnes in May 2024 to 168,336 tonnes by September, this year, a notable 18.6 percent increase over five months.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning and Investment), Prof. Kitila Mkumbo told the National Assembly yesterday when presenting the National Development Plan for the year 2025/26.

Additionally, the number of containers processed (measured in Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units, or TEUs) surged from an average of 12,000 per month to 27,000 in September 2024, setting a new record for the port; the previous high was 15,000 containers.

He highlighted significant achievements since the Dubai-based multinational logistics com-

pany-DP World commenced operations at the Port.

Prof. Mkumbo said that DP World has invested TZS 214.425 billion, amounting to 31 percent of the total planned investment of 675bn/- over the next five years.

"This investment focuses on acquiring modern machinery, refurbishing existing equipment previously used by the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), and implementing an advanced IT system to enhance port operations," he said.

He noted that the installation of new equipment, including ship-to-shore (SSG) and rubber-tyred gantry (RTG) cranes, has significantly improved efficiency.

The average turnaround time for cargo ships has reduced from seven days to three days. Consequently, the number of ships waiting to unload has decreased from an average of 35 in September 2023 to just 15 in September 2024.

Prof. Mkumbo highlighted that



operational costs at the port have decreased to 2.7 percent of collections, with usage increasing by 15.1 percent per month prior to DP World's involvement.

From April to September 2024, the government collected 325.3bn/- from contracts between TPA and DP World, encompassing land rent, royalties, and wharfage fees.

The minister further explained that increased revenue and reduced operating costs have allowed the government, through TPA, to invest in projects worth 1.922trn/-.

The projects include the construction of a fuel station (SRT), a new port at Mgoa Island (Mtwara), and a Dhow wharf in Dar es Salaam.

Prof. Mkumbo also mentioned the successful integration of customs systems—the Tanzania Customs Integrated System (TANCIS) and the Tanzania Electronic Single Window System (TeSWS)—which has streamlined operations, reduced redundancies, and enhanced cargo clearance times, thereby increasing transparency

and improving communication.

As a result of these improvements, tax revenue collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has reached Tn/- in September 2024, compared to an average of 850bn/- per month, underscoring the efficiency gains from expedited cargo processing.

Africa's battle against food waste: How interventions can save 30pct of produce

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA faces a severe food waste crisis, losing about a third of its agricultural produce annually. In South Africa alone, 30 percent of the 31 million tonnes of food produced each year never reaches consumers, resulting in losses of R61.5 billion, or 2.1 percent of GDP.

Sub-Saharan Africa leads globally in post-harvest losses, with grains accounting for 37 percent of losses—worth \$4bn—and fruits and vegetables experiencing spoilage rates of up to 50 percent. This high level of waste threatens food security across the continent, highlighting the urgent need for intervention.

Identifying key points of loss

"Considerable attention is given to increasing food production, but there's less focus on reducing food loss and waste so more people could be fed using the same resources. Identifying the key points in the value chain where these losses occur is essential for crafting effective interventions," says Ben Leyka, CEO of the African Agri Council.

Food security is not uniformly distributed across South Africa, with rural areas experiencing higher levels of food insecurity than urban centres.

"Public-private sector collaboration in food distribution is inefficient and, in many cases, it's impossible for the private sector to alone tackle food distribution in rural areas and underserved communities," says Susan Payne, CEO at Holistic Agricultural Investments Group, who believes there are multiple ways governments can get involved and help to take responsibility for their citizens. These include cutting red tape, providing incentives and supporting input schemes to support rural farmers to grow base crops.

Local partnerships and food distribution

Payne says that in Zambia, the organisation's commercial farm works with local input providers to grow large crops and distribute food like wheat, maize seed, and potatoes across the country to both rural and urban communities. These partnerships are vital to the production of food at scale, directly benefiting the populations of the countries in which they are founded.

"We can't ignore regions where over half of households report moderate to severe food insecurity," says Leyka. "The fight against food waste requires a multi-faceted approach. By investing in proper storage and transportation facilities, we can cut losses by up to



50 percent. This will enhance food security and contribute to a more sustainable future for Africa."

Addressing global food insecurity

To begin to properly tackle global food insecurity, Payne says it's crucial to unearth and support innovations that can scale and support these through grants and other funding.

"We need partnerships between the innovators and governments that function well, from providing (or dispensing with) visas easily to moving money across borders freely to receiving tax breaks to creating tax-free economic zones," she says.

"We also need better, more vocal, leadership in this space in Africa, with more coordinated efforts between all parties," she says, equating the goal to an orchestra playing in harmony, while currently all the parties are still tuning their instruments.

According to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization, approximately 13 percent of food production is lost between harvest and retail, while an estimated 17 percent of total global

food production is wasted in households, food service and retail combined.

"Innovative technology provides the booster for the rockets addressing food waste. Without this, we'll struggle with tackling the various aspects of, and solutions to, food waste, for humans, animals and as mulch" says Payne. "With at least 20 percent of food wasted today, equating to 1 billion meals, and with 60 percent of that from households, there is huge scope for improvement."

The African Agri Investment Indaba (AAIL), hosted by the African Agri Council, is set to be a crucial platform addressing the pressing issue of food insecurity, particularly in the context of Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security which will be observed on 31 October 2024. This year's AAIL theme underscores the urgent need to combat food wastage as part of the mission to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

The Indaba aims to shine a spotlight on the inefficiencies within agricultural practices and supply chain management

that contribute to this waste, particularly the inadequate storage and transportation infrastructure that plague rural areas.

Mobilising for a sustainable food future

"This event is not merely about discussion; it's about mobilising resources and partnerships to implement actionable solutions," says Leyka. "As Africa's population is projected to reach 1.7 billion by 2030, tackling food waste is not just an immediate concern; it is vital for ensuring long-term food security. We must prioritise investments in education and technology that empower farmers to reduce losses at every stage of the supply chain."

The African Agri Investment Indaba will convene over 800 industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators, serving as a platform to share insights and develop transformative strategies that can reshape agricultural practices across the continent.

It will explore collaborative strategies that unite government and private sectors in addressing food waste. By creating circular food systems and enhancing infrastructure, stakeholders can significantly reduce food loss and improve accessibility for vulnerable populations.

"The fight against food insecurity transcends agriculture; it is a collective moral responsibility. By fostering collaboration, embracing innovation, and prioritising education, we can turn the aspiration for food security into a reality for all," says Leyka. "The African Agri Investment Indaba stands as a critical step in this journey, bringing together stakeholders committed to making a meaningful difference."

ARCC urges swift action to close polio immunity gaps in East Africa

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Africa Regional Certification Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (ARCC) has called on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Tanzania to take immediate action to address polio immunity gaps.

The recommendation follows a week of intensive discussions held in Dar es Salaam in a two-day forum commenced on Thursday focusing on the ongoing polio outbreak in the region.

During the discussions, Hassan Khamis Hafidh, the Deputy Minister of Health of Zanzibar, highlighted Tanzania's commitment to eradicating poliovirus and achieving wild polio-free status.

ARCC Chair Prof. Rose Leke acknowledged Tanzania's significant efforts and reaffirmed the ARCC's commitment to halting the ongoing transmission of variant poliovirus by 2026.

"With 23 African countries affected so far in 2024, the ARCC reviewed the status of polio eradication efforts, focusing on both global and regional developments, and

the progress made in the six participating countries," she stated.

Dr Jamal Ahmed, the Polio Eradication Programme Coordinator at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa, commended the substantial reduction of variant poliovirus types 1 and 2 across the continent over the past year. He urged all nations to remain steadfast in their mission to eradicate poliovirus, stressing the need for heightened surveillance and preparedness in response to ongoing outbreaks.

The ARCC noted that 18 African nations currently

administer only one dose of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) instead of the two recommended by WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts. The commission emphasized the importance of synchronized and high-quality outbreak responses.

"This includes implementing micro-plans that map cross-border communities, migratory routes, entry and exit points, and transit routes for all cross-border facilities," Dr Ahmed explained. Synchronization of vaccination plans across neighboring countries is vital to ensuring that all eligible children in

border areas are reached, thereby reducing the risk of paralysis caused by the virus.

Recognising existing immunity gaps in countries like Tanzania and Kenya, the ARCC stressed the need to integrate polio outbreak response and surveillance efforts into routine immunization activities.

The ARCC also commended efforts to expand sequencing capacity within the polio laboratory network across the African region. However, challenges remain in containment, particularly regarding risk management and accuracy following natural disas-

ters that threaten facilities housing polioviruses or other infectious materials.

The commission called on WHO to provide technical assistance for updating containment inventories and facilitating risk assessments, especially for facilities at risk from natural events.

The ARCC's work is crucial to the progress of polio eradication in Africa, with a strong emphasis on supporting national surveillance systems, vaccination coverage, and outbreak response coordination.

Dr Vida Makundi, Director of Preventive Services at the

Ministry of Health, expressed pride in the nation's collaborative efforts and commitment to strengthening immunization and surveillance systems, vital for protecting children across the continent.

As the global eradication timeline has been extended to 2029, the ARCC continues to advocate for rigorous actions against poliovirus transmission, remaining dedicated to achieving a polio-free Africa in partnership with WHO, national governments, and global stakeholders in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.



MTN Ghana reports GH 12.7 billion revenue in Q3

ACCRA

MTN Ghana (Scancom PLC) reported robust performance for the nine months ending September 30, 2024, driven by significant growth in its digital and financial services.

Despite macroeconomic pressures, including currency depreciation and high inflation, the company achieved a 32 percent year-on-year (YoY) increase in service revenue, totaling GH 12.7 billion. MTN's strategic focus on digital expansion and local market investment helped bolster revenue and support Ghana's digital economy.

"We are proud of MTN Ghana's resilience in this challenging economic environment," said CEO Stephen Blewett. "Our commitment to connecting communities and advancing fintech solutions has driven substantial growth, allowing us to meet rising digital demands."

According to the report, MTN Ghana's mobile subscribers increased by 10.8 percent to 28.6 million, while active data users rose by 17.3 percent to 17 million, indicating strong demand for digital services. The Mobile Money (MoMo) service also saw an 18.1% increase in active users, reaching 17 million.

Total revenue for the period reached GH 12.77 billion, up 31.9 percent Year-on-Year (YoY). The data segment led this growth, with data revenue surging by 53.4 percent YoY to GH 6.3 billion, reflecting higher demand for digital services. Meanwhile, MoMo revenue grew by 50.8 percent to GH 3.1 billion, driven by a 79 percent increase in advanced services.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) rose by 32.2 percent to GHS 7.2 billion, and the EBITDA margin saw a slight in-

crease to 56.2 percent. Profit after tax increased by 35.5 percent YoY, reaching GH 3.76 billion.

Direct and indirect taxes paid by the company increased by 49.5 percent to GH 6.1 billion.

MTN Ghana continued its capital expenditure (capex) drive with GHS 3.7 billion invested to enhance network quality, expand coverage, and improve IT infrastructure. This 29.2 percent increase in capex allowed MTN to strengthen its digital and fintech offerings across the country. Investments in infrastructure support initiatives like the MTN Skills Academy, which aims to equip Ghana's youth with digital skills, and the MTN MoMo Market, an e-commerce platform for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

In addition, the MTN Ghana Foundation awarded scholarships to 200 students, with an emphasis on STEM fields, and provided digital skills training to 100,000 young people. "This investment in youth and technology is essential for Ghana's future," noted Blewett. "We're not just building a network; we're building a stronger community."

MTN Ghana increased its local ownership to 30 percent in line with localization regulations, demonstrating its commitment to Ghana's regulatory environment. The company paid GH 6.1 billion in taxes and GH 455.9 million in fees, representing 51 percent of its total revenue, contributing significantly to Ghana's economy.

Looking ahead, MTN Ghana aims to maintain revenue growth in the high twenties percentage range, focusing on efficiency and expansion in response to persistent inflation and currency volatility.

Coinvestors, Hutt Capital, and Winklevoss Capital.

AFRICA'S largest and first licensed stablecoin, Yellow Card, has closed a \$33 million Series C funding round led by Blockchain Capital.

The round also saw participation from Polychain Capital, Third Prime Ventures, Castle Island Ventures, Block, Inc., Galaxy Ventures, Blockchain

In a statement, the company highlighted that the financing represents a significant milestone not just for Yellow Card, but for the African FinTech industry as a whole, validating the vision and progress of stablecoins on the continent and their practical applications globally.

"This fundraise not only demonstrates our resilience but also underscores the vital role of digital assets for businesses across Africa," said Chris Maurice, CEO and co-founder of Yellow Card. "We are excited about the opportunities, partnerships, and journey ahead, and I'm proud to work with an incredible group of investors who share our vi-

sion for the industry and the continent." Since its launch in Nigeria in 2019, Yellow Card has become a pioneering force in the industry, operating in 20 African countries and facilitating over \$3 billion in transactions across the continent.

The newly secured capital will be used to fund growth and expansion, particularly by enhancing Yellow Card's API and

widget products—key gateways for international businesses, including Coinbase and Block, to enter African markets, and for Pan-African companies to streamline international payments and treasury management via stablecoins.

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tems, and engaging with regulators across Africa.

This financing reflects the confidence shown in the business by both new and existing investors.

"The future of payments lies in fast, affordable rails for everyone, powered by open networks," said Aleks Larsen, General Partner at Blockchain Capital, the lead investor in

Yellow Card's Series C financing. "We couldn't be more excited to support Yellow Card as they bring Africa on-chain with stablecoins."

Yellow Card remains dedicated to empowering the continent by simplifying international payments, treasury management, and access to hard currency liquidity through stablecoins.

Financial institutions encouraged to sponsor mathematics competitions

By Francis Kajubi

Financial institutions and corporates such as mobile companies have been called upon to participate in funding and sponsoring the coordination of the national Mathematics competitions for secondary schools at the O-Level and A-Levels.

The call was made yesterday in Dar es Salaam at a joint press conference by the Mathematical Association of Tanzania (MAT) and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) during the announcement of the Tanzania Mathematics Olympiad (TAMO) 2024 winners.

Dr Said Sima, MAT Chairperson said that budget constraints have led to only 11 out of 31 regions to participate in the Mathematics competitions, asking stakeholders from the private sector to sponsor the competitions in order to motivate students to pursue Mathematics in this times where Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is gaining momentum in the world.

"We thank CRDB Bank, Barrick Tanzania, and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority for their continued support in financing the organization of the competitions. We are asking other institutions to fund this competition so that it reaches the whole country," said Dr. Sima.

He said the competition needs to have valuable and attractive prizes to convince students to



MAT Chairperson Dr. Said Sima (C) exchanges greetings with a Lecturer with the Mathematics Department at the University of Dar Salaam Dr Sylvester Ruhehyamu during the ceremony to announce the results of the national Mathematics winners for secondary school students' competition in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The second one from the left is Betinasia Manyama, MAT treasurer and the rest are UDSM lecturers. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

pursue Mathematics.

According to him, institutions such as universities, engineering institutions, health specialists and others should be at the front line in sponsoring the competition.

The results are for the exam held in August 2024 that involved 1,159 students from 80 secondary schools who sat for the exams. Of the students, there were 621 boys (53 percent) while the girls were 528 (47 percent).

Dr Sima said last year students' who sat for the exams were 812 from 54 secondary schools. The exams are voluntary.

Students came from 11 regions namely: Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa,

Mbeya, Mwanza, Singida, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Mjini Magharibi Zanzibar.

He said the best three winners from O'Level and another three from A' Level shall be awarded on the commemoration of the International Day of Mathematics (IDM) to be held on March 14, 2025. Other participants will be given recognition certificates.

In terms of O'Level also known as Junior Context involving Form three and Form Four, 796 students participated in the exams, 395 boys (49 percent) and 401 girls (51 percent). The winning candidates are those who scored 40 percent and above.

In this category, there are 253

students who scored 40 percent and above, which is equal to 32 percent of all participating students.

Among them, boys are 173 (68 percent) and girls are 80 (32 percent). 543 students could not score a pass mark of 40 percent.

The winners are Allan Matolo of Ilboru Secondary School Arusha, Stanley Francis of Chang'ombe Secondary School in Dar es Salaam, Fahmi Ali Kombo of Azania Secondary School and Zahri Mangaha of Ilboru Secondary School who won the third place.

In terms of Form Five and Form Six, he said that 363 students did the exams. Among them 236 are boys (65 percent) and 127 girls (35 percent).

Those who scored more than 40 percent are 135 students (37 percent) while those who scored less than 40 percent are 228 (63 percent). Among those who passed, there are 103 boys (76 percent) and 32 girls (24 percent).

"The three best winners in this category are Elia Deus of Kibaha Secondary School, Shufaa Awadh Mwanga of Feza Girls' Secondary School and Nooma Masoud of Shamsiye Booy' Secondary School," said Dr Sima.

Winners in the national competition get the chance to participate in the international competition exams which are categorized into three groups: East Africa Mathematics Olympiads (EAMO), Pan African Mathematics Olympiads (PAMO) and the International Mathematics Olympiads (IMO).

Dar ready to host business persons out for champagne Day festivities

By Guardian Reporter

THE Moët & Chandon has organized an enchanting event that brought together a bunch of renowned businessmen across different sectors to celebrate the Champagne Day in Dar es Salaam.

Hosted by Mtani Bespoke, the company's chief, the event which took place in the mid of the week days went with the theme: 'Endless creativity in craftsmanship,' bringing together artisans, creators, and trendsetters, including Bongo flava artists.

Bespoke, a renowned creative and custom tailor, shared his journey to Épernay, France, in a special video presentation.

The footage captured highlights of his experience with other African artisans exploring Moët & Chandon's heritage. Inspired by this trip, Bespoke unveiled a custom tuxedo that artfully blended Tanzanian heritage with the company's legacy, incorporating grape beadwork inspired by the vineyards and Maasai fabric elements.



Business colleagues gather for an evening of savoir-faire with Mtani Bespoke (centre) Tanzania Moët & Chandon chief to celebrate the Champagne Day in Dar es Salaam at the mid of the week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

"Through this piece, I wanted to honor both my roots and the inspiration I found in Épernay. It's a fusion of two worlds that, together, celebrate true craftsmanship," said Bespoke.

Janet Mwalilino opened the evening with heartfelt remarks, saying: "Tonight's theme of endless creativity in craftsmanship reflects our dedication to elevating life's moments with exceptional champagne and artistry. Legacy is built on blending tradition with innovation, and we are thrilled to share this with our Tanzanian

community. MC Rio Paul led the evening's program, ensuring an engaging experience for all.

"It's inspiring to see our Tanzanian culture honored through a partnership with such an iconic brand. Tonight, we celebrate the unique talents and stories of all who are here," he said.

The evening concluded with a lively violin performance by Agustino, while guests sealed personal toasts in golden capsules to mark their milestones.

This memorable event underscored Moët &

Chandon's commitment to art, heritage, and community in Tanzania, uniting African and French influences under one elegant roof.

The company was founded in 1743 by Claude Moët and elevated to international renown by his descendant, Jean-Rémy Moët, who dreamt of "sharing the effervescence of Champagne with the world."

From royal court to red carpet, Studio 54 to Grand Slams, Moët & Chandon has been bringing people together around thrilling, extraordinary moments.

With the largest, most diverse vineyards in the region, the House offers a universal and versatile portfolio of champagnes for every occasion and palate.

Easy to love, each creation in white and rosé - from the iconic Moët Impérial to the refined.

Grand Vintage Collection, from the refreshing Moët Ice Impérial to the gentle Nectar Impérial - dazzles and delights with a broad spectrum of flavors and aromas to capture the astonishing breadth of its terroir.

Through Natura Nostra, the company's long-term sustainability program, the House works to protect biodiversity in the region and, since 2009.

The company also supports philanthropic initiatives through Toast for a Cause.

For nearly three centuries, the company has been the champagne of choice to mark both significant events in history and personal celebrations, enhancing each toast with the spark of effervescence, once in the global economy.

Company closes \$33 million funding round led by blockchain capital in accelerating growth

CAPE TOWN

AFRICA'S largest and first licensed stablecoin, Yellow Card, has closed a \$33 million Series C funding round led by Blockchain Capital.

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Coinvestors, Hutt Capital, and Winklevoss Capital.

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Kenya power profit shock: From loss to Sh30 billion net earnings

NAIROBI

Kenya Power recorded a Ksh30 billion net profit for the year ended 30th June 2024, a marking a dramatic return to profitability backed by increased sales and a strong shilling that reduced its costs. This is a turnaround from a net loss of Ksh3.19 billion net loss for the year ended June 2023.

The improved profitability was mainly supported by growth in revenue from electricity sales as well as decreased finance costs due to the strengthening of the Kenya Shilling against major global currencies. During the year, electricity sales increased by 21 percent to Ksh231.12 billion from Ksh190.98 billion recorded during the previous trading year.

This growth is attributable to improved sales primarily from the

447,251 new customers connected to the grid during the year, as well as increased economic activities, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Commercial and industrial, as well as domestic customer categories, recorded the highest growth in sales at 5.1 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Finance costs decreased by Ksh24.84 billion, primarily driven by unrealised foreign exchange gain of Ksh7.88 billion, compared to a loss Ksh16.87 billion in the previous period resulting from loan revaluations. This gain was due to the appreciation of the Kenyan shilling against the US Dollar and Euro, both of which represent approximately 90% of the company's loan portfolio.

The power purchase cost increased from Ksh143.58 billion the previous year to Ksh150.61 billion. This growth was driven by additional units purchased to support

rising demand, as well as the high exchange rate that prevailed earlier in the financial year.

"While the company's revenues are denominated entirely in Kenya shillings, power purchases are predominantly paid in foreign currencies. As a result, the strengthening of the shilling in the second half of the year led to an increase in cost of sales that was lower than the growth in revenue, thus contributing to the higher gross margin," said Kenya Power Managing Director and CEO, Dr. (Eng.) Joseph Siror.

Similarly, the operating expenses rose to Ksh46.28 billion from Ksh37.28 billion in the previous year. "This increase is attributed to a 92 percent rise in wheeling charges for the expanding transmission network and the recruitment of additional technical staff to support business operations. Through careful cost management and zero-based

budgeting, we aim to maintain stable margins despite inflationary pressures," said Dr. (Eng.) Siror.

To sustain the profitability, in the medium term, Kenya Power has identified priority areas that will guide its business operations while consistently delivering value to its shareholders. The strategic focus areas include financial sustainability, operational excellence, customer centricity and strengthening of human capital.

"Our focus will be implementing high-impact projects and initiatives detailed in our Strategic Plan, ensuring that they are fully resourced as we cultivate a culture of operational excellence within our workforce. By empowering our teams and achieving meaningful outcomes, we aim to build a prosperous future that benefits all stakeholders connected to our mission," said Dr. (Eng.) Siror.



Kenya Power Managing Director and CEO, Dr Joseph Siror says the focus will be implementing high-impact projects and initiatives detailed in the company's strategic plan.



Clem Baiye (C), Chairman and Managing Director, Regency Alliance Insurance Plc, shares a word with Anu Shobo (left) company's secretary. Right is Bode Oseni, during the company's 30th annual general meeting in Lagos, recently.

Insurance company profit grows by 239.17pc to N2.095billion FY23

LAGOS

In a significant financial milestone, Regency Alliance Insurance Plc, said its profit before tax rose by 239.17% to N2.095 billion from N617.691million achieved in 2022.

The company's Chairman, Clem Baiye, disclosed this on Thursday, at the company's 30th annual general meeting in Lagos.

Baiye said its gross written premium grew to N6.017 billion in 2023 financial period, marking a 7.99% increase from last year's N5.572 billion figure.

Additionally, the insurance revenue surged to N6.083 billion, reflecting a robust 21.11% growth and an increase of N1.060 billion compared to the previous year.

The chairman also announced a 118.20% increase in investment income for 2023, compared to 2022, driven by rising money market and bank deposit rates.

Speaking further on the financial performance, he said, "the increase in money market and bank deposit rates in the economy has led to a growth of 118.20% in the investment income of our Company for the year 2023 when compared with the year 2022 figures".

In line with the inflationary trend and in order to ensure that the Company's assets are valued at current market prices, the investment property was revalued and the fair value gain of N478.500m included in the Statement of Profit or Loss. The gain on the value of the revaluation of Head Office property is included in the Other Comprehensive Income Statement."

The chairman stated that the shareholders' fund grew by 68.55% from N6.952bn in 2022 to N11.718bn in the year under review, while total assets reached N18.855 billion, reflecting a 52.24% increase or N6.436bn from the previous year.

As a way of rewarding existing shareholders for their loyalty and in order to properly position the

company in view of the anticipated increase in the capital base of Insurance companies, he said, "Your board is recommending for your approval, that Bonus Shares be issued to existing Shareholders in the form of four (4) new ordinary Shares for every five (5) ordinary Shares held."

The insurer expressed gratitude to its dedicated management and staff for their loyalty and commitment, emphasising that their efforts will be recognised and rewarded.

The company also acknowledged its clients, agents, and brokers for their continued support, assuring them of its long-term presence in Nigeria's insurance market despite current socio-economic challenges.

"I must also appreciate our esteemed clients, agents, and brokers for continuing to do business with us. We trust we have earned your enduring confidence, and we look forward to your increased support and patronage going forward," Mr. Baiye added.

On another development, AIICO Insurance Plc has called for collaborative effort among stakeholders to revitalise the agricultural sector.

Making a presentation on Agricultural Insurance at the annual AIICO Insurance training for members of the Nigerian Association of Insurance and Pension Editors (NAIPE) in Lagos, Leonard Okerefor, Agric & Emerging Risk Manager of AIICO, stated that the role of insurance in the sustainability of Nigeria's agric/agribusiness sector cannot be over emphasized.

He listed the benefits of insurance to farmers to include income stability, facilitates access to loan, enhances strategic partnerships, peace of mind, and is a source of effective risk management.

"There is need to develop a workforce with new skills, values and attitudes to enhance improved productivity and ensure food security. One of the key drivers for transformation is agribusiness."

According to him, agriculture

is the practice of cultivating land, raising crops, and rearing livestock, while agribusiness is the input supply, farming operations, processing and manufacturing, distribution and marketing, retail and export, economic and business aspects of agriculture.

"While the scope of agriculture focuses on farming practices, agribusiness encompasses the entire value chain. In respect to scale, agriculture includes small-scale and subsistence farming, while agribusiness involves larger-scale commercial operations. Also, while the focus of agriculture prioritizes food production, agribusiness emphasizes profitability and market competitiveness."

Okerefor listed the agribusiness value chain to include input supply, production, post harvest services, trading post harvest, processing, trading processed items, as well as retail.

He however noted that constraints to the development of agribusiness in Nigeria include: limited access to modern agricultural technology, inadequate extension education/services, absence of robust market links, issues surrounding inputs, agricultural credits, inadequate availability and access to financial solutions. According to him, AIICO's agricultural insurance offerings to Nigerian farmers and agribusiness investors fall under Indemnity and Index-based.

He said: "Under Indemnity insurance, we offer poultry, fish farm, livestock, plantation fire, farm property/produce, multi-perils crop.

"Under Index-based insurance, we offer area yield index-based, weather index-based as well as bundled/hybrid policies."

For poultry insurance policy, he said: "This product covers birds (broilers, layers, parent stock, grand-parents stock, hatchery stock, cockerel, ornamental birds) against death as a result of fire, lightning, wind-storm damage, flood, uncontrollable disease and accident.

Manufacturing expands amid China policy push

SHANDONG

China's manufacturing activity expanded last month for the first time in half a year, official data showed on Thursday, as stimulus measures boosted production and revived confidence, boding well for fourth-quarter economic momentum and the full-year growth outlook.

Nevertheless, analysts said that it may still be too early to conclude that the Chinese economy had fully bottomed out, as the challenges of insufficient demand and property woes persisted, making intensive stimulus that is "rare in a noncrisis period" still likely in 2025.

Wen Bin, chief economist at China Minsheng Bank, said, "With additional policies to be introduced and synergistic policy effects to unfold, the economy is on track for stable growth in the fourth quarter after factory activity improved in October."

Wen added that "it is highly possible for the country to meet the annual economic and social targets. However, the policy transmission to help the economy bottom out still needs to be strengthened, which is evident in areas such as lukewarm manufacturing new orders and the subdued vitality of smaller enterprises."

The official purchasing managers index for the manufacturing sector rose for the second consecutive month to 50.1 in October, standing above the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction for the first time in six months, the National Bureau of Statistics said on

Thursday.

The reading was up from 49.8 in September and stood above 49.9, as many analysts had expected, mostly driven by accelerated production activity, while new market orders remained generally unchanged with improving domestic demand offsetting weakening export orders.

A subindex gauging manufacturers' expectations in terms of production and operations came in at 54, up significantly from 52 in September and hitting a four-month high, the NBS said.

Sentiment in the broader economy also improved. The composite PMI, covering both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing activity, came in at 50.8 in October, up from 50.4 a month earlier.

"With the introduction of a package of incremental policies and the effects of existing policies gradually emerging, China's economic vitality continued to pick up in October," said Zhao Qinghe, an NBS statistician.

Despite the overall pickup, the bureau said that the PMI for small manufacturers dropped from 48.5 in September to 47.5 in October, indicating worsening operating conditions.

Even with an acceleration in infrastructure construction, the PMI for the construction sector declined from 50.7 in the previous month to 50.4 in October, which analysts attributed to a lingering slackness of real estate construction.

As manufacturers' new export orders further contracted in October, Betty Wang, lead economist at British think tank Oxford Econom-

ics, said that China's exports may soften in the fourth quarter as the global semiconductor cycle is likely to reach its peak. Wang said that broad coordination between monetary and fiscal policy support is still likely over the next few quarters to support growth, which is "rare in a noncrisis period".

In particular, Wang said her team expects the government to increase its spending by 2 trillion to 3 trillion yuan (\$281 billion to \$421 billion) next year, financed by special treasury bonds, in areas such as infrastructure investment and assistance to targeted household groups.

On the monetary front, Zhu Haibin, chief China economist at JPMorgan, said his team expects the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, to cut the policy benchmarks of interest rates twice in 2025 – by 10 basis points each – along with two cuts to the reserve requirement ratio, of 25 basis points each.

"Fiscal and monetary policy will not quickly swing back to neutral or a tightening stance as observed in recent years, aiming to support a continuous recovery in the coming quarters," said Zhu, who had revised upward the 2025 full-year growth forecast for China, from 4 percent to 4.6 percent year-on-year.

As part of China's intensified efforts to shore up the property market, the central bank decided to implement a normalized adjustment mechanism to narrow the gap between the interest rates of existing mortgages and new mortgages, starting on Friday.



Employees of an engineering machinery manufacturer in Shandong province work on the company's production line of loaders.

ACCRA

Govt eyes bond market return

Ghana is likely to return to the domestic bond market in 2025, three years after its debt restructuring, as improving macro-economic indicators such as falling inflation create favourable conditions for market re-entry.

The timing aligns with the typical two to four years' normalisation period markets require post-debt restructuring.

Responding to a question on how soon the government intends to reassess the domestic bond market post the domestic debt restructuring at the end of IMF/World Bank annual meetings press briefing by the Ministry of Finance, the Director, Treasury and Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance, Dr Samuel Arkhurst, said normally, when restructuring occurs, return to market takes between two to four years.

"So, when you look at when we did our restructuring, it's almost close to the two-year window that we are looking at," he stated.

The last time the government issued a bond was in September 2022, and right after that, it launched the domestic debt exchange programme in January 2023.

The programme, which was completed in September 2023, saw the government swap local bonds worth over GH83 billion for 12 new ones at reduced coupon rates and longer tenors.

"In 2022, inflation was 54 per cent. So if you issue any bond, looking at the real rate, the coupon rate will be somewhere around 60 percent. However, now that we have halved inflation and are moving into the third year, you should be seeing a normal-



Dr Mohammed Amin Adam, Minister of Finance.

ity that creates an opportunity for the domestic bond market to be opened.

"Next year will be a better time to go back to the domestic bond market," Dr Arkhurst stated.

Also speaking at the briefing, the Minister of Finance, Dr Mohammed Amin Adam, said the government's efforts to restore macro-economic stability and economic recovery was yielding positive results.

He said the pace at which the economy has rebounded in the last 10 months has been phenomenal. "We have seen improved investor confidence, growth has rebounded strongly and the macro-economic environment has stabilised.

"We want to work to bring the stability to the levels that will be visible and improve the living conditions of the people of Ghana," he stated.

He noted that the 2024 half-year growth rate of 5.8 percent was the highest in the past five years, which signals that GDP growth was gradually returning to pre pandemic levels.

The Minister also pointed out that the observed trend in the country's growth trajectory clearly indicates that GDP growth in 2024 would exceed the revised target of 3.1 percent in the mid-year budget and also exceed the

projected upward revised outlook of 4 percent by the IMF. Our growth as projected is more than the global growth projection of 3.2 percent

Dr Amin Adam said the government has also made significant progress in the fiscal consolidation process, highlighting that the country has improved the primary balance on commitment basis from a deficit of 4.3% of GDP by the end of 2022 to a deficit of 0.3 percent of GDP in 2023.

"We are on course to improve the primary balance to a modest surplus of 0.5 percent of GDP by end of 2024, and this is despite 2024 being an election year," he said.

He also assured the investor community of the government's continued commitment to fiscal discipline despite 2024 being an election year.

"For every meeting I have attended, people have been concerned about fiscal performance in an election year because of our history of fiscal slippages in election years. However, so far, from the data we have seen, we will change the narrative; it's not going to be the same in this election year.

"This election will not derail our fiscal path; we are determined to achieve the fiscal targets for the year," he assured.

The Minister also mentioned that the country's external commercial debt restructuring has been very successful. After successfully completing the restructuring of GH202 billion domestic debt in 2023, the government secured a Memorandum of Understanding with its bilateral creditors

in June 2024 to restructure its \$5.1 billion debt.

Quite recently, the government achieved an overwhelming success with its Eurobond restructuring, with over 98 percent of bondholders giving their consent to the government to amend the original terms of its \$13.1 billion debt.

The new terms will see holders take a 37 percent haircut on their investments and a suspension of coupon payments until 2026.

Dr Amin Adam said the country has now restructured over 93 percent of its eligible external debt, marking a significant milestone in its debt sustainability efforts.

The Minister added that despite improvements in the economy, there were still some challenges, noting that the country's major challenge, which continues to impede growth and stability, is the financing challenges in the energy sector.

"We need to resolve this because it has contingent effects on our fiscals and economy," he said. He said the government was currently implementing a number of measures to address the issues, with the signing of \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank expected to support the procurement of smart meters as part of measures to improve revenue collection by the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG).

"We are also working together with ECG and the Ministry of Energy to ensure that the Cash Waterfall Mechanism is operated in a more transparent manner, with all eligible collections by ECG deposited into the system for redistribution to all other stakeholders in the value chain.

"We will also undertake an audit of the single collection account of the system for the last quarter of 2023 and the first and second quarters of 2024, with the view of promoting transparency and correcting any anomaly," he stated

Survey: Foreign firms willing to invest in China

BEIJING

China's ongoing progress in market openness, product innovation and business model transformation will secure its position as a strategic priority for multinational corporations, creating long-term financial returns, said market watchers and corporate executives on Thursday.

According to a report released on Thursday by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, about 90 percent of surveyed foreign companies rated China's business environment as "satisfactory" or higher. The survey included more than 400 foreign companies operating in China in the third quarter.

Among the evaluated criteria, the highest satisfaction rates were for market access, access to business premises and completion of exit procedures.

From a market perspective, foreign companies that were surveyed remained optimistic about China, said Sun Xiao, a spokesman for the council.

Expanding production lines in China or implementing digital transformation are the primary uses of increased investment among these companies, said Sun.

The surveyed foreign businesses have shown increased willingness to invest in China. Nearly 20 percent of the surveyed companies said they plan to increase their investment in China, an increase of 2.07 percentage points from the previous quarter. The country's eastern region is the primary area for their investment, accounting for 59.52 percent of the total, according to

the report.

Denis Depoux, global managing director at management consultancy Roland Berger, said that since 2010, China's economic growth has been on a path of normalization. This can be viewed as a typical development path for a more mature economy.

"If we compare China's GDP growth in 2023 with other major economies, China has demonstrated solid growth," he said, adding that the country's growth prospects for the near future suggest resilience, with a gradual yet steady growth trajectory ahead. Depoux added that the nation will remain a key destination for multinational companies.

With the structure of foreign investment continuing to be optimized, China saw the high-tech manufacturing sector use 77.12 billion yuan (\$10.83 billion) in foreign direct investment in the first three quarters of 2024, accounting for 12 percent of the national total, according to the Ministry of Commerce. That is an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the same period last year.

Also in that period of time, FDI in the manufacturing of medical instruments and equipment grew 57.3 percent year-on-year, while that for professional technical services increased 35.3 percent.

Executives of multinational corporations noted that as China intensifies its commitment to high-quality growth and enhances institutional openness through new policy measures and large-scale business platforms like the China International Import Expo, foreign companies are eager to explore expanded opportunities stemming from China's modernization efforts.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:30	Soap: Laws of love rpt	13:20	Shamba lulu	17:00	The Base	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
6:00	HABARI	9:55	Habari za saa	13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love	17:30	HABARI	21:15	Mzuka
6:40	Kumekucha	10:00	Watoto wetu	14:00	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	17:45	Hapa na Pale	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma
7:00	Habari	10:55	Habari za saa	14:10	Shamsam za Pwani	18:00	Hapa na Pale	22:00	Supa Min Jackpot
8:00	Al Jazeera	11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt	14:40	ITV Top 10 rpt	18:15	Mapishi	22:15	ITV Top 10
9:00	Watoto wetu	11:55	Habari za saa	18:30	Jagina	19:00	Usafiri wako	22:50	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
10:05	Shika Bamba 5	12:00	Al Jazeera	19:30	Jungu kuu	19:30	Shika Bamba	23:00	ITV Top 10
10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	12:30	Jungu kuu	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	23:30	Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:55	Habari za saa	21:05	Malumbano ya hoje	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	00:30	Al Jazeera
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	13:00	Art and Lifestyle	21:15	Supa Jackpot	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo		
12:50	Art and lifestyle	13:40	Habari za saa	21:45	ITV Top 10	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo		
13:20	Shamba lulu	14:00	Art and Lifestyle	22:15	ITV Top 10	21:15	Mzuka		
13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:55	Habari za saa	22:50	ITV Top 10	21:45	Igizo: Haikufuma		
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	15:00	Meza huru	23:00	ITV Top 10	22:00	Supa Min Jackpot		
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	16:30	Watoto wetu	23:30	Music: The Base	22:15	ITV Top 10		
17:00	Shamsam za Pwani	16:30	Watoto wetu	00:30	Al Jazeera	22:15	ITV Top 10		
18:00	Hapa na Pale	17:00	Meza huru			22:50	ITV Top 10		
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	17:30	Watoto wetu			23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo		
19:00	Jungu kuu	18:00	Hapa na Pale			23:30	Soap: Uzalo rpt		
19:30	Shika Bamba	18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative			6:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi		
20:00	Habari	18:30	Jungu kuu rpt			6:40	Kumekucha		
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu	18:45	Majuzi zaidi			7:30	HABARI		
21:15	Igizo: Haikufuma	19:00	Maji Kilimanjaro			8:00	Kumekucha Michozo		
21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	19:00	Habari za saa			8:55	Habari za saa		
22:15	Supa Min Jackpot	19:30	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative			9:00	Kumekucha kishindo		
22:50	ITV Top 10	19:30	Soap: Laws of love			9:55	Habari za saa		
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	20:00	HABARI			10:00	Watoto wetu		
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	20:00	Habari			10:55	Habari za saa		
00:30	Al Jazeera	20:00	Habari			11:00	ITV Top 10		
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		20:00	HABARI			13:00	Bundesliga na DW		
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WORLD

FAO warns acute food insecurity to worsen in 22 countries

KAZAN

ROME - Acute food insecurity is expected to worsen in 22 countries due to multiple escalating factors, two United Nations (UN) agencies have warned in a report released on Thursday.

The "Hunger Hotspots - FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity" report assesses 16 hunger hotspots around the world, analyzing their outlook for the period November 2024-March 2025.

Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali are the countries considered to be "at the highest concern level" and in need of "the most urgent attention," the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned in a joint statement.

Chad, Lebanon, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Syria, and Yemen are considered countries of "very high concern", while the remaining 10 countries

and territories on the list are seen as hunger hotspots, including Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, the Niger, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.

The alarming outlook is driven by at least three factors: conflict, climate, and economic instability and disparities. Alone or combined, these factors are threatening "to deepen already life-threatening conditions."

"Conflict and armed violence continue to be the primary drivers of hunger in numerous hotspots, disrupting food systems, displacing populations, and obstructing humanitarian access," the two agencies said.

The spread of violence is especially visible in the Middle East region, with the fallout of the Gaza war that has now engulfed Lebanon, pushing "millions of people to the brink."

Regarding the climate situation, FAO and WFP warned that the La Nina



A woman poses for a photo holding a tomato and orange in her three-acre farm that was left submerged by weeks of relentless rainfall in Machakos, Kenya, May 8, 2024. AP

weather pattern could increase extreme events and threaten fragile food systems, exacerbating the food crises in already vulnerable regions until early next spring.

Economic crises and high levels of public debt in developing countries are also hindering the governments' capacity to protect their populations from poverty and climate shocks.

Referring to the five hunger hotspots considered of highest concern (Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali), FAO Director-General QU Dongyu stressed the urgent need for "a humanitarian ceasefire, and to restore access to and availability of highly nutritious food."

Peace and stability were crucial for farmers to grow food, harvest, and sustain their livelihoods, he underlined, adding: "Access to nutritious food is not just a basic need, it is a fundamental human right."

The report highlights that early and targeted actions are crucial to prevent the crisis from further deteriorating. "It is time for world leaders to step up and work with us... delivering diplomatic solutions to conflicts, using their influence to enable humanitarians to work safely, and mobilizing the resources and partnerships needed to halt global hunger in its tracks," said WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain.

Xi, UAE president exchange congratulations over 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan yesterday exchanged congratulatory messages over the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

China and the UAE are good friends who trust each other and good partners for win-win cooperation, Xi said.

Over the past 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China-UAE relations have maintained sound and steady development, with strengthened political mutual trust, deepening synergy of development strategies, fruitful practical cooperation in various fields, close people-to-people and cultural exchanges, and sound communication and coordination in regional and international affairs, he added.

Xi recalled that during Mohamed's state visit to China in May, the two heads of state reached an important consensus, which has charted the course for developing China-UAE relations in the next stage.

Xi said that he attaches great importance to the development of China-UAE relations and stands ready to work with Mohamed to take the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic ties as a new starting point to push the China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership to a higher level, so as to make a greater contribution to regional and world peace and stability while delivering more benefits to the two peoples.

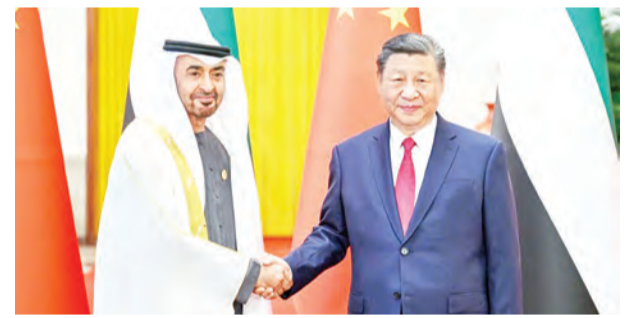
In his message, the UAE president extended his sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Xi on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of UAE-China diplomatic ties, wishing the two countries continuous development and prosperity and more cooperation in various fields.

The UAE has always committed to consolidating and developing the UAE-China comprehensive strategic partnership for the benefit of the two peoples, he added.

On the same day, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and UAE's Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum exchanged congratulatory messages.

Li said that China is willing to work with the UAE to take the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and continuously enrich the connotation of the China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership.

In his message, Mohammed said that the UAE is willing to deepen bilateral relations with China and strengthen cooperation in various fields. **Xinhua**



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Beijing May 30, 2024. XINHUA

Nord Stream 2 completed, Trump's statements about its destruction unclear, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE construction of all strings of the Nord Stream gas pipeline was completed; therefore, statements by US presidential candidate Donald Trump about the destruction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline at the construction stage are unclear, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at a briefing, answering a question from TASS.

"Nord Stream was eventually completed. Moreover, one string of Nord Stream 2 is intact, and at any moment, as the President [of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin] said, it is ready to be launched," the Kremlin spokesman stated. "It is very difficult to guess what Mr. Trump meant," Peskov added, suggesting addressing "the election headquarters of this candidate" for clarification.

Earlier, in an interview with journalist Tucker Carlson, US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump strongly denied Democrats' claims that he has ties with Russia, recalling that he blocked the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline.

Talking to Carlson Trump called those who labeled him "a friend of Russia" or "a Russian spy" sick.

The construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline began in 2018 but was suspended a year and a half later. In late 2019, the Trump administration announced sanctions against companies involved in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream pipelines.

Agencies

Israel wants to enforce any Lebanon ceasefire deal, Netanyahu tells US

BEIRUT

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US envoys on Thursday that Israel's ability to counter threats to its security from Lebanon and return displaced people to the north were key elements of any ceasefire deal with Lebanon.

He was speaking shortly after a Hezbollah attack on northern Israel's Metula killed five people including an Israeli farmer and four foreign workers, while two more civilians were killed by shrapnel near the town of Kiryat Ata, Israeli authorities said.

Meanwhile, Beirut said a series of Israeli strikes had killed six health workers in southern Lebanon.

"The main issue is... Israel's ability and determination to enforce the agreement and thwart any threat to its security from Lebanon," Netanyahu's office cited him as telling two US envoys.

The envoys, Brett McGurk and Amos Hochstein, were in Israel on a new push to secure ceasefires in both Lebanon and Gaza. Lebanon's prime minister on Wednesday expressed hope that a ceasefire deal was imminent.

Sources previously told Reuters that talks for Lebanon were centered on a 60-day pause to allow for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which would entail Hezbollah withdrawing its armed presence from south of the Litani River.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday said there had been progress toward understanding how to effectively implement the resolution.

"It's important to make sure we have clarity, both from Lebanon and from Israel, about what would be required under 1701 to get its effective implementation," Blinken told a press conference.

"I can tell you that based on my recent trip to the region, the work that's ongoing right now, we have made good progress



Smoke rises from a destroyed building that was hit by an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon yesterday. AP

on those understandings."

While good progress had been made, there was still more work to do, Blinken said.

The diplomatic push comes amid intensifying fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which has run in parallel to Israel's war in Gaza against Hamas militants that has left the tiny enclave in ruins and caused a humanitarian crisis.

Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli attacks killed 45 people over the prior day, bringing the total for the past year to 2,865.

The UN humanitarian agency said Israel ordered Palestinians in the Rashidiyeh refugee camp in southern Lebanon to evacuate, the first mass Israeli evacuation order for an entire camp in Lebanon.

Deadly Israeli strikes have already hit other Palestinian camps in the country, in-

cluding in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Bombardment

Israel bombarded areas around the eastern city of Baalbek on Thursday for a second consecutive day after issuing evacuation notices.

On Wednesday it conducted heavy airstrikes targeting Hezbollah in and around the city, which is famed for its Roman temples.

Dozens of cars could be seen speeding out of the area after Thursday's warning, with wafts of black smoke still visible emanating from the town of Douris, where an Israeli strike the previous day destroyed Hezbollah fuel stocks, according to the Israeli military and a Lebanese security source.

Thousands fleeing the violence have

sought shelter in the nearby Christian-majority town of Deir al-Ahmar, where local official Jean Fakhry said authorities were struggling to cover even a fraction of their needs and some people had to spend the night in their cars.

"We cannot continue this way," Fakhry said.

Hezbollah said it had launched several rocket and artillery attacks against Israeli forces near the southern town of Khayam. It marked the fourth straight day of fighting in and around the strategic hilltop town, which is home to one of the largest Shi'ite communities in southern Lebanon.

The mayor of the Lebanese border town of Wazzani, south of Khayam, said he had pleaded with authorities to evacuate more than 20 people, most of them women and children, who were stuck in the crossfire but Lebanese authorities said Israel had not responded to his appeal.

"We keep asking for them to be helped but it's like we're in a jungle. No one listens," Mayor Ahmed Mohammed told Reuters.

Hezbollah aims to keep Israeli forces out of Khayam to prevent them from detonating homes and buildings, as has happened on a large scale in other border towns, a source familiar with the group's thinking told Reuters.

Hezbollah says its fighters have prevented Israel from fully occupying or controlling any southern villages, while Israel says it is carrying out limited ground operations aimed at destroying the group's infrastructure.

After iPhone 16, Indonesia halts sale of Google Pixel phones

By Bloomberg

INDONESIA has prohibited the sale of the Pixel phones, saying Alphabet Inc.'s Google has failed to meet domestic content requirements.

It's illegal to trade Google Pixel phones in Indonesia, even though an estimated 22,000 units have already entered the country this year through personal shipments or carry-on items, Ministry of Industry spokesperson Febri Hendri Antoni Arief said in a Thursday press briefing.

That follows the government's earlier move to block the sale of iPhone 16 devices in Southeast Asia's largest economy after Apple Inc fell short of its investment commitments.

The Cupertino, California-based company has sent a letter seeking a meeting with Industry Minister Agus Gumawang Kartasmita to discuss the ban, though no date has been set, Arief said.

"The local content rule and related policies are made for fairness for all investors that invest in Indonesia, and



New Google Pixel phones on display at Made By Google at Google, Aug 13, 2024, in Mountain View, California. AP

for creating added value and deepening the industry structure here," he said.

The government has stressed to take action against online and physical shops caught selling the phones, and deactivate their IMEI identifying numbers so the devices can't be registered with local telecommunications providers. Phones purchased abroad are allowed for personal use provided the owner declares it upon entry - and pays hefty fees.

The move signals that In-

donesia is willing to double-down on restrictive policies for foreign players as a means to secure greater investment. Smartphone and tablet makers are required to meet domestic content requirements as high as 40 percent depending on the scale of their operations in the country. Companies can comply by manufacturing their devices, developing firmware, or investing in innovation in Indonesia.

Apple has taken the route of putting up developer academies in the country, though its investment stood at just 1.5

trillion rupiah (\$95 million), below its 1.7 trillion rupiah pledge, the industry ministry said. Rival phonemakers like Samsung Electronics Co. and Xiaomi Corp. have established local factories.

The \$1-trillion Indonesian economy is a potential growth market with over 350 million active mobile phones - more than the nation's 270 million population, according to government data. Both Google and Apple did not make it into the country's top five smartphone brands last year.

Polls show majority of Americans support abolishing Electoral College

LOS ANGELES

ACCORDING to a flurry of recent public polls, the majority of Americans favored abolishing the Electoral College for the presidential election, a mechanism made the United States' executive president be indirectly elected via a group of presidential electors instead of decided by voters directly.

The Pew Research Center survey released last month indicated that 63 percent of Americans favored a direct popular vote for the nation's president over the Electoral College, with around 80 percent of Democrats and 47 percent of Republicans in favor of doing away with the process.

The Public Policy Institute of California's October poll also showed that seven out of 10 voters in California, the most populous state of the country, wanted the Electoral College abolished. The University of Massachusetts Amherst League of Women Voters (UMass Amherst) poll published on Friday showed six out of 10 American women favored abolishment of the Electoral College.

"The Electoral College is an outdated racist relic with harmful implications for all voters," said Celina Stewart, CEO of the League of Women Voters, in a statement. "So, it is no surprise that women are advocating for a more representative system that prioritizes the power of the people. Voters, not politically motivated electors, must choose the president."

No surprise there, since states whose electoral votes can swing the election despite losing the national vote tend to be Republican.

Donald Trump's 2016 victory despite losing the popular vote by a significant margin fueled public debate on the Electoral College's legitimacy and underscored the reason, for many, why it has to be repealed.

For over two centuries, the U.S. Electoral College has decided presidential elections, yet a majority of Americans now



prefer a shift to a popular vote system that guarantees a democracy based on "One person, One vote."

Battleground "swing" states like Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania received disproportionate clout, reinforcing the importance of a few decisive regions in determining the outcome, which many feel undermines democratic rule.

The roots of the Electoral College go back to the U.S. Constitution's framers, who sought to balance the influence of large and small states and prevent the dominance of heavily populated regions. However, currently, criticisms argue that small states received disproportionate power, which

led to outcomes that reflect the preferences of a minority rather than the broader electorate.

Moreover, such demographic and economic imbalances could lead to repeated situations where the popular vote winner does not win the presidency, fueling distrust in the electoral process and political unrest.

The system led to controversies in close elections particularly, such as in 1824, 1876, and 2000. Each time, the candidate with the popular vote advantage was either narrowly elected by Congress or lost due to the Electoral College.

An additional issue lies with "faithless electors," who occasionally vote

contrary to their state's popular vote since they are not required to follow their state voters. This gives a huge amount of power to a tiny handful of people -- the opposite of the general election's purpose.

"For much of the nation's history, the Electoral College was an afterthought and viewed as a unique quirk in what otherwise was a democratic system of elections," said Tatishe Nteta, provost professor of political science at UMass Amherst and director of the poll published Friday. "In recent years, with increasingly close presidential elections, we have seen the Electoral College take center stage in selecting the nation's next president as winners of the popular vote in 2000 and 2016 failed to secure enough Electoral College votes to become president," he noted.

Historically, Americans have supported eliminating the Electoral College. In the 1960s, over half favored this change, and that number increased to 75 percent in the 1980s.

Reforming the system is challenging because it would require a constitutional amendment or a novel approach like the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). The NPVIC, supported by 15 states and Washington D.C., would require participating states to allocate their electors to the national popular vote winner if the compact reaches a majority threshold of 270 electoral votes.

While this approach bypasses some legislative hurdles, it faces potential legal challenges and relies on continued support from states. "Using a popular vote system is the only way we can uphold our democratic values, reflect the people's will, and ensure fair representation in U.S. presidential elections," Kevin K., a university economics major, told Xinhua. *Xinhua*

Minsk conference focuses on Eurasian security, world multipolarity

MINSK

THE Second Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security kicked off on Thursday, with the aim to conduct frank and inclusive discussions on such topics as the multipolarization of the world, security on the Eurasian continent, and global economic security.

At the opening ceremony, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said that security crises have swept across the globe and countries are increasingly compelled to use military force to protect their sovereignty and prevent the escalation of tensions, adding that further deterioration of the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East will have irreversible consequences globally.

Lukashenko highlighted an urgent need for the world to have a frank dialogue and a fair assessment of the current events in order to safeguard the comprehensive security of



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov delivers a speech during the Second Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security in Minsk, Belarus, Oct. 31, 2024. The Second Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security kicked off on Thursday, with the aim to conduct frank and inclusive discussions on such topics as the multi-polarization of the world, security on the Eurasian continent, and global economic security. (Photo by Henadz Zhinkov/Xinhua)

all countries in the military, political, economic, informational and other spheres.

The president also said that security initiatives put forward by leaders of a number of Eurasian countries, as well as China's Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind are crucial to

solving current problems and establishing a working mechanism for ensuring global security.

Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vulin stressed that the biggest problem in the world today is the lack of international law while some Western leaders are committed to destroying rather than

building it.

"When talking about Eurasian security, it is important to consider not only the countries and governments that are geographically located on a certain continent but also the people who share the same values as those countries," Vulin said, adding that as far as security is concerned, the world must show the courage and sense of responsibility to reach a new consensus if human civilization is to have a way out.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the main trend in today's world is the formation of a multipolar world order, an irreversible natural process linked to objective changes in the world balance, economic growth and the strengthening of the influence of new, non-Western centers.

This trend promotes the democratization of international relations, in which there should be no hegemony of anyone and where the principles of the UN Charter should be observed in a comprehensive and not selective manner, Lavrov noted, adding that Russia's vision of Eurasian security corresponds to the GSI.

The two-day conference, organized by the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, draws nearly 600 officials and experts from more than 40 countries and regions. *Xinhua*

Morocco voices readiness to assist flood-hit Spain with rescue teams, assistance

RABAT

FOLLOWING the floods that ravaged several regions of Spain, King Mohammed VI instructed the Interior Minister to call his Spanish counterpart and propose Morocco's assistance.

During the phone call, the Moroccan Interior Minister informed his Spanish counterpart that, by the high royal instructions, Morocco is fully prepared to send rescue teams and deliver necessary assistance to Spain to face this natural disaster, the Interior Ministry said in a press release.

The press release said he also extended condolences and solidarity to Spanish authorities and victims' families.

Following these devastating floods, King Mohammed VI sent a message of condolences and compassion to King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, wherein he expressed his deep feelings of compassion and solidarity.

The Monarch also expressed sincere condolences and feelings of compassion and solidarity to the families and loved ones of the victims and to all the friendly Spanish people.

King Mohammed VI sent a similar message of condolences and sympathy to the President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sanchez.

The torrential rains that slammed Valencia and Castilla-La Mancha in south-eastern Spain caused flash floods that swept roads and towns on Tuesday, killing at least 72 people, while several people are still missing. On Wednesday, the Spanish government announced a three-day national mourning period from Thursday to Saturday.



King Mohammed VI sent a similar message of condolences and sympathy to the President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sanchez

Saudi Arabia keen to deepen cooperation with China on green industry: finance minister

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia is keen to learn from and strengthen cooperation with China in the green industry, Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan said here on Thursday.

"China is leading the whole world in the green industry and renewable energy. There are a lot of technologies -- cars, batteries, and robotics -- that the world are trying to follow," Al-Jadaan told Xinhua in an exclusive interview at the 8th Future Investment Initiative conference kicked off here on Tuesday.

"We are trying to have even more cooperative approach between us and China," the minister said.

Calling the Saudi Arabia-

China partnership "strategic" and "very important," the minister noted that China is Saudi Arabia's largest trading partner, "but it is not only about trade," but also about technology, the wider economy, and culture.

Recalling his visit to China in May, Al-Jadaan said he was impressed by the "first-hand developments, the significant achievements that have been made in the Chinese economy," and is very pleased with the discussions held between both sides then and the bilateral agreements signed in financial services and other areas.

The very fact that the two sides announced recently the year 2025 as the Saudi Arabia-China Year of Cul-



ture is "a significant sign that it (the partnership) is not only government-to-government, but people-to-people," he said.

Al-Jadaan highlighted commonalities between China's high-quality development philosophy and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, noting that both are long-term plans "that are communicated and executed with a lot of support from the government."

"I think China is the envy of the world when it comes to that commitment, that execution capability, and that long-term vision," he said.

Regarding recent Western reports suggesting that China's economy has peaked and its growth model is now exhausted, the minister dis-

missed the allegations, saying "China has been the very bright spot in the world economy, and the world recognizes this."

"Despite all the talks in the media about Chinese economy slowing down, it is growing at 4.8 percent... It's one of the fastest-growing economies despite all the challenges," he said.

Al-Jadaan said he was impressed by the Chinese government's "serious support" for the economy. The recent stimulus packages, including those in the financial sector, are "a sign that the government is responsive," he said, adding "they understand what is happening in the economy."

Against the backdrop of escalating conflicts across the world, Al-Jadaan said he is pleased that Saudi Arabia is

working with China "to make sure that not only in this region, but globally we will bring more calm and de-escalation for the benefits of our people."

Together with international institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and under such frameworks as the Group of 20, Saudi Arabia and China could jointly contribute to addressing challenges facing the Global South, especially low-income countries and emerging economies, the minister said.

"We have very clear and common grounds on making sure that we (not only) do what is right for our people, for our economies, but also for the rest of the world to make sure that we have stability and growth," he added. *Xinhua*



Prosecutors say lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs want to 'hijack' criminal case to fight civil claims

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

FEDERAL prosecutors say lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs are trying to "hijack" the music mogul's criminal case from them by asking a judge to force early disclosure of evidence, including his accusers' identities.

The prosecutors urged a judge in papers filed late Wednesday to reject the requests, saying the effort to reveal the identities of prospective witnesses, in particular, was "blatantly improper."

They said it was inappropriate for defense lawyers to seek the disclosure of victim identities and details about other evidence that would preview the government's case.

Defense lawyers also have asked for a gag order to stop accusers' lawyers from commenting publicly and have claimed government leaks to the media have threatened the rapper's chance at a fair trial.

Prosecutors said the requests were "a thinly veiled attempt to restrict the Government's proof at this early stage of the case and to hijack the criminal proceeding so the defendant can respond to civil lawsuits. This demand should be squarely rejected, especially in light of the risk it poses to witness safety."

Prosecutors added: "As the defendant well knows, there is zero legal authority for his attempt to co-opt this criminal proceeding to defend against civil litigation."

Combs, 54, (pictured) has remained in a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest, awaiting a trial scheduled to start on May 5.

Part of the grounds on which a judge rejected a bail package suggested by his lawyers was that he was a danger to obstruct justice and engage in witness tampering.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges that he coerced and abused women for years, aided by associates and employees.

Prosecutors said that since at least 2008, Combs engaged in a racketeering conspiracy, using his power and prestige in the entertainment industry to force women to engage in extended sex acts with male commercial sex workers in what were known as "Freak Offs."

They said he used videos of the attacks as collateral to threaten victims, and they said he also physically as-

saulted women and others by striking, punching, dragging and kicking them.

Prosecutors said defense claims that the government leaked a video of Combs assaulting his ex-girlfriend Cassie at a Los Angeles hotel hallway on March 5, 2016, to CNN were not true.

They said defense lawyers were engaged in a "bald attempt to suppress a damning piece of evidence against him – a video of him violently beating a victim."

In May, Combs posted a video statement in which he said he took "full responsibility" for his actions in the video against Cassie, an R&B singer whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura. She sued him last November, alleging years of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. The lawsuit was settled the next day.

"I was disgusted then when I did it. I'm disgusted now," Combs said in the video.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Ventura has done.

Combs also faces civil lawsuits by multiple men and women alleging they were sexually assaulted by Combs during the last quarter century after being drugged.

Lawyers for Combs have asked that the accusers and their lawyers be ordered not to make public statements, saying they have already made "numerous inflammatory extrajudicial statements aimed at assassinating Mr. Combs's character in the press."

More than a dozen lawsuits filed in Manhattan federal court have been assigned to different judges, leading to varying early rulings on whether allegations were sufficiently made.

In one instance, a judge on Wednesday ruled that a Tennessee woman who alleges Combs raped her in 2004 when she was 19 must proceed without anonymity or not at all. The judge wrote that defendants have a right to investigate those who sue them and the public has a right to know who uses the courts.

A lawyer for Combs did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday.

AP

The Prince's challenge: Dube's journey from promise to pressure at Yanga

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE signing of 27-year-old Zimbabwean striker Prince Dube from Azam FC was a move that sent shockwaves through the Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga) fanbase.

As one of the most anticipated transfers in recent years, expectations ran high. Young Africans supporters envisioned Dube (pictured) becoming a key figure in the club's attacking line, celebrating his goals and celebrating victories.

Yet, as the Premier League unfolds, Dube finds himself grappling with the weight of expectations and the fierce competition within the squad.

Dube's arrival at Young Africans came on the heels of a successful spell with Azam FC, where he established himself as a formidable striker. Over four seasons in the Premier League, Dube scored an impressive 34 goals, showcasing his ability to find the back of the net consistently.

His statistics tell a story of a player capable of brilliance, highlighted by his standout 2020/21 season when he netted 14 goals.

However, injuries took a toll during the 2021/22 season, limiting him to just one goal. He bounced back in the 2022/23 season with 12 goals, followed by seven goals in the most recent season, solidifying his reputation as a capable attacker. Yet, the move to Young Africans has not yet borne fruit as expected.

Since joining Young Africans, Dube has played in eight matches in the current Premier League season but has yet to score or provide an assist.

His journey with the club has been anything but smooth, with only four starts in the first team against rivals Simba SC, Singida Black Stars, Kagera



and KMC FC. In contrast, he has come off the bench in four matches against Coastal Union, JKT Tanzania, Pamba Jiji FC, and Ken Gold SC.

This lack of contributions has left fans and analysts questioning whether Dube can live up to the lofty expectations set upon him. Historically, he has performed well against Simba SC, netting four goals in five matches during his tenure at Azam FC.

Yet, in two recent encounters with his former rivals since joining Young Africans, Dube failed to find the net, raising eyebrows and concerns among fans and coaching staff alike.

Complicating Dube's situation is the fierce competition for starting positions within the Young Africans squad. With three other strikers in top form Jean Baleke, Clement Mzize, and Kennedy Musonda, the pressure is on Dube to prove his worth.

Each of these players has already made contributions, scoring or assisting when

called upon, creating an environment where every opportunity is crucial.

Coach Miguel Gamondi is keenly aware of the competition and is evaluating his central attackers closely. As the small transfer window approaches, he may consider adjustments to the squad based on performance and potential. With only three of the team's 13 goals coming from strikers, the urgency for Dube to step up becomes even more apparent.

Despite the lack of goals from the striker position, Young Africans' attack has not been without merit. Midfielder Maxi Nzungeli and forward Pacome Zouzoua lead the team with multiple goals, while defender Ibrahim Bacca has also made significant contributions from the back. The remaining goals have come from midfielders Stephanie Aziz Ki and Clatous Chama, each contributing once to the scoreline.

The current situation raises a pressing question: Can Young Africans afford to continue in-

vesting time in Dube? His initial appearances showed promise, particularly in pre-season and CAF Champions League qualifiers, where he scored four goals and provided two assists across six matches. This glimpse of his potential suggested that he could become a vital asset for the club.

Young Africans fans are left pondering if Dube can turn his fortunes around and fulfill the expectations that accompanied his signing. While his initial performances may have set the stage for a bright future, the recent struggles have led to increased scrutiny and concern.

Coach Gamondi and the management team must weigh the options carefully, balancing the need for immediate contributions against the potential long-term benefits of allowing Dube time to adapt.

As the season progresses, Dube's next performances will be crucial. He must rise to the occasion, capitalizing on the opportunities presented to him while demonstrating his ability to score and assist.

The clock is ticking, and the Young Africans faithful remain hopeful that the Prince will soon deliver on his promise.

In the competitive world of football, time is a luxury that few players can afford. For Dube, the challenge is not only about scoring goals but also about reclaiming his position as a reliable striker in a team brimming with talent.

The eyes of the fans, the weight of expectations, and the pressure of competition are all factors that he must navigate as he seeks to establish himself as a vital contributor to Young Africans' success this season.

The question remains: Can Prince Dube overcome these hurdles and become the star that Young Africans desperately needs?

Only time will tell.



Tanzania Worldwide Sports Chamber of Commerce (TWSCC) president Steven Mkomwa (2nd L) pictured on Thursday in Dar es Salaam briefing journalists on the upcoming Tanzania Sports Week (TSW). To his left is Dianarose Mboya, marketing officer from GF Trucks. Photo: Correspondent James Kandoya

Tanzania Sports Week now set to boost innovation and growth in sports industry

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Worldwide Sports Chamber of Commerce (TWSCC) has announced the launch of the Tanzania Sports Week (TSW), scheduled to take place from December 10-12 in Dar es Salaam.

This inaugural event is set to bring together major stakeholders from Tanzania's sports community, including government officials, sports administrators, coaches, athletes, and corporate partners.

Speaking at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam, TWSCC

president Steven Mkomwa emphasized the event's focus on driving growth, collaboration, and innovation within the Tanzanian sports sector, while also aligning with global trends and examining their implications for Tanzania.

The week-long event will address key challenges and opportunities in Tanzania's sports landscape, aiming to create actionable solutions for sustainable development.

According to Mkomwa, TWS will provide an essential platform for discussions on the current state of sports in Tanzania,

covering areas such as funding, infrastructure development, and gender equality.

"TSW is a critical platform for addressing challenges and creating a pathway for growth and innovation in sports," Mkomwa said.

"We are committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and economic development in the global sports industry, with a focus on sustainable growth for Tanzania and beyond."

Panel discussions and workshops are set to delve into topics such as innovative funding

models, technology in sports, and successful local case studies.

Keynote speakers and interactive sessions will also highlight the role of sports education, community development, and the need for a cohesive national sports strategy.

Dianarose Mboya, a marketing officer from GF Trucks, one of the event's partners, expressed pride in supporting TWSCC and emphasized the potential of Tanzania Sports Week to create positive change in the country's sports sector.

La Liga president blasts Real Madrid as 'childish' for skipping Ballon d'Or Gala

Madrid Universal

THE recent Ballon d'Or Gala in Paris was highly controversial as Real Madrid refused to make the trip to the event after Vinicius Jr was revealed not to be the recipient of the prestigious individual award.

Carlo Ancelotti, who was named the best men's coach on the night, was one of the masterminds behind the plan as the club came out in support of the Brazilian star who was the favourite to take the accolade home.

While many legends have come out supporting Real Madrid for their decision, the overall reception of the club's stance has not gone down well with many claiming it to be Real Madrid's arrogance and sense of entitlement.

"Tebas speaks on the issue Speaking to the media in a recent interaction via Mundo Deportivo, La Liga president Javier Tebas opened up about the topic and was very harsh on the Merengues for their immaturity in that respect.

"The position is incomprehensible. It was a childish attitude, a hot one, call it whatever you want," said Tebas.

"Questioning France Football and an award that has been going on for many years and saying that UEFA has influenced not to give it to Vinicius is a lack of chivalry," he added.

Elaborating on the poor image it reflected of the club, he said: "It's a supremacist attitude, it seems that everything should revolve around them."

Manchester City's Rodri, who won the Premier League and the European Championships, was named the latest Ballon d'Or winner in the ceremony earlier this week with Vinicius finishing second.

France Football have since come out to reveal that no one knew of the winner including Rodri himself and that Real Madrid's stance is puzzling.

Their explanation for Vinicius' missing out was that he lost a significant number of points by competing against his own Real Madrid teammates including Jude Bellingham and Dani Carvajal.

Los Blancos, however, sniff UEFA's hand in denying them the award.

AGENCIES

Guardiola reflects on the challenges of coaching Barcelona: "The most painful hits come from within the club"

Barca Universal

BARCELONA, over the years, has seen several managers take the helm. From Pep Guardiola to Luis Enrique, Quique Setien, Ernesto Valverde, Ronald Koeman to finally Xavi Hernandez, all have spent their spells leading the team.

A common complaint, however, has been how draining the job is compared to coaching other teams or under different circumstances for the club bears very high standards that are difficult to meet.

In recent times, Xavi and Enrique have come out to speak on how the job is emotionally draining and challenging for a manager.

"Guardiola speaks on the Barcelona job Speaking to Cat Radio in a recent interaction, Manchester City manager and Barcelona legend Pep Guardiola spoke on how the Barcelona job was demanding as a coach and the most difficult job in the world.

"The toughest job, by a long shot," he began. "In other places, you get hit by opponents, but in Barcelona, the most painful hits are those that come from within the club itself," he added.

Commenting on whether the trend was recent or was historically present at the club, he said it was deep-rooted and largely because the size of the institution provides little margin for error.

"It has always been like this and it will always be like this. Trying to change that would be a big mistake. We have to live with this dynamic because it is part of the club's identity that makes it unique."

Elaborating on what he meant in saying high standards, he spoke on how the team's failure to win one trophy despite winning all others was considered a failure.

"It's a great club. We were winning the league and the cup for many years, and the club was considered a failure because we were out of the Champions League semi-finals."

Giving his two cents on the entire situation and his stance on it as a manager, he cryptically said,

"In Barcelona, there are a number of wars and you have to choose, which war will I fight? You will be wrong if you fight a useless war, a big mistake."

"There is only one war you have to get involved in: convincing the players every day that you will win Saturday, Wednesday, Saturday, Wednesday, and so on. The rest you don't get involved in," he clarified.

AGENCIES

Fifa accused of contributing to 'very serious' human rights abuses in damning new report

By Miguel Delaney

FIFA's flawed structure has contributed to "a wide range of social harms, not least very serious and systematic human rights abuses", a major new report by activist group FairSquare has concluded. The human rights body calls for profound reform of the global regulator but states that this is almost impossible from within. It is argued that some aspects of governance have got worse since Gianni Infantino was elected president in 2016 after a series of corruption scandals.

The 140-page report, titled 'Substitute: the case for the external reform of Fifa', drew on more than 100 interviews, as well as field research, to assess the impact of World Cups going back to South Africa 2010. It concluded that the body was ultimately a negative force in its current guise due to consequences that are "contributing to harm and suffering". This was primarily attributed to an infrastructure where power is centred in what is essentially an executive president position, which derives its support from a one-member-one-vote patronage system. The report criticises Fifa's inability to self-regulate while pointing to the conflicts of interest that come with being a regulator as well as a competition organiser. FairSquare go on to state that this structure



Gianni Infantino has faced criticism about his Fifa governance (AP)

means the body is even failing in its core stated objective of developing football, especially with regards to the women's game.

The conclusion arrives during a fraught period for Fifa, where its authority has been challenged by a series of legal actions, including that from players' unions over the beleaguered new Club World Cup. Infantino's regime has also faced severe criticism about its deepening relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the state set to be awarded the 2034 World Cup on 11 December. That will come after an "en bloc" vote where member associations

have to cast their choices for both 2030 and 2034 at the same time, potentially preventing protest votes.

FairSquare are a human rights group working to promote better governance to prevent sporting institutions from contributing to social problems. They state that a central issue is the Fifa Forward programme, which is the evolution of Sepp Blatter's old GOAL programme. This is the system through which the body's ample funds are redistributed among member associations, through a set figure every year. The problem specified is that this serves as a vote-winner for incumbent presi-

dents in a "mutually dependent system of patronage", where there is also "a lack of transparency".

The report states: "Fifa does not appear to be exercising the requisite control over the money it redistributes; on the contrary, it is pumping increasing amounts of money into its member associations without any apparent regard for their specific development needs. It is hard to escape the conclusion that one of the primary functions of the [programme] is to buy the political support of member associations at the cost of the proper sustainable development of the game."

Fifa are even criticised for how it has "weaponised" its prohibition of "political interference", which essentially prevents state oversight.

Nick McGeehan, co-director of FairSquare and lead author, said: "Fifa is a commercial rights holder, a development organisation, a competition organiser, and a global regulator, all rolled into one big mess. Commercially, it's a hugely successful organisation, but it has been grossly negligent in addressing the eye-watering list of human rights abuses linked to its operations, and from the perspective of the development of the game, most notably the development of the women's game, it appears to be irredeemably dysfunctional."

FairSquare describes the outcome of all this as "disas-

trous".

"Fifa's operations entail very serious risks to a wide range of human rights and the organisation is guilty of serious due diligence failures, most notably in the run up to the Qatar 2022 World Cup, where it repeatedly failed to take steps to mitigate the serious human rights risks to migrant workers involved in preparations for the tournament," the report states. Its operations elsewhere have been linked to abuses including mass evictions, the destruction of livelihoods, police abuse, extrajudicial killings and other violations of the right to life, forced labour, and physical, sexual and psychological abuse."

The report concludes that only "institutional separation" of funding from the rest of Fifa's operations can "break the patronage system", while calling for the publication of "information to verify that the funds are being spent on the purpose to which they have been allocated". In an accompanying policy brief entitled 'Laws for the Game', Dr Jan Zgliniski from the London School of Economics argues that the European Union's transnational powers can serve as one possible solution.

"Football is far too socially, politically and economically important to be governed this poorly. Only external regulation will provide the foundations for Fifa to deliver on football's transformative potential and to prevent the organisation from causing more serious harm," said McGeehan.

Fifa did not respond to FairSquare, amid widespread claims that the body has stopped answering NGOs.

THE INDEPENDENT

Who is Ruben Amorim? Why Man United made their move

The Football Faithful

RUBEN Amorim is set to become the next manager of Manchester United after an agreement was reached between Sporting Lisbon and the Premier League side.

Amorim will be confirmed as Erik ten Hag's replacement at Old Trafford, following the decision to sack the Dutchman on Monday. The 39-year-old will inherit an underperforming squad in Manchester and will be tasked with reviving the fortunes of a fallen giant.

United have agreed to meet Amorim's release clause at Estádio José Alvalade, while personal terms have been reached with the Portuguese coach.

But just who is Ruben Amorim? And why have Manchester United moved so swiftly for his services?

"Who is Ruben Amorim? Why Manchester United have moved for the Portuguese coach

Amorim's emergence as one of Europe's best up-and-coming coaches has been a rapid rise, moving almost instantly into coaching following his retirement as a player.

Born in Lisbon, Amorim began his playing career at Belenenses before spending the bulk of his career at Benfica, where he won three Primeira Liga titles. He later had loan spells at Braga and Qatari outfit Al-Wakrah SC before calling time on a career that also yielded 14 caps for Portugal in 2016.

He began working toward a coaching license

and spent a week shadowing José Mourinho at Manchester United as part of an internship. Short spells at Casa Pia and Braga B followed before his appointment as the latter's senior head coach started a meteoric rise.

After inheriting a team languishing eighth in the Primeira Liga, he picked up ten wins in 13 games, beat Porto in the 2020 Taça da Liga final, and led Braga to a first win at Benfica in 65 years.

Sporting, suitably impressed, paid the third-highest managerial compensation fee (€10m) in history to appoint Amorim after just two months of top-flight experience. It was a gamble that worked.

His first full season saw Amorim lead Sporting to a first Portuguese league title in 19 years, and he added a second league title in 2023/24. Two Taça da Liga trophies have also arrived with Sporting having superseded Porto and Benfica as the division's top team.

*Tactical flexibility and improvement despite star sales

His success has been built on a flexible formation that utilises three central defenders and two players stationed in advanced roles off a centre-forward. With wing-backs stretching the game and a two-man defensive midfield pivot adding increased security, the fluidity of Sporting has contributed to their achievements.

Sporting's progress has also come despite combating the loss of key personnel. The Por-

tuguese side have raked in some huge transfer fees for players in recent transfer windows, who have shone in his system.

Joao Palhinha, Matheus Nunes and Pedro Porro have all moved to the Premier League for significant sums, while Amorim will reunite with Manuel Ugarte at Old Trafford. The Uruguayan signed for the Red Devils in the summer from Paris Saint-Germain, having left Lisbon in a €60m deal a season earlier.

Together with sporting director Hugo Viana, who will join Manchester City in the summer, Sporting have signed and sold impressively in recent years.

Viktor Gyokeres and Ousmane Diomande are among the current names who could bring in huge fees in the upcoming windows.

*Has there been interest from other clubs?

The leading vacancies in European football have not been filled

without Amorim's name first being linked of late. Barcelona, Chelsea, Liverpool and Bayern Munich were all credited as admirers of his work in the summer, as the quartet made managerial changes.

In April, he was forced to apologise after being spotted in London for talks with an interested club, understood to have been West Ham.

"Obviously my trip was a mistake, the timing was completely wrong, it didn't seem right at the time," Amorim told reporters.

"It was wrong, especially when I'm so demanding with my players and always the first to say that each one's actions can overpower the team. I have already removed players from the squad for much less.

"It was my mistake, I have to accept it and live with it. It didn't seem so bad at the time, but thinking about it later it's very clear. I gave explanations to the players and the staff. Now it's

time to move on.

"Obviously, I also use the public part here to apologise to the Sporting fans, the staff and, mainly publicly to my players for the mistake I made.

"It was a mistake because the fact that we are close to winning the championship, nothing has been done yet, and the team leader causes this noise, is a mistake. Whether or not he is authorised. And I'm the biggest defender of that. That's why I said it is an error."

*Could any players follow Amorim to Old Trafford?

The obvious answer is yes.

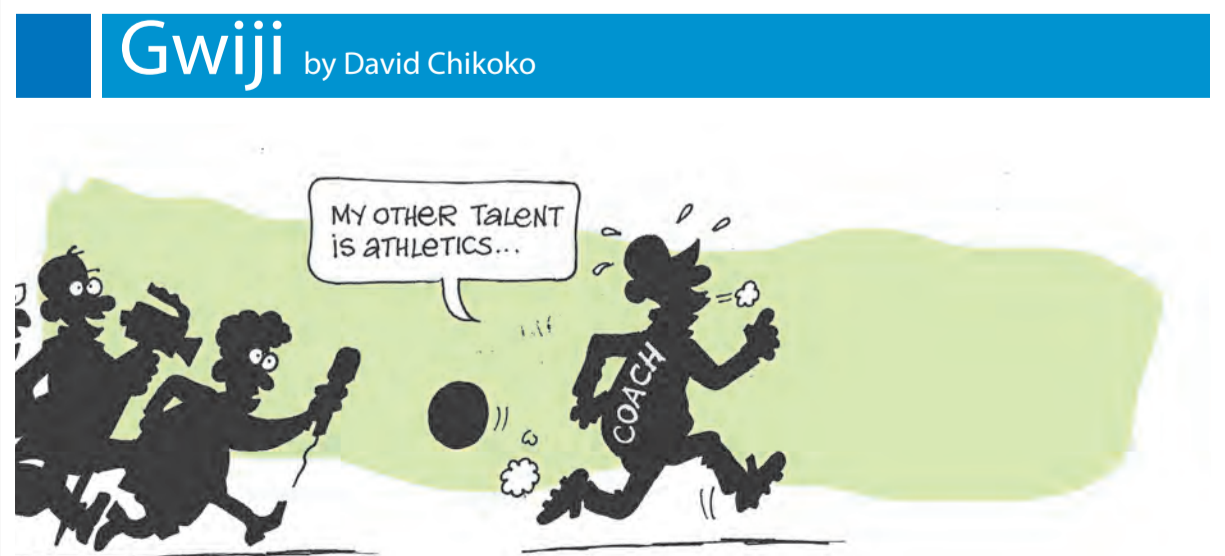
Managers often return to their former homes for signings, though Manchester United will be cautious given the disappointment of Erik ten Hag's Ajax-focused recruitment. However, Sporting have a squad full of talent and already well-versed in Amorim's methods.

Viktor Gyokeres is the standout name after an extraordinary impact in Lisbon. Signed from Coventry City for just €20m, the Swedish striker now has clubs considering activating his €100m release clause.

He has 59 goals and 19 assists in 65 appearances for Sporting and was the Primeira Liga's Player of the Season and leading scorer in 2023/24. However, having invested €106m in Rasmus Hojlund and Joshua Zirkzee, it remains to be seen whether there's the budget for a big centre-forward signing.

Ousmane Diomande has impressed as one of the most promising centre-backs outside of Europe's top five leagues, while fellow defender Goncalo Inacio is a player United have tracked. There could also be interest in Danish midfielder Morten Hjulmand, who scored a brilliant goal against England at Euro 2024.

AGENCIES



SPORT

Fifa accused of contributing to 'very serious' human rights abuses in damning new report

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Gamondi calls for respect as Yanga eye victory over Azam FC

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Nassir Nchimbi

DEFENDING champions and current NBC Premier League leaders, Young Africans SC, are bracing for a major challenge as they prepare to face Azam FC this evening at the Azam Complex Stadium.

Scheduled for a 6:00 PM EAT kickoff, this high-stakes fixture sees Young Africans look to extend their perfect winning record, while Azam aim to close the six-point gap separating the two teams.

Young Africans, who hold 24 points from eight matches, enter the clash as the only team yet to drop a point or concede a goal this season - a testament to their defensive solidity and tactical prowess.

Coach Miguel Gamondi emphasized the importance of maintaining their momentum against Azam, a team with a strong defensive record of their own, conceding just three goals in nine matches.

Gamondi (pictured) also expressed respect for Azam's resilience, calling them "a strong squad with a good coach."

Azam, currently fourth on the table with 18 points from nine games, enters the fixture with added preparation time, having had over a week since their last match.

This period allowed for recovery and strategic planning - a potential advantage against a Young Africans side that has played back-to-back fixtures with minimal rest.

Gamondi acknowledged the impact of the tight schedule, saying: "It's true we might be missing some players, and we haven't had as much recovery time as Azam. But we're focused, and I'm fortunate to have a squad of talented players committed to giving their best."

The Argentine coach hinted at possible lineup adjustments, emphasizing flexibility and tactical adaptability for what he described as "a unique game requiring a unique approach."

The history between these two sides has only fueled anticipation for tonight's game. Last season, Azam managed a 2-1 league victory over Young Africans, breaking their winning streak, but Young Africans quickly retaliated in the Community Shield final with a resounding 4-1 win.

That defeat was consequential for Azam, leading to the dismissal of their former coach Yousouph Dabo and adding an edge to this long-standing rivalry.

Both teams are well aware of the stakes. A win for Young Africans would extend their lead at the top and further solidify their status as title favorites, while Azam aim to reduce the point gap and boost their position among the league's top contenders.

Young Africans will proceed to face Tabora United and Fountain Gate in upcoming matches, preparing for their CAF Champions League group stage opener against Al Hilal of Sudan.

Meanwhile, Azam's schedule includes a challenging set of games, with encounters against Kagera Sugar, Singida Black Stars, and Dodoma Jiji FC.

As fans gear up for today's showdown, this clash of two Tanzanian football powerhouses is expected to showcase strategic depth, defensive rigor, and intense competition as both clubs fight to claim bragging rights and crucial points in the title race.

Thrilling game in store as Yanga host Azam in NBC Premier League



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans aim to solidify their position at the NBC Premier League's summit with a crucial clash against Azam at Chamazi Complex this evening.

With both clubs looking to make a statement, this encounter promises to be a real test of their title credentials.

The two heavyweights enter the match in strong form, setting the scene for a thrilling contest.

The two teams meet for the first time since August when Young Africans triumphed 4-1 in the Com-

munity Shield semi final.

The reigning champions, under Miguel Gamondi (pictured), have been navigating their Premier League campaign with their usual precision, most recently clinching a 1-0 win over Singida Black Stars to leapfrog them to the top.

Gamondi's squad re-

mains the favourite despite facing their direct title rivals. Young Africans' consistency and resilience have been cornerstones of their success, and their tactical adaptability often allows them to manage games even when not at top gear.

Statistics show Young

Africans have won each of their last ten home games in all competitions. Following their 2-0 Premier League victory over JKT Tanzania last week, Young Africans are now unbeaten in their last 50 home league games. They have won all of their 30 most recent home league matches.

That domination of home league fixtures stretches all the way back to 2021 when they lost 1-0 to Azam in what was then head coach Nasreddine Nabi's first game in charge of the club.

The reigning champions have won 45 and drawn only five of the games during their run, an astonishing 90 percent win rate and 2.8 points per match.

In this unbeaten run, Young Africans have scored 119 goals and conceded just 18.

On the other side, Azam, since their early defeat to Simba, have displayed a resurgence that has caught the eye. They have strung together a series of impressive performances, yet none of their recent oppo-

sition measures up to the challenge Young Africans present.

With this game, Azam face their toughest test since that stumble. This fixture could define how serious Azam are in their quest to challenge for the Premier League title this season.

History offers some hope for Azam. Last season, Azam was one of just two sides that managed to beat Young Africans in the league, showing that they are capable of upsetting the champions.

For both clubs, the stakes are high. A victory for Azam would cement their credentials as serious title contenders after their early season stumble, beating a team of Young Africans' calibre would send a clear message to their rivals.

Conversely, Young Africans' victory would be another ominous sign to their rivals that they are not letting up following wins against Simba and Singida Black Stars.

Lions A trounces Delaware Upanga SC A in TCA Champions League opener

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

LIONS A's cricketers opened their quest for a triumphant run in the 2024 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Delaware Champions League grandly, clobbering Delaware Upanga SC A by five wickets early this week.

The TCA-organized tournament, involving Division A clubs, is one of the high-profile club events seeking to efficiently develop cricket locally.

Rishen Patel's solid 59-ball 68 not out was the most noticeable batting game, as his outfit - Delaware Upanga SC A - locked horns with Lions A in the game that took place at the Gymkhana oval in Dar es Salaam.

Delaware Upanga SC A, unfortunately, ended up conceding the loss to Lions A, leaving the eventual winners enjoying a winning start.

Having won the toss, the Ashish Kamania-led Delaware Upanga SC A chose to bat - notching 160/6 in 20 overs.

The batting team could not make good use of their chance to take the crease first, with Rishen's 68 runs not out happening to be the notable display.

The opener blasted five boundaries and two sixes in his innings, offering a meaningful contribution to his team's acquisition of the figure.

The player successfully made up for a less convincing outing his fellow opener, Vikram Rathore, staged as the latter had a brief presence, returning two runs short of two digits.

Skipper Ashish and Prem Thakkar moreover boosted Delaware Upanga SC A's figure, as the former ended with a 20-ball 36.

The youthful Prem, batting at number three, had Delaware Upanga SC A posting 66 runs whilst losing two wickets once the top-order batsman exited



Lions A cricket outfit.

the crease after seven overs with 23 runs to his name.

Fourteen extras - two byes, one leg bye, 10 wides, and one no ball were moreover a boost in the total registered by Delaware Upanga SC A.

Lions A's bowling unit worked hard to neutralize the Delaware Upanga SC A cricketers - and the former's plan reached fruition.

Augustine Mwamele stood out of the rest of the bowling unit having notched 2-42 in his four overs.

Shamim Ali and Umar Shaikh sought to put pressure on the Delaware Upanga SC A batting unit, posting one wicket apiece.

Chasing tricky 161 runs to grab the win was a challenge that Lions A cricketers embraced, as the performers

went on to notch 161/5 with two balls to spare.

Kashif Ahmad - playing as an opener - spearheaded the fruitful chase with his 62 runs - giving his side the crucial, morale-boosting start.

Fellow top-order batsmen moreover made their presence count, having made their way back with two digits.

An equally notable contribution that fellow opener Ejaz Aziz chipped in with gave the batting team a great start, pushing the club's figure to 137 runs once Ahmad exited the crease in the 16th over.

The no-nonsense Aziz made his way back with an impressive 41 runs from 28 balls, even though the performer left the crease earlier.

Lions A were 81-1 after nine overs

when Aziz exited the crease, having been bowled by the Delaware Upanga SC A bowler Muhammad Sohail.

Skipper Mohamed Salim efficiently chipped in with his 13-ball 14 for Lions A.

The gifted Umar Shaikh made certain of Lions A's successful chase with his 28 runs not out, nailing three fours along the way.

Dhyey Shah battled to weaken Lions A's resolve, having garnered 2-28 in his four overs, he though failed to bail Delaware Upanga SC A out despite playing his heart out.

Strikers, Pak Stars A, Delaware Upanga SC A, Aga Khan SC, Caravans, Aces A, and Lions A are the teams battling for the silverware in the 2024 TCA Delaware Champions League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

DARLING. CAN'T WE HAVE A SECOND HONEYMOON?



ON WHOSE EXPENSES?