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Sefue urges taxpayers to share information



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Training launched to enhance mental health services



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Farmers appeal for improved access to quality seed potato



Chadema National Chairman Freeman Mbowe (R) greets the party's Vice Chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu at the start of election of top leaders in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

CCM adding delegates for nominations, preferences

In rural areas, the membership will range from 30 to 80 while in Zanzibar a branch can be formed by 20 to 30 members from at least 10 households

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DELEGATES to the CCM extraordinary national conference have approved amendments to the party's constitution that, among others, increases members' participation in decision-making.

Issa Ussi Gavu, the organisation secretary for the National Executive Committee, said in presenting those amendments that they are intended to strengthen the grassroots structure and address corruption within the party.

The amendments raise the elected central committee from six to ten, with a man-

datory of two women members from the Mainland and Zanzibar respectively, he said.

The number of members at the ward, constituency and district levels participating in preference votes for councillors, members of Parliament or House of Representatives.

Aspirants will now be vetted in meetings that propose no more than three names, which will then be returned for preference polls.

One change to Article 9 removes the requirement for an individual wishing to join the party to fill out a form. Instead, aspirants will submit an application to the branch se-

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DPM: Align CBE courses with markets

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

UNIVERSITIES and other higher learning institutions need to improve their curricula to produce graduates who are better equipped for current labour market needs, using modern technology to address societal challenges.

Dr Doto Biteko, the deputy prime minister and Energy minister, issued this appeal during 60th anniversary events at the College of Business Education (CBE) in its main campus in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He emphasized that the government wants higher education institutions to provide entrepreneurship training, enabling graduates to acquire business skills and contribute to the growth of the economy and national income through innovative business and self-employment opportunities.

"The government is keen on ensuring that colleges like CBE provide the necessary tools for entrepreneurship, allowing graduates to make meaningful contributions to the economy," he stated.

Maintaining strong connections between educational institutions and the

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NIDA sets deadline on cards in district offices

By Getrude Mbago

INDIVIDUALS who are yet to collect their national identification cards have 30 days in which to do so in district offices after the cards were moved from village and street or ward offices to district headquarters.

James Kaji, the National Identification Authority (NIDA) director general, announced the deadline at a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, underlining that failure to do so will result in the suspension of using national identification numbers (NIN).

Affirming that this would effectively halt the use of the key component of identification for essential public services, he said



We have communicated with the Attorney General to take legal action against those who have used fake identities

the decision was made to address the backlog of uncollected cards.

Stressing that the matter is urgent, he asked the public to take note that obtaining the number is not obtaining proper identification, so citizens who have yet to pick up their IDs need to do so with urgency.

"We work day and night to ensure that all eligible citizens can collect their IDs, and we will not hesitate to revoke IDs if necessary," he said.

NIDA has taken measures to send SMS notifications to individuals informing them of collection points, he stated, asserting that anyone who will receive notification from

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Govt, UNDP unveil weather forecast enhancing project

The project is similarly expected to enhance weather and climate data for resilience to support sustainable socio-economic development

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday launched the systematic observation financing facility (SOFF) project, aimed at enhancing meteorological infrastructure.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, officiating at the launch, said SOFF is an initiative of the United Nations multi-partner trust fund (UN-MPTF) established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UNDP and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The initiative is intended to address the challenge of weather and climate data gaps in countries with the most severe shortfalls in meteorological observations, prioritizing the least developed countries (LDCs) and small islands developing states (SIDS).

He said the launched project represents a vital opportunity to enhance meteorological infrastructure in the country, in addressing the data gap and enabling wider international exchange of weather and climate data.

This effort is based on rendering technical

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SPORTS

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Simba prepared for any opponent in the Confederation Cup quarter-final

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Chelsea get back to winning ways with 3-1 defeat of Wolves



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NIDA sets deadline on cards in district offices

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NIDA to collect his/ or her card, will have 30 days to take it to avoid being delisted from receiving key services using the NIN component tied up with the card.

Many ID cards dating back to 2017 remain uncollected despite government efforts to distribute them more efficiently, he stated, pointing out that to ensure ease of access, the government allocated over 40bn/- for the production and distribution of IDs.

A total of 737,916 cards have been dispatched to district offices from the village, ward and shehias to facilitate easy identification of the IDs in digital systems and notifying the concerned individuals, he said.

Those who feel unable to collect their cards in person can send a relative to pick them up on their behalf, especially if they are far from the collection point, he said.

"The National ID is vital for accessing services such as health insurance, travel passports and banking. It is essential that all eligible citizens collect their IDs without delay," he emphasised.

The card processing system has been streamlined, with new applications facilitating more efficient processing to prevent backlogs, he said, pointing at the need to access job opportunities or university admissions.

Some individuals had registered several times using different names, leading to difficulties in verification, he said, pointing out that over 600 people have been identified as using fraudulent identities, and legal action is already underway.

"We have communicated with the Attorney General to take legal action against those who have used fake identities," the director stated, highlighting that using false names is illegal, and the agency will not tolerate it. Those who have lost or damaged their cards need to report to the agency for officials to investigate the matter, he said, asking individuals to take damaged cards to district offices for reprinting.

NIDA had also launched an investigation to determine the cause of issuance of some substandard cards and the cardholders need to return the cards for re-printing, he added.

Govt, UNDP unveil weather forecast enhancing project

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and financial assistance to meet the global basic observation network (GBON) requirements, he stated, underlining that the project puts Tanzania ahead of several neighbouring states.

It is one among 27 African states to benefit from SOFF, whose implementation will strengthen efforts at resilience and a sustainable economy, he stated.

He applauded the UNDP, the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) and WMO for supporting the project, set to be implemented in three years at a total cost of \$19.5m.

The government will contribute \$4.9m and land for relevant construction work, he said, expressing gratitude to all partners who made the project idea a success.

The government will do everything to make the project sustainable after completion, he stated, while UNDP country representative Shigeki Komatsubara hailed the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) for its commitment to excellence "that keeps Tanzania at the forefront of climate adaptation and resilience effort."

Under the SOFF project TMA will obtain operational and maintenance support so that Tanzania weather stations are effectively maintained long after the project has ended, he declared.

"UNDP is fully committed to this effort and stands ready to provide the necessary support to see this project through to its successful completion," he stressed.

Clara Makenya, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) country representative, pointed at vital collaborative efforts relating to various components of the project, including in strengthening climate actions.

She emphasised the need for ensuring the project implementation aligns with international standards and best practice since UNEP serves as a global leader in environmental governance, advocating for sustainable development.

Dr Ladislaus Chang'a, the TMA acting director general, the country's permanent WMO representative and alternate vice chairman at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), noted that the project will help transform TMA operations to digital meteorology.

This will enable the agency to cope with technological growth and artificial intelligence, he said, hinting that the project will improve meteorological accuracy now pegged at 89 percent.

The project is similarly expected to enhance weather and climate data for resilience to support sustainable socio-economic development, he added.

CHRAGG optimistic about human rights protection awareness efforts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has acknowledged increasing understanding about the importance of protection of human rights in the country, thanks to concerted awareness efforts.

The observation was made by CHRAGG Deputy Chairperson, Mohamed Khamis Hamad, while addressing a gathering at Salmon Amour Secondary School in Singida Municipality on Monday. He noted that members of the public are increasingly upholding human rights.

He commended the public for growing ability to identify and report acts of human rights violations in the society. "People are raising various issues that occur in society, and the government is taking appropriate steps to ensure that people's rights are protected," he said.

He explained that CHRAGG continues to provide public education and investigate reported cases of violence and human rights violations across the country.

Regarding child protection, he urged parents to stop being cruel to children and emphasised that

any such cases should be reported to the authorities by the public.

Veronica Emmanuel, a teacher at Salmon Amour Secondary School, expressed her gratitude to CHRAGG for visiting the school and providing public education to students and the wider school community.

"Providing education to pupils and teachers is an important step that will help them improve their knowledge of human rights and responsibilities. This knowledge empowers them to stand up for themselves and make the right decisions, especially when they encounter acts of human rights violations," she said.

She highlighted the importance of understanding the principles of good governance and human rights, noting that students have a crucial role in upholding values in society.

Omar Mwyni, a Form Three pupil, also thanked the commission for providing public education, particularly regarding children's rights and protection.

"I will now be an ambassador to my fellow pupils by opposing any act of violence and the violation of others' rights, both in school and beyond," he said, adding that education on human rights is essential.



World Health Organization Director General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus (L) receives a newborn baby from Minister for Health, Jenista Mhagama, during a visit to the maternity ward at Makole Health Center in Dodoma on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

CCM adding delegates for nominations, preferences

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to participate in the selection process for nominations.

Article 60(1) (T) has been amended to allow members of political committees at the ward and branch levels to become delegates at the constituency' general meeting during elections.

Similarly, Article 73(1) (z) A enables these members to participate as delegates at the district general meeting, while a key amendment to Article 91(6) (c) empowers the NEC political committee to vet candidates for councillor positions before they are subjected to preference votes.

For each constituency, the political committee will review and propose up to six members who have expressed interest in running for councillor.

Following the preference vote, the committee will submit its recommendations to the regional executive committee regarding candidates to be nominated for councillor positions in line with electoral laws.

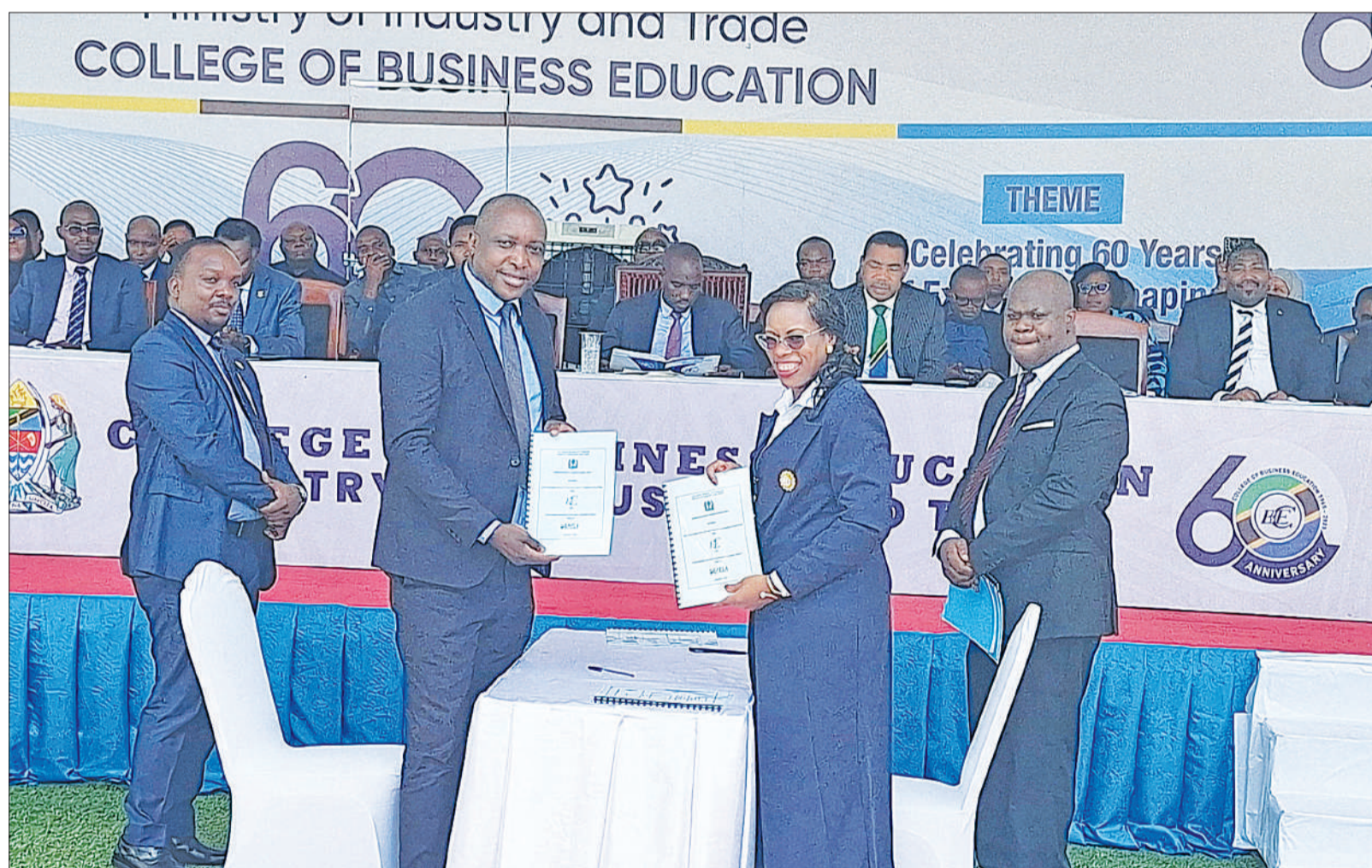
Article 104(1) (s) increases the number of NEC members on the central committee from six to ten, with a minimum of four women, two from each region.

Article 105(7) (f) empowers the central committee to vet candidates

for parliamentary and House of Representatives seats before they are subjected to preference polls.

The committee will review and propose up to three candidates for each constituency, and following the preference votes, the central committee will submit its final recommendations for nomination to NEC.

The amendments are expected to increase transparency, accountability and members' involvement in the nomination and voting processes, strengthening the party's internal structures and responsiveness to members' expectations, the secretary intoned.



College of Business Education Rector Prof Edda Lwoga (2nd R) and Business Registration and Licensing Agency CEO Godfrey Nyaisa show documents shortly after signing an agreement on collaboration in business training between the two institutions during CBE 60 years anniversary celebration in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Witnessing is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Dr Doto Biteko. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DPM: Align CBE courses with markets

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private sector is vital so that universities stay informed on the needs of the market instead of working in isolation, he said.

Business education colleges similarly need to conduct thorough studies that address economic challenges and offer sustainable solutions before problems arise in society, he remarked.

"We have directed colleges like CBE to ensure that educational opportunities are accessible to all groups in society, including women, youth and people with disabilities, to ensure that everyone participates in our nation's economy," he affirmed.

He praised the CBE leadership, notably the rector, Prof. Edda Lwoga as well as the Industry and Trade minister, Dr Selemani Jafo.

The two were keen in ongoing efforts to supervise the college and produce highly qualified graduates who meet labour market demands, he said.

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, the Finance minister, said that CBE will be included in the next phase of the higher education for economic transformation (HEET) project, to ensure that the college receives the necessary funding for further development.

The college has played a significant role in shaping the country's business sector over the last 60

years, producing thousands of graduates who have gone on to make great contributions in public institutions and the private sector.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Industry and Trade minister, noted that CBE has developed strong international ties with countries such as Germany, Finland and China.

The partnerships have benefited its lecturers through capacity-building programmes, providing students with opportunities for overseas study, enhancing their knowledge and skills, he stated.

"In areas such as measurements, standards and digital business, CBE has become a key institution," he explained, underlining that its contribution to entrepreneurship

education, particularly in Dar es Salaam, has had a profound impact, benefiting over 3,000 local traders.

The rector highlighted the college's progress, having admitted a total of 22,335 students across its campuses in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma and Mbeya for the current academic year.

The college has expanded its programme offerings to 63, ranging from certificate and diploma courses to degree courses, post-graduate diplomas and master's degree courses, she said.

To make its courses more accessible, CBE has introduced online master's degree programmes allowing more qualified individuals to pursue their specialisations, she added.



Prof Esnat Chaggu, Chairperson of the National Environment Management Council Board of Directors, speaks during the board's visit to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP) at Chongoleani area in Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NEMC salutes EACOP project for environmental conservation

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) board of directors has commended the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for its dedication to environmental conservation.

The board particularly highlighted its adherence to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate requirements.

Prof. Esnat Chaggu, Chairperson of NEMC board, made the remarks yesterday during a visit to the Chongoleani area in Tanga Region to assess the progress of the pipeline project.

Prof. Chaggu praised the project's careful execution, especially the technique used to lay the pipeline beneath the Sigi River without affecting its water source. She described the method as an exemplary demonstration of expertise in environmental protection.

"We wanted to observe how the pipeline is being installed in the Sigi River area, and I am pleased to report that the ongoing work is being carried out with such expertise that I am confident the water source will remain unaffected," Prof. Chaggu said.

She also expressed satisfaction with the involvement of local environmental experts, many of whom are young professionals trained in Tanzanian colleges and are playing key roles in managing the project.

"It is encouraging to see our youth, who have studied in our

colleges, taking charge of such a significant national project. Their involvement in managing the environmental aspects of this project is commendable," she added.

Speaking on behalf of the project management team, Joflin Bejumula, Environmental Affairs Coordinator for EACOP, assured that the project would continue to follow all environmental management procedures outlined in the EIA certificate.

"We are committed to fully implementing the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate. As part of our ongoing efforts, we regularly visit project sites to inspect activities and assess any potential environmental impacts," Bejumula said.

NEMC emphasised that it would continue to oversee the project to ensure that all activities are carried out in a way that preserves the environment for the benefit of both current and future generations.

“As part of our ongoing efforts, we regularly visit project sites to inspect activities and assess any potential environmental impacts”

Commission calls on taxpayers to share challenges to allow reforms

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

CHAIRMAN of the Presidential Tax Reform Commission Ambassador Ombeni Sefue has urged taxpayers to be free to share their suggestions in order to help enhance tax system and address challenges they face.

Sefue made the call in Dodoma yesterday during a joint meeting with taxpayers and

other stakeholders, aimed at gathering feedback to find long-term solutions to the system's challenges.

He explained that the formation of the commission was a direct response to numerous complaints received by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has tasked the commission with collecting input from taxpayers and presenting it to her for action.

"The President has heard many complaints from taxpayers, and that is why the Commission has returned to gather your input so that solutions to these challenges within the tax system can be addressed," he stated.

Jabir Shekimweri, Dodoma District Commissioner, spoke on behalf of the Dodoma Regional Commissioner, emphasising that a structured tax payment system

will help small-scale entrepreneurs engage effectively in the competitive economy.

Dodoma Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary, Mwajabu Nyamkomora, reiterated that the commission's formation was an effort to listen to taxpayers' challenges, acknowledging their significant contributions to economic growth and national revenue.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Lake Tanganyika Program (LTP) is a The Nature Conservancy Program. The aim is conserve and support protection of at least 30% of near-shore Key Biodiversity Areas and other critical biodiversity habitats by June 2030.

Working in Lake Tanganyika riparian countries, the Lake Tanganyika program has direct intervention through TNC in Tanzania and with partners Sustain Lake Tanganyika (SLT), Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) and Community Economic Empowerment and Legal Support (CEELS). Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) in Nsumbu Zambia, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in DRC and Lake Tanganyika authority (LTA) as a lake wide governing body working in coordinating conservation efforts in all Lake Tanganyika riparian countries headquartered in Burundi.

A strong Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system is essential for the Lake Tanganyika program as it enables evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management in this complex freshwater ecosystem. By implementing a robust MEL system, the program seeks to systematically track progress, measure impacts, and assess the effectiveness of conservation and stakeholders' engagement efforts. This system is also meant to enhance accountability to stakeholders and funders, ensuring that partners are aligned and effectively contributing, and facilitating the continuous learning needed to adapt strategies and improve outcomes for long-term sustainability.

The program is currently seeking a qualified MEL Consultant to support program monitoring, enhance data collection and monitoring systems, engage partners in monitoring efforts, and facilitate learning processes for the period of 6 Months.

The deadline for submission of proposals is set on 3rd February 2025 at 11:59 pm EAT.

Interested and technically competent vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal via the e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org

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PUBLIC NOTICE



Joseph Massawe

This is to inform the public that Joseph Massawe is no longer employed by Save the Children Tanzania as of 15th January 2025. Save the Children Tanzania will not be responsible for any business transactions or representations made by him on behalf of the organization.

**Country Director
Save the Children Tanzania.**

218334001

RC orders increase of Form One enrolment in one week

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner, Halima Dendego, has directed the region's education department to increase enrolment for secondary school pupils within seven days.

The initiative aims to streamline enrolment processes and alleviate the financial burden on parents caused by unregulated contributions.

Speaking during the Regional Consultative Council (RCC) meeting yesterday, Dendego highlighted that the current practice, where each school sets its own enrolment procedures, places excessive demands on parents, often requiring pupils to bring numerous items.

"A review of Form One enrolment was alarming, with pupils being asked to bring an array of items such as hoes, machetes, and other tools. We need a unified plan, and if additional contributions are necessary, parents must be consulted, and a consensus reached," she stated.

The RC emphasised that arbitrary contributions undermine the principle of free education, disproportionately impacting parents, particularly those in rural areas.

Dendego condemned the expulsion of students for failing to provide items such as hoes, machetes, or uniforms, describing the practice as unacceptable.

Dendego also criticised the education department in the region for providing misleading statistics, saying the department claimed that 100 per cent of secondary schools in the region were providing meals to pupils, but in reality only pupils in examination classes were receiving meals.

Earlier, Acting Singida Regional Education Officer, Imani Mwaipaja, reported that by December 2024, 100 per cent of secondary schools (194 schools) and 95 per cent of primary schools (691 schools) were providing meals to pupils.



Urban District Commissioner Hamid Seif Said (L) speaks during the opening of a training session for district leaders at Zanzibar eGovernment Authority offices in Unguja yesterday. The training focused on eDUA digital platform which integrates government digital services. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Iringa

A POLICE officer and a militiaman working for Iringa Municipal Council appeared in court here yesterday and charged with murder of Nashon Kiyeyu, a resident of Nyamhanga area in Kitwiru Ward.

The accused, Sergeant Rojas with force number F4987 Joshua Mmali attached to Ipogolo Police Station in Iringa Municipality and Thomas Mkembela a resident of Iringa District Court under tight security.

Police, militiaman in court over murder of Iringa man

State Attorney Damas Sixtus from prosecution office in Iringa Region stated that the two face case number 1880 of 2025.

The duo is accused of carrying out

the murder on December 14, 2024 at the Ipogolo area in Iringa Municipality.

The court was informed that investigation was ongoing.

Principal Magistrate Adelina Ngwaya

said the accused were not required to enter a plea because the court has no jurisdiction to preside over the case. Bail was denied and the case was adjourned until February 4, 2025 for mention.

New avocado oil processing plant set to start next month

By Correspondent Elizabeth John, Njombe

CONSTRUCTION of new avocado oil processing plant in Makambako Town Council, Njombe Region, is in its final stages and is set to start operations next month.

The facility is set to revolutionise local avocado industry and create significant economic opportunities for the region.

Najib Kamal, Director of Avo Africa, made the announcement at the weekend during a site visit with Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka.

Kamal revealed that the plant, with an estimated cost of 20bn/-, will be equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and essential equipment for oil extraction.

Initially, the plant will operate with two machines capable of processing up to 600 tonnes of avocados daily. By June, the facility will expand to four machines, doubling its production capacity to 1,200 tonnes per day.

"This is our second project. The first focuses on packing avocados for export, while this new plant is dedicated to producing avocado oil. Our aim is to become one of the leading oil producers in the country," Kamal stated.

The project is expected to create over 400 jobs, including roles for specialists and field workers who will source avocados directly from local farmers.

Mtaka praised the initiative, describing it as a game-changer for local avocado farmers.

He noted that farmers had previously been forced to sell their produce at low prices due to fears of spoilage, but the new plant would offer better pricing and greater stability.

"During the avocado season, farmers have been exploited by buyers who label produce as rejects, forcing them to sell at low prices—often between 150/- and 180/- per kilo. Farmers accept these prices to avoid complete losses. This plant will transform that situation," Mtaka said.

He also commended Kamal for supporting the government's effort to attract more investors to Tanzania and assured him of full support.

Njombe Regional Agricultural Officer, Wilson Joel, reported that approximately 20,000 tonnes of avocados had been rejected annually for failing to meet quality standards.

He stated that with the plant's capacity to process over 10,000 tonnes of avocados annually, more than 70 per cent of previously rejected produce could now be utilised.

"This will significantly boost the sector. We will continue to work closely with you to ensure farmers can supply their produce to the plant," he said.

Victor Mutua, construction supervisor with Amenduni, an Italian company implementing the project, confirmed that the facility's machinery would process 600 tonnes of avocados.

He expressed confidence that the venture would strengthen the local economy and improve the livelihoods of avocado farmers in the Njombe Region.



Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee Chairperson Naghenjwa Kaboyoka (R) leads a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology at the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health, in collaboration with Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital (MNMH) has launched specialised training to enhance mental health services at regional referral hospitals.

The training aims to equip medical personnel with the necessary skills to establish and deliver mental health services in regional hospitals.

Dr Paul Lawala, Executive Director of MNMH, made this announcement during the opening of a five-day

Ministry moves to improve mental health services at referral hospitals

training programme for doctors from regional referral hospitals across the country.

Dr Lawala explained that the training is designed to strengthen and improve mental health services nationwide, enabling communities to prevent mental health disorders effectively.

He urged mental health professionals

to act as ambassadors in their field by advancing their expertise and specialising in mental health care.

"Once you understand the human brain, you gain insight into the entire world and become a vital asset to society and the nation in addressing mental health challenges," he stated.

Dr Lawala also praised the regional

referral hospitals in Iringa and Njombe for their efforts in establishing comprehensive mental health services.

However, he emphasised the need for greater support to enhance these hospitals' services, including the capacity to admit and treat patients locally, thereby reducing unnecessary mental health referrals.

Stay far away from divisive politics, union tells teachers

By Correspondent Francis Godwin, Iringa

TANZANIA Teachers' Union (TTU) has vowed to take stern measures against educators who engage in political activities that create division within teaching profession.

TTU National Vice Chairman, Suleiman Ikomba, issued this warning yesterday during a session aimed at addressing teachers' challenges through the Samia Teachers Mobile Clinic.

Ikomba emphasised that TTU leadership would not tolerate any political interference designed to disrupt the unity of teachers. He urged the public to keep politics out of the education sector, as such interference creates unnecessary divisions that hinder teachers' ability to perform their duties effectively.

"Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of our nation by providing quality education to students. Politically motivated disruptions create division and ultimately harm the education system," he said.

He added, "When teachers are divided, the consequences are severe. Disrupting teachers is essentially disrupting the nation. We will not remain silent if anyone tries to undermine the TTU. Remember, TTU is not a government body; it is a teachers' union."

Ikomba also pointed out that such disruptions affect not only teachers but pupils as well, as teachers become distracted by the conflicts created by political interference.

"A single teacher educates more than 200 pupils. Disrupting one teacher means denying over 200 pupils their right to education for the sake of personal interests," he said.

Iringa Regional Administrative Secretary, Doris Kalasa, who inaugurated the Samia Teachers Mobile Clinic, called for unity among teachers and encouraged

them to bring any unresolved issues to their union leaders or higher authorities if necessary.

Kalasa acknowledged the significant turnout of teachers at the event, emphasising the importance of addressing their challenges as part of the president's initiative.

"With this level of teacher participation, I am confident that 95 per cent of teachers will have their issues resolved. I trust the competence and professionalism of the team here," she said.

She also commended TTU for its innovative approach to resolving teachers' grievances through the mobile clinic, which helps create a supportive working environment for teachers, boosting their morale, performance, and, ultimately, students' academic outcomes.

Iringa TTU Regional Chairman, Gaur Mgalula, highlighted several key issues affecting teachers, including delays in promotions, changes in employment structures, unpaid salary arrears, and unprocessed salary adjustments following transfers.

Mgalula also praised TTU's continued support for teachers, even those who are not union members, and urged teachers to protect and advocate for the union, which has consistently fought for their welfare.

Former Iringa TTU Chairman, Stanslaus Mhongole, praised the initiative as a "game-changer," encouraging teachers across the country to take full advantage of this rare opportunity to address their challenges.

The Samia Teachers Mobile Clinic team includes experts from TTU, the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government, President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as Teachers' Service Commission.

Farmers appeal for improved access to quality seed potato

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

POTATO farmers in Njombe Region have appealed to the government to expand access to quality seeds potato as there is currently a shortage, hampering large-scale production.

The request was made at the weekend during a visit by Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka at a potato farm based in Mtwango, Njombe District.

Farmers explained that while seed potato are expensive, accessibility remains a challenge because the quantity produced in factories is insufficient to meet the demands of both group and individual farmers.

Lenard Kadali, a farmer, reported that they typically cultivate more than one acre of round potatoes. However, due to the seed shortage this year, they have been forced to plant one acre.

Kadali shared that during the 2024 season, he harvested 136 bags from one acre, selling each bag for 65,000/-.

"The challenge for us remains the seeds. We, as members and farmers, want to plant more, but the seeds are a problem. For everyone to get some, I have to plant less, and others must do the same. We need to balance," Kadali explained.

Gladness Charles mentioned that it was her second time planting round potatoes. In her first season, she harvested 148 bags per acre, selling each bag for 65,000/-.

"Last year, I planted two acres, but this year I had to plant just one acre due to the seed shortage and the high number of farmers," Charles

added. Elia Mhonzwa, chairman of the Isowelo Cooperative Society board, revealed that the society has 630 members engaged in round potato farming. This year, they requested seeds for 1,279 acres, amounting to 700 tonnes, but were informed they would receive only 400 tonnes.

Wilson Joel, the agricultural officer for Njombe Region, explained that the region's demand for round potato seeds is 130,000 tonnes, but only 400 tonnes are currently available.

"We need high-quality seeds, but some farmers are using seeds from their own harvests, especially those from Makete," Joel noted.

Edmund Massawe, the registrar for Njombe Region, attributed the seed shortage to the growing popularity of 'sagita' potatoes, which have proven to be highly profitable for farmers.

"If you look at Silverland, they initially targeted Isowelo as their primary customer. However, this season, Isowelo requested 700 tonnes, and now seeds are being distributed to other areas such as Moshi, Arusha, Iringa, and Mbeya, expanding the market," Massawe explained.

Njombe Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka stressed the need to encourage more producers to venture into round potato seed production, given the country's agricultural expertise.

"The entire country has only one producer of round potato seeds. If, one day, they lose interest in production, Tanzania will face a serious challenge," Mtaka warned.



Minister for Industry and Trade, Dr. Selemani Jafo (C) speaks during his visit to inspect construction of Metrology building at the College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

RESIDENTS of Isimani Division in Iringa District, Iringa Region, no longer need to travel long distances to access health services following completion of a new health centre in the area.

The centre, built at a cost of 800m/-. was funded by the government and is fully equipped with essential medical equipment. It now provides both minor and major surgical services, which were

Sigh of relief as residents get worthy health facility

previously unavailable locally.

Before its establishment, residents endured long and challenging journeys to access healthcare in Iringa Town, often facing delays that jeopardised patient outcomes.

Elina Chavala, a resident of Isimani said: "There were times when we had to wait all night

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previously unavailable locally. Before its establishment, residents endured long and challenging journeys to access healthcare in Iringa Town, often facing delays that jeopardised patient outcomes.

Elina Chavala, a resident of Isimani said: "There were times when we had to wait all night



Police officers guard various goods salvaged from traders' shops after a building caught fire in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

SA for global partnership, progress at WEF meeting

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa will champion partnership and progress at the World Economic Forum (WEF), advocating for global cooperation to drive sustainable and inclusive growth, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Monday.

Ramaphosa made the remarks in his weekly newsletter to the nation as he was about to lead South Africa's delegation to the 55th annual WEF meeting which started on Monday and ends on Thursday in Davos, Switzerland.

"One of the messages we will be taking to Davos is our ongoing

commitment to partnerships in pursuit of inclusive growth and sustainable development," he said.

"We will present our experiences of cooperation across society in South Africa and encourage greater emphasis on partnerships in international relations. In particular, we will make a call for global companies to partner with governments, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders in emerging markets to pursue sustainable and inclusive growth," he said.

The president was set to deliver a special address at the WEF, outlining South Africa's priorities for the G20 presidency from

December 1, 2024, to November 30, 2025.

"At the center of our G20 agenda is the promotion of cooperation among G20 and other countries on the most pressing issues facing the world," noted Ramaphosa, stressing that this cooperation should not only take place at a government-to-government level, but should involve all social formations.

"As in previous G20 presidencies, dialogue with civil society and other non-government institutions will be conducted through various engagement groups. These engagement groups cover sectors

such as business, labour, civil society, parliamentary bodies, and the judiciary," Ramaphosa said.

"Following the approach of the Brazilian G20 presidency in 2024, we will be convening a G20 Social Forum. This will bring together representatives of engagement groups and other segments of civil society," he added.

Under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," South Africa's G20 presidency aims to promote inclusive dialogue and global cooperation. The country will host the G20 Leaders' Summit later this year in Johannesburg, its largest city and economic hub.

AfDB plans \$1billion for second phase of agro-industrial initiative

By **Anthonia Obokoh**

PRESIDENT of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has said the bank had set financing plans of \$1 billion for the second phase of its Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme, which would cover the remaining 28 states in Nigeria.

Adesina made this known at the weekend during the inauguration of a soybean plant and refinery by the Called Servant to Service (CSS) Global Integrated Farms in Gora, Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

While inaugurating the factory, which has a capacity to produce 10,000 liters of soybean oil per day, he described the ultra-modern refinery as a major milestone in Nigeria's agricultural sector.

He added that the refinery would contribute to reducing Nigeria's crude soybean oil imports, which were estimated at \$62.2 million in 2023.

He further stated that the success of the farm's operations would be greatly enhanced within the context of the development of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) in the country.

Adesina noted that the bank and its partners were supporting the Federal Government and implementing a \$538 million programme for the development of SAPZ in seven states.

He identified the states as Cross River, Imo, Oyo, Ogun, Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

"The second phase of the programme would cover the remaining 28 states, with a financing target of one billion dollars from AfDB, the Arab Bank for African Economic Development, and the private sector," Adesina further stated.

At the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) held from Dec. 4 to Dec. 6, 2024, in Rabat, Morocco, Adesina said that the African Development Bank (AfDB) and its AIF partners were able to also mobilize \$2.2 billion in investment interest for the development of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) in Nigeria.

The AfDB president also mentioned that Nasarawa would be included in the second phase of the programme, adding that when established, the Called Servant to Service Farms would serve as a key anchor investor in the zone.

Dr Adesina, however, commended Called Servant to Service Farms for its role in improving food production, promoting agribusiness, especially among Nigerian youths, and achieving the global International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9001 certification.

Businesses reopen amid uneasy calm in S, Sudan

JUBA

BUSINESS in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, is gradually resuming amid an uneasy calm following last week's riots that left shops vandalized and looted.

The violence was triggered by anger over the alleged killing of South Sudanese citizens by the Sudan Armed Forces in Wad Madani city of Al Jazirah State in Sudan on Jan. 11. Although the rioters primarily targeted Sudanese nationals and their businesses, some mobs also attacked stores unrelated to Sudanese ownership.

In Juba's Munuki suburb, Muktar Abaker, a Sudanese trader at the Suk-Libya market, was among the few who reopened their shops on Sunday, encouraged by the government's deployment of security forces to safeguard businesses.

"I have been open since morning because I have been assured of security, and I am now working. There are no protests, and no one has attacked me," said Abaker.

"I am telling my Sudanese brothers with shops in Munuki to open their businesses. The police are working, and security is in place."

Abaker recounted the tense days following the riots, during which he and many Sudanese nationals stayed indoors or were evacuated to safer areas by security forces.

"I stayed at home for the past few days, and when I opened on Sunday, I was afraid," he admitted. "But I reopened the shop because we all need each other."

Mursal Sultan, another trader in the area, described the chaos on Thursday night as unexpected and terrifying for his family.

"What happened on Thursday evening was sudden and completely unexpected," Sultan said. "But the police and other security forces have provided us with protection. We are now safe with our children, and I have quite a few of them at home."


For traders like Morris Elias, chairperson of the chamber of commerce in Gudele One Market, the reopening process has been gradual. He said that while many Sudanese traders resumed business on Saturday, others, particularly those with shops along the main road, remained cautious and sought refuge in safer areas such as Buluk.

Tayeb Abdurrahman Musa, a committee member overseeing Sudanese nationals at the Buluk police headquarters, acknowledged the calming impact of President Salva Kiir's recent appeal for restraint.

"We fear returning to our homes, but the president's statement has reassured us," Musa said. "We call for regular visits by security personnel to ensure our safety."

Robert Pitia Francis, chairperson of the Central Equatoria State Chamber of Commerce, confirmed that most Sudanese traders have reopened their shops but noted that some are still reluctant due to lingering fears and security concerns.

"Many Sudanese traders have reopened, but some are still hesitant. Those seeking refuge at the police headquarters have expressed concerns about security and the loss of all their belongings," Pitia said.



Bank of India (Tanzania) Ltd.

Fully owned subsidiary of Bank of India (Public Sector Bank)

Relationships beyond banking

DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER REGULATION 11 OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DISCLOSURES) REGULATIONS, 2014 AND CONSUMER PROTECTION REGULATION, 2019 MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND FEES (GHARAMA ZA HUDUMA ZETU)

Service Charges (Exclusive of VAT and Government Levy on Digital Transactions)
(The applicable VAT (Value added Tax) and Govt Levy on digital Transaction to be collected during the collection of service charges)

A. REMITTANCE –OUTWARD

Sr. No.	Item	Charge in TZS or Equivalent to TZS
TISS Remittance (Only for A/c holders – Not permitted for non a/c holders)	Remittance -TZS or TZS Equivalent Transaction value	
	Between TZS 1 to 10 million	2,000
	Between TZS 10 million to 50 million	5,000
	Above TZS 50 million	10,000
TIPS AND TACH		
	Transaction value	
	Between TZS 1-TZS 50,000	500
	Between TZS 50,001-TZS 500,000	1,000
	Between TZS 500,001- 5,000,000	1,500
	Between TZS 5,000,001- 20,000,000	2,500
Other Outward Remittance		
	1USD up to 6,000	USD 15
	USD 6,001 – 10,000	USD 30
	Above USD10,000	@ 0.35% Maximum USD 75
Tracer Charges	Irrespective of Amount	USD 30
Recall back funds charges	Irrespective of Amount	USD 30

B. REMITTANCE –INWARD

Sr. No.	Item	Charge
(Only for A/c holders – Not permitted for non a/c holders)	From inside Tanzania (TISS, TIPS AND TACH)	Free
	From outside Tanzania: as under	
	For Current /Overdraft Accounts	0.35% of inwards remittance Minimum USD 18 Maximum USD 70.
	For Saving Accounts	Free
	USD 0 up to USD 100	
	USD 101 up to USD 500	USD 10
	Above USD 500	USD 18

C. DEPOSIT AND RELATED SERVICES

Item	TZS A/c	USD A/c
Saving Account ->		
Cash withdrawal per day –Free of charge, up to amount	TZS 25 Mn	USD 2000
Cash withdrawal charges over USD 2,000 to USD 5000 per day	--	0.25% of withdrawal amount
Cash withdrawal charges over USD 5,000 per day	--	0.60% of withdrawal amount
Cash withdrawal charges over TZS 25 Mn per day	0.10% of withdrawal amount	--
Cash Deposit charges over USD 5,000 per day	--	0.60% of deposited amount
Cash deposit charges for small currency USD notes ranging from USD 1 to USD 20, irrespective of amount deposited (i.e. both for below and above USD 5,000)	--	12% (Min USD 1) of the aggregate small currency amount
Current Account:-		
Cash withdrawal per day –Free of charge, up to amount	TZS 25 Mn	USD 5000
Cash withdrawal charges over USD 5,000 per day	--	0.60% of withdrawal amount
Cash withdrawal charges over TZS 25.00 Mn per day	0.15% of withdrawal amount	--
Cash deposit charges over USD 10,000 per day	--	0.60% of deposit
Maintenance of minimum balance :-		
For Saving Account-Without Cheque Book Facility	TZS 50,000	USD 50
With Cheque Book Facility	TZS 200,000	USD 200
For Current Account	TZS 200,000	USD 200
Minimum balance charges (in case of non-maintenance of minimum balance)		
Saving Account - Without cheque book	TZS 900 p.m	USD 4 p.m
With cheque book	TZS 3600 p.m	USD 15 p.m
Current Account-	TZS 20,000 p.m	USD 15 p.m

D. Other Common Charges

Item	TZS A/c	USD A/c
Stop Payment Instructions	TZS 35,000	USD 28
Regular statement of a/c (Monthly)	Free	Free
Interim/additional statement	TZS 1500 per page	USD 1.50 per page
Issue of bankers' cheque	TZS 40,000	USD 30
Cancellation of bankers cheque/DD	TZS 20,000	USD 15
Issue of Duplicate Bankers cheque/Demand Draft/ Duplicate FDR	TZS 30,000	USD 20
Application charge for Treasury Bond	TZS 100,000	USD Equivalent to TZS 100,000
Issue of Balance certificate (Saving Account)	TZS 20,000	USD Equivalent to TZS 20,000
Issue of Balance certificate (Current Account)	TZS 50,000	USD Equivalent to TZS 50,000
Signature verification and Photo Attestation charges for Domestic A/c Holders	TZS 10,000	USD Equivalent to TZS 10,000
Verification of Documents such as KYC Documents along with verification of Photo and Signature of Customer Mentioned account with Bank of India in India /Overseas	TZS 25,000	USD Equivalent to TZS 25,000
Savings bank customer Identification card- One time	TZS 20,000	USD 10
Dormant a/c Activation Per Activation Fees	Individual TZS 5,000 Corporate TZS 12,000	Individual USD 3 Corporate USD 6
Account Freezing/un freezing Charges	Free	Free
SMS Alert facility	Free	Free
Email Alert Facility	Free	Free
Monthly Statement on Registered Email	Free	Free
Balance Inquiry (Over the Counter)	Free	Free
Charges for Deletion of Deceased Person Name from the Saving Account	Free	Free
Charges for Addition/modification Account such as Change in respect of Corporate A/c	TZS 20,000	USD 10
Updating of Mobile No. in A/c (SB,CD,OD)	Free	Free
Change /Modification in Address (SB,CD,OD)	Free	Free
Issuance of No Dues Certificate for Non-Borrowers.	TZS 10,000	USD 7
Ledger Folio Charges per Folio (40 lines per Folio) only for Current and Overdraft Accounts	TZS 6,000 per Folio	USD 4 per Folio
Postages/Courier Charges Inland/Foreign	TZS 30,000 or actual charges whichever is higher	USD Equivalent to TZS 30,000

E. CLEARING SERVICES

Item	TZS A/c	Charge/Fees	USD A/c
Within walking distance-1 km	TZS 70,000		USD 45
Far off distance—more than 1 km	TZS 95,000		USD 65
Cheque returned charges—financial reasons (inward/outward)	TZS 70,000		USD 55
Inward/outward cheque collection - USD	0.60% Min comm.18 postages 90		0.60% Min comm.18 postages 90

F. CREDIT MATTERS

	Charge/Fees
Proposal Processing Charges :-	
New Overdraft/Term Loan/Demand Loan	1.50% of sanctioned limit (Regular Limit – 1.50% for 12 Months)
TOD/TOL/ADHOC	
New NFB BG/LC Facility	Proportionate to 1.50% for TOL/TOD/ADHOC Period minimum USD 60
Review of Overdraft Limit	1.50% of sanctioned limit (Regular Limit – 1.50% for 12 Months)
Review of Term Loan	0.15% maximum USD 600 or TZS 1.20Mn on the reviewed amount and 1.50% on the additional Term Loan /Demand Loan amount.
Personal Loan	
Vehicle Loan	
Loan Against Property	
Etc.	
Schematic Lending up to 36 months/Staff Loan	Nil

Prepayment charges	2.50% of the prepaid loan amount.			
Documentation charges for New Overdraft Limit/Term Loan/Demand Loan/Non Fund base Limit	Actuals as per advocate Bill + 0.30% handling charges			
	1) No Documents charges would be applicable for TOD/TOL/ADHOC Limit, however actual expenses if any to be recovered.			
	2) Documentation charges also NOT Recoverable for the Loan/Overdraft against FDR.			
Charges for Amendments/Modification of Sanction Terms	0.25% on the sanctioned limit			
	We enumerate the illustrative instances of Modification in Terms and Conditions to be effected at the request of the Borrower where this charge will be levied: -			
	1) Substitution of Collateral Securities/Personal Guarantee			
	2) Release of Personal Guarantee/Collateral Security.			
	3) Interchangeability of Limits.			
	4) Change in project/items of Machinery			
	5) Ceding of charges on assets/Par-Passu			
	6) Restructuring, Replacement of Loans/ Deferment of Loan installments.			
	7) Approvals for mergers & amalgamations.			
	8) Any other miscellaneous credit related approvals.			
Revalidation of Sanction	25% of Applicable PPC Charges on Overdraft Limit/Term Loan/Demand Loan			
Lead bank Charges	USD 1000 or equivalent in TZS per annum/one time			
Fee for Opening Escrow/TRA A/c's (Trust and Retention A/c's)	Where We are Lead bank: Nil We are Not Lead Bank: USD 500 or equivalent in TZS per annum/one time			
Charges for Supplying copies of Loaning Documents to Customer.	First Instance: Free USD 10 or equivalent in TZS for further requirement.			
Non/Delayed Submission of Audited Financial Statements of the Company OR wherever applicable	USD 100 or equivalent in TZS per month or part thereof			
Inspection charge	Note-Audited Financial statements of the firm/company within 6 months from closure of Financial Year or as approved by TRA for the relevant year. TZS 50,000 or equivalent to USD per visit /inspection or at least once in quarter whichever is higher. Note:- 1) Out of Pocket Expenses to be recovered additionally along with regular inspection charges wherever applicable. 2) Project Monitoring Inspection Charges/Technical Due Diligence Inspection charges: Considering the fact that this inspection is proposed for safeguarding banks interest, normal inspection charges besides travelling, boarding/lodging expenses are to be recovered from the borrower.			
Issuance of No objection certificate (NOC)	USD 100 or equivalent in TZS			
1 st party/3 rd party Overdraft/Loan against deposit of our Bank (BOITL)	Waiver of Processing & Documentation charge.			
Overdraft/Term Loan/Demand Loan Conversion Charges (Currency Conversion)	For Overdraft account 0.50% of Sanction Limit. For Term Loan/Demand Loan 0.50% of O's Amount			
Earmarking of Limits	USD 500 or equivalent in TZS per annum			
Non Compliance of Sanction terms/Commitment charges	1.00% additional Penal Interest to be charge till compliance of Sanction terms			
D&B/ Other Credit Information Search for per Borrowal a/c. (New/Additional/Review of limit)				
Up to TZS 20 Mn/USD 10,000 (Only for new and additional Limit. Review – No charge)	USD Facility USD 5 TZS Facility TZS 5,000			
Over USD 10,000 to USD 50,000/ Over TZS 20 Mn up to TZS 100 Mn	USD 10 TZS 20,000			
Over USD 50,000/TZS 100 Mn	USD 50 TZS 100,000			
D&B Search for non-Borrower, on request	USD 50 TZS 100,000			
Charges for Furnishing copy of Credit Information report obtained from CIC	TZS 20,000 USD 10			
Guarantee (Performance/Financial) :-				
Guarantee Commission	1.35% per quarter or part thereof minimum for one quarter.			
Guarantee against 100% cash margin	50% concession on the above rate			
Swift Charges	As Applicable			
Postages	As Applicable			
Revert of Guarantee before Expiry	Minimum 1 Qtr BG Commission to be recovered for part of quantum of full guarantee commission to be recovered			
Closure of Guarantee After Expiry of Claim Period	Nil			
Invoke of Guarantee	USD 200 or equivalent in TZS			
A. Financial Guarantees: -				
1. In favour of Customs/Excise/Tax Authorities towards tax/Duties payment Etc.				
2. Favours Courts for Release of Amounts.				
3. For Guaranteeing Loan payments.				
B. Performance Guarantees: -				
1. In lieu of earnest money deposit				
2. In lieu of tender deposit				
3. In lieu of security deposit				
4. To obtain advance payments (generally exports)				
5. To obtain mobilization advance (generally domestic)				
6. Towards Direct/indirect taxes to govt. in respect of specific transaction.				
7. For Direct/indirect taxes disputes with tax Authorities.				
8. For payment for supplies/services made /rendered				
9. For Securing retention amount				
10. For Bidding/tendering for Project Contacts				
11. For Performance in terms of any agreed contract.				
Note: - No processing charges or documentation charges are to be levied in case of Casual BG limits issued against 100% or more cash margin.				
Imports ->				
LC Opening charges	1.35% per quarter +SWIFT charges USD 75-			
Against 100% cash margin	50% concession on the above rate i.e. 0.67% per quarter +SWIFT charges USD 75-			
LC Amendment Charges	Per amendment 0.40% of LC amount (minimum USD 60 and Maximum USD 325) +SWIFT charges USD 30 (Same for LC against 100% cash margin)			
Acceptance of bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount Min USD 30 Maximum USD 180			
Retirement of bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount Min USD 30 Maximum USD 360			
Inward Bills for Collection	0.30% of Bill amount minimum USD 150			
Exports->				
Negotiation of Bills under LC	0.60% of Bill amount Minimum USD30 Maximum USD 360			
Confirmation of Export LC	0.90% per quarter +SWIFT charges USD 30/-			
LC Advising Charges	USD 150			
Export Bills for Collection	0.60% of Bill amount Minimum USD 30 Max USD 360.			
Charges for Certifying invoices subsequent to negotiation	USD 10 Per Invoice			
Clean payment Received under LC	USD 100 per occasion			
Advice of transfer in transferable LC	USD 100 per advice of transfer and acceptance commission at 0.30% Minimum USD 100			
OTHER DISCLOSURES (VIAMBATANISHI NYINGINEZO)				
No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	USD	TSHS	
1.0	Base or Prime Lending rate	7.50% p.a.	14.50% p.a.	
2.0	Maximum Spread above Base or Prime Lending rate	7.00%	7.00%	
3.0	Penal interest			
a)	For Non Compliance of Terms of sanction	3% p.a. over Regular Rate of Interest		
b)	For Overdrawing/ Excess Drawings due to non – payment of interest/ Instalments/ Charges	5% p.a. over Regular Rate of Interest		
4.0	Deposit Rate			
i)	Current Deposit	Nil	Nil	
ii)	Savings Bank Deposit	0.50% p.a.	2.50% p.a.	
iii)	Fixed/Recurring/QIC/MIC deposit	Up to USD 10,000	Up to TZS 10,000,000	
	6 months	3.00%	6.25%	
	Over 6 months	3.50%	7.25%	
		Over USD 10,000	Over TZS 10,000,000	
	6 months	3.50%	6.75%	
	Over 6 months	4.00%	7.75%	
* No interest is payable in case of premature withdrawal of fixed deposits				
No Penalties & Other sanctions have been imposed by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) during the Period covered by the Disclosure				
We, the undersigned have examined the above information and hereby declare that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and information.				
	Name.	Designation	Signature	Date
1.	Ashish Kumar Jha	Managing Director	Signed	15.01.2025
2.	Heriabdriel Ayoh	General Manager	Signed	15.01.2025
3.	Robert Kibona	General Manager	Signed	15.01.2025

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Early CCM nominations avoided routine factions

IN concluding remarks at the end of business in the ruling party extraordinary national congress, President Samia Suluhu Hassan asked party leaders to reflect upon the need to adhere to ethical standards, as well as opposing injustice and oppression especially during elections. This was a message delivered at the diplomatic sherry party, and its promise appears to have been enhanced by the nominations that the party's delegates accepted to move into motion.

There was indeed visible political excitement as the public all of a sudden saw the key nominations for the General Election being done well ahead of time. Unsurprisingly, there were elements of not so visible disappointment, as factions are normal in political parties, and they were gearing to trade blows, or some divisive canvassing, either on the candidacy as some were projecting earlier. Or perhaps it would have been the nomination of the running matter that would plausibly attract considerable horse trading, none of which is altogether healthy.

Virtually, no one expected this sort of turn or sniffed it in the media early enough, as up to that point the proper agenda was filling the seat left more than six months ago by Abdulrahman Kinana as Mainland vice chairman. The idea of finishing the nominations on the spot was picked up from somewhere, seemingly from the council of elders, specifically former party leaders at positions of the union and Zanzibar president. Those who were premiers or vice presidents are but invitees.

There is something that founder president Julius Nyerere introduced in formal political canvassing

language in 1995 when picking the party nominee for the presidency. The formal voting was going in the direction of rookie Jakaya Kikwete, then just 45 and already having a number of years as a cabinet minister. The former president, who was interim chairman for the nomination process, devised a method for pooling of votes for the second best candidate whose age, at 58, was more assuring for the party leadership. Benjamin Mkapa was handed the block of votes from Zanzibar, thus eclipsing the then frontrunner.

The nomination 10 years later was engulfed in plenty of horse trading and zonal alliances whose fallout plagued the next administration due split loyalties and machinations. This or that policy move by the incoming government, especially where it engaged public-private partnership, was being put to extraordinary scrutiny to find a loophole of doubting its good faith. This pierced into the original alliances struck at the time of the polls and the fault finding or corruption allegations became a culture. When that period ended, CCM was fatigued; it was in the mood for an tough respite, where cash, canvassing, are ended.

While the past four years and now in the fifth year belong to President Samia, it is somewhat surprising that in a sense it was the final year of the earlier administration which the current incumbent served as VP. There are visible aspects of governance which have for a while not exactly reflected the position the president has consistently put across, and at times being unable to put a check on such situations. In the aftermath of the nominations, a different culture could now take root.

Talk on Trump's gender remark to continue in America, beyond

WE often hear appeals to parents, guardians and others in families to strive to instill moral values into children. This is evidently essential for the country's future, as a generation that loses bearings would in the past be defeated in war, and now it can be absorbed in other ways. A controversial declaration for US citizens will be welcomed by a wide range of observers and religious authorities quite significantly. On the other hand, the same will be opposed by liberals not in the US but elsewhere around the world.

Incoming US President Donald Trump said in his inauguration speech that forthwith there will be only two genders in the United States, namely male and female. Listening to those remarks and starting to reflect on them, a colleague narrated having had to fill forms at a commercial bank in Dar es Salaam and being put to identifying the gender case. There was 'male, female, others...' implying transgender identification or suchlike, a situation that has been resisted by political and religious leaderships but lobbies and advocacy groups tirelessly support that line.

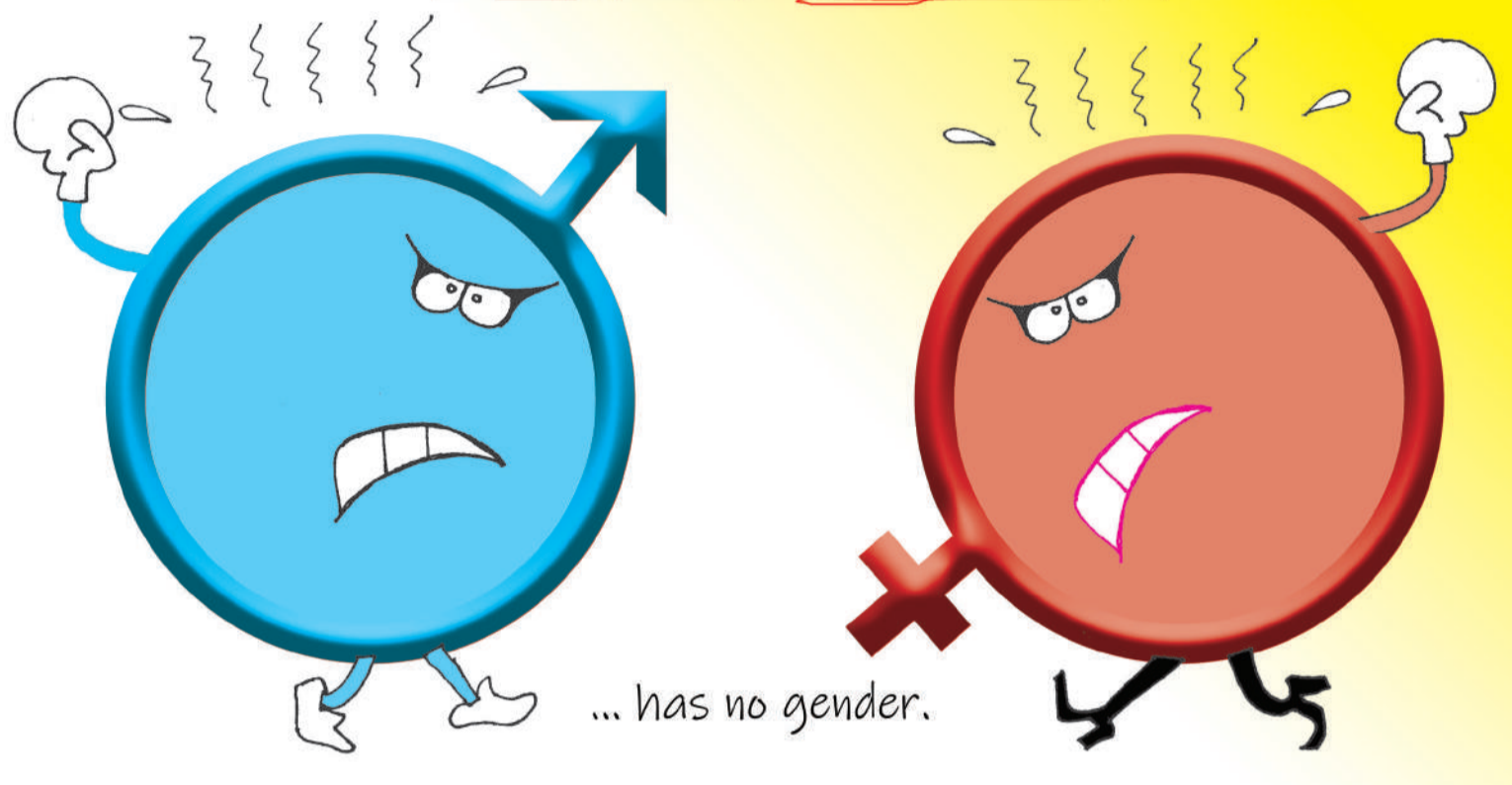
There was an astute moment to think of those issues when marking the World Religion Day in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, where a convention gathered for the commemoration and stressed instilling moral values into children. Evidently, such values are essential for spiritual growth and ethical conduct but there is a problem somewhere with this appeal. When couples in households don't respect one another, children are exposed to verbal and even physical abuse not just on themselves but even on the couples.

In a sense, religious ideas are to an extent inborn, which doesn't mean that we mostly are good people but as a matter of fact we are all capable of telling right from wrong. The difference is how far we are able to stick to what is right, especially when it has an impact in our earnings or other pleasurable expectations. Enticements are at the rear of most instances of family neglect or abandon, as people don't want to spend on what they can skip without putting themselves to shame.

In that sense it is much more in the direction of the view that regardless of religious beliefs, all religious institutions need to promote compassion and empathy, as key to societal wellbeing and harmony, as a lead panelist stated. When children are raised in homes with plenty of compassion, they learn that virtue and vice versa, but there is no need to belabour the point that the household is no longer an assured repository of moral values. It is decades ago when roughly all of society lived from a day's toil and wages in a week or month, and respected household work as the core of dignity and family cohesion.

Now being a mother taking care of children while the husband toils for the family is seen as 'unpaid domestic labour,' and the key overall collective effort is to really see women occupy 50 percent of all sorts of public sector positions. The loser in all the canvassing, campaigning is the family unit as they say in elementary physics that like poles repel and unlike poles attract. When the position of a man as a provider is removed, often for not finding work or earning too little to actually being a provider, contempt is generated; men lose their self-respect.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The double life: Rich, educated folks also battle drug addiction

By Lydia K. Igarabuza

IN the previous article, I described how physical appearance of an individual with substance addiction is the first tell all sign often revealing clues such as abrupt weight loss or gain, poor hygiene, gaunt skin, blood shot eyes, cracked lips, bad breath and generally impaired coordination. However, before those changes manifest, an individual suffering from substance addiction can appear 'normal' and look like anyone; me, you, your mother, your father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, coworker, partner, or a spouse because it is difficult to notice the effect of addiction when the signs are less visible and the person may still appear functional. This functional ability can go for some time.

Essentially, substance addiction does not discriminate; it crosses all boundaries of age, gender, race, socioeconomic status, education, or wealth. I know of several individuals battling substance addiction who hold prestigious positions: suit and tie white-collar fellows who work in high-caliber jobs or come from affluent families.

But who am I to say? I remember the 2007/8 national HIV/AIDS campaign slogan 'Huwezi kumtambua mtu mwenye VVU kwa kumuangalia tu, nenda mkapime' which emphasized that a person living with HIV cannot be identified based solely on their appearance. This message challenged stereotypes and encouraged people to seek testing. Could a similar approach challenge the double standards of addiction? Perhaps, a related campaign could work?

The misconception

During my five year tenure as the host of the nationwide, Femina TV Talk Show, where I advocated for healthy lifestyles among youth, I interacted with many individuals struggling with substance addiction.

Like many of us, I initially saw people with substance addiction as the homeless, broken, or violent ones. However, substance addiction has taken on a new face. Today, the struggling addict is the hard-working colleague who pays their bills, has a family, and even represents what "success" looks like.

They may come from a typical family, attend church, or even be the bishop's son or daughter. But who would know about the turmoil hidden inside? And why reveal something that would cost you your



job, family and status? So to keep up, one would have to endure the double life. The seemingly normal life can mask their problems from those around them until the monster takes over, literally.

Keeping up appearances

The shift in the face of substance addiction can be attributed to several factors. Modern globalization and advancement in healthcare and wellness technology has allowed individuals to "manage" their symptoms and maintain an outwardly functional appearance through various coping mechanisms for example, they might balance substances for example, using stimulants to counteract depressants so as to appear stable or they may use medications like anti-anxiety drugs or painkillers prescribed by doctors, making their substance addiction appear less alarming.

They may create strict routines around their substance use to avoid detection. They may immerse themselves in their work or achievements to divert attention from their struggles. They may overcompensate by excelling professionally or socially. Their outward success would discourage others from suspecting any underlying problems. At this 'functional stage' many may develop strong interpersonal skills to charm or deflect suspicion, often avoid confrontations or deep conversations about their alcohol or drug abuse by being engaging or overly busy.

They may use personal grooming, makeup, or fitness routines to hide physical symptoms like fatigue,

weight changes or poor hygiene. Drinking water, exercising, or eating well may help minimize visible effects of their substance abuse. Their loved ones might unknowingly enable their behavior out of concern or fear of pushing them away. Overprotection

While these strategies may help conceal their struggles temporarily, they may come at a significant cost. An emotional toll as constantly hiding their substance addiction creates stress and guilt. The body deteriorates over time despite efforts to mask symptoms. Maintaining a double life often strains or damages close connections. Ultimately, "managing" substance addiction is unsustainable. The turmoil often becomes unmanageable without intervention, leading to burnout, health crises, or exposure of their struggles.

Reflection

It took time for me to accept that alcohol had control over me. I was functioning and not functioning at the same time. My symptoms were managed by the strict work routine and job responsibilities that came with it. I made sure the two did not interfere with each other but this did not last for long. My strong character and personality were not enough.

Signs often emerge gradually, and my family began to notice a disconnection between my outward success and my emotional, physical, professional, social struggles. I was functioning and not functioning at the same time!

So before you judge, point fingers and discriminate against, what can you do instead? Educate

yourself and learn that substance addiction is a complex disease, not a weakness. If someone confides in you, listen openly and without criticism. Sometimes, being heard is the first step toward healing. Express concern not blame like you can use non-confrontational language "I've noticed you seem stressed, how can I help" instead of accusing or lecturing. Help them research treatment options, arrange appointments, or even accompany them if they're scared to go alone. This assures the individual that seeking help is a sign of strength not failure. While being supportive, ensure you don't enable their behavior by excusing it or covering for them.

I did not have nor was I given any of these options. Immediately my family knew of what substance addiction was and how 'big' of a monster it is, they took immediate action. I consider myself fortunate to have received the care and attention I needed before things escalated, as substance addiction can spiral out of control very quickly in some cases. But what happens to those who do not receive that early intervention? They shun away from society completely and are forced to live in inhumane circumstances because of the shame and stigma. They are denied the right to treatment.

It is crucial to speak out against the discrimination and stereotypes surrounding substance addiction. The narrative has changed. Anyone is at risk.

The author can be reached at newinfluenceinitiative@gmail.com

Tanzania's education reforms: A bold vision for vocational skills, early English coaching

By Adonis Byemelwa

TANZANIA'S education system is undergoing significant shifts, as the country grapples with systemic issues that have long hindered students' preparedness for modern economic demands.

Education Minister Adolf Mkenda has outlined reforms to integrate vocational training in secondary schools and introduce English instruction from Standard One, aiming to modernize education and address key challenges.

The plans have sparked widespread debate, seen by many as a crucial step toward equipping students with skills for a competitive global landscape.

Abdul Mutashobya, from Michigan State University, argues in his think pieces that these reforms could provide the much-needed bridge between education and employment.

By incorporating vocational training, largely absent in the Tanzanian system, students could develop job-ready skills that align with the demands of local industries. This, in turn, would better prepare them for the workforce.

The idea of vocational training is not new, but its implementation has often faltered due to a lack of resources and coordination. Educators like Joviter Katabaro emphasize that for vocational training to be effective, it must be tailored to the specific needs of each region.

For example, areas like Shinyanga, with its agricultural base, would benefit from programs that teach modern farming techniques, while regions like Dar es Salaam, with a growing manufacturing sector, could focus on small-scale industrial skills.

Godson Makoye, a teacher at Pamba Secondary School in Mwanza, echoed these sentiments, pointing out that such initiatives could help students secure employment in sectors like agro-processing.

This localized approach ensures that vocational programs are relevant and have a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

Additionally, scholars like Ishumi Abel G.M. and William A.L. Anangisey argue in their book, *Education in Tanzania: A Historical Context, Structure and Challenges*, that the success of these reforms will depend on their alignment with the broader needs of the community.

Without a strong connection between the training offered and the industries that drive the local economy, these efforts risk falling short of their potential.

The success of these reforms ultimately hinges on equitable resource allocation, effective implementation, and strong leadership. If these components align, Tanzania's educational reforms could offer a transformative pathway to greater economic participation for its young people.

Another cornerstone of the reforms is the introduction



Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Adolf Mkenda

of English instruction from Standard One. Historically, language proficiency in English has been a significant barrier for students, particularly in rural areas.

Since English serves as the medium of instruction at secondary and tertiary levels, building a strong foundation early is crucial. Drawing insights from educational models in Asia, Mutashobya says early exposure to English is seen as pivotal in fostering fluency and confidence among students.

However, as Nuru Japhet, a teacher at Chamaguha Secondary School in Shinyanga, cautioned, success depends on providing educators with the necessary training and modern teaching methodologies. Without these supports, the reforms risk faltering.

Equipping teachers to deliver high-quality instruction is a recurring theme among education stakeholders. Stedius Kazinduki of Katoke Teachers' College advocates for mentorship programs that pair experienced educators with their peers in underserved areas.

Such mentorship networks could amplify the impact of the reforms by fostering knowledge-sharing and continuous professional development. Incorporating technology-enabled tools, such as offline digital platforms and radio lessons, could further bridge resource gaps in remote schools, ensuring that students across the country benefit equitably from these changes.

Tanzania's history provides valuable lessons in the implementation of educational reforms. The 2005 introduction of a competency-based curriculum (CBC), designed to cultivate critical thinking skills, serves as a cautionary tale.

Despite its lofty goals, the CBC struggled to achieve meaningful change due to inadequate teacher training and insufficient resources. Prof. Justinian C.J. Galabawa of the University of Dar es Salaam has noted that reforms that lack substantial investment in these areas often become symbolic gestures rather than catalysts for real progress.

Rodgers Shubi, a former biology teacher at Sacred Heart Secondary School in Muleba District, recalls the difficulties of navigating the CBC with limited guidance and materials, underlining the importance of avoiding similar pitfalls in the current initiatives.

To ensure the success of these reforms, Mutashobya says a strategic and phased approach is essential. Piloting vocational programs in diverse contexts, such as agriculture-focused curricula in rural areas and entrepreneurship training in urban centers, could provide critical insights for scaling up.

This iterative learning process would allow policymakers to identify and address challenges early, ensuring that interventions are responsive to local needs. Similarly, the rollout of early English instruction could begin in select districts to assess teacher readiness and resource availability before expanding nationwide.

Teacher training is the linchpin of sustainable reform. Collaborations with international institutions to train educators in modern methodologies have proven effective in other countries, such as South Korea.

By investing in continuous professional development, supported by mentorship and peer observation systems, Tanzania can empower its teachers to deliver high-quality education.

As Kazinduki emphasized, mentorship networks are particularly vital for rural educators who face unique challenges in implementing these reforms. Equity in resource allocation remains a critical concern. Schools in rural areas often lack basic infrastructure, let alone the specialized materials required for vocational training or English instruction.

Targeted investments, informed by research from scholars like Prof. Galabawa, are essential to address these disparities. Partnerships with local industries could play a pivotal role in providing funding and technical expertise for vocational programs.

For example, rural schools could focus on agriculture-related tools, while urban schools might prioritize digital equipment. Similarly, ensuring the availability of textbooks and teaching aids for English instruction, alongside innovative solutions like radio lessons, could help bridge gaps in resource-poor settings.

Inclusive stakeholder engagement is another cornerstone of sustainable reform. Teachers, parents, and community leaders must be active-

ly involved in the design and implementation of these initiatives.

Workshops that highlight the relevance of vocational and English education can foster community support and ownership of the reforms. Collaboration with NGOs and private sector partners could provide additional resources and expertise.

For instance, industries in Mwanza could sponsor apprenticeships for vocational students, while NGOs might fund teacher training programs.

Leadership at all levels of the education system is critical for driving and sustaining change. As Prof. Galabawa has noted, adaptive leadership is essential to ensure that reforms remain responsive to emerging challenges.

District education officers must prioritize accountability and collaboration, creating systems that support continuous improvement. By fostering a culture of adaptive governance, Tanzania can build resilience within its education system, ensuring that reforms are not only implemented but also sustained over time.

Reactions from educators in regions like Shinyanga, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Kagera reflect a mix of optimism and concern. At Chamaguha Secondary School, Japhet expressed enthusiasm for the potential impact of these reforms but stressed the importance of adequate training and support.

Tanzania's recent education reforms represent a bold step toward addressing systemic gaps and preparing students for the demands of a globalized world.

By integrating vocational skills training and early English instruction, the government has laid the foundation for transformative change.

However, the path forward requires planning, equitable resource distribution, and adaptive leadership to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. As Tanzania embarks on this ambitious journey, the voices of educators, scholars, and communities will play a vital role in shaping an equitable and inclusive future for the nation's youth.

Building on BoT's bold move: Need to expand climate action across industries

By Frank Abel

COULD you imagine a Tanzania plagued by severe droughts, where food security is threatened, water scarcity escalates, and health crises soar? Now, picture the ripple effects on businesses: disrupted supply chains, declining performance, and economic instability. Alarming, isn't it?

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has envisioned this scenario and taken bold preventive action. In a ground-breaking move, the central bank has introduced two transformative guidelines mandating banks and financial institutions to integrate sustainability and climate risk into their reporting frameworks.

This visionary leadership isn't just about safeguarding the financial sector—it's about protecting Tanzania's future.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it's a present reality with profound implications for every facet of life. Severe weather events, such as the floods in Rufiji, have disrupted lives, damaged infrastructure, and affected the local economy.

Businesses, economies, and societies are intricately linked to the environment, ignoring sustainability and climate risks can lead to cascading challenges.

Here's why aligning sectors with sustainability and climate resilience is not just important but essential:

Safeguarding business continuity

Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, directly impact industries by disrupting supply chains, damaging infrastructure, and reducing productivity. For example, agriculture-based businesses face declining yields during prolonged droughts, while floods can wipe out transportation networks critical for trade.

By integrating sustainability and climate risk measures, businesses can anticipate and mitigate these disruptions, ensuring resilience and long-term viability.

Fostering economic stability

A climate-resilient economy is a stable economy. Climate risks like resource depletion and increased energy costs can destabilize markets, drive inflation, and reduce investor confidence. By embedding climate-conscious practices into policies, such as promoting renewable energy and green innovations,

Tanzania can attract investments, create jobs, and unlock economic growth. Sustainable practices also ensure equitable resource allocation, reducing economic inequalities exacerbated by climate impacts.

Protecting livelihoods, social welfare

Ignoring sustainability has immense social consequences. Droughts lead to food insecurity, water shortages trigger health crises, and climate migration disrupts communities. These challenges hit the most vulnerable populations hardest, amplifying poverty and inequality.

When businesses and institutions prioritize sustainability, they contribute to societal resilience—ensuring communities have access to essential resources, healthcare,



Businesses, economies and societies are all linked to the environment, ignoring sustainability and climate risks can lead to cascading challenges.

and growth opportunities despite climate challenges.

Enhancing global competitiveness

Globally, the transition to sustainable practices is accelerating. Investors, customers, and partners increasingly favor organizations that demonstrate climate responsibility. Tanzanian businesses adopting sustainability measures will gain a competitive edge, attracting global partnerships, funding, and market opportunities. This positions Tanzania as a leader in sustainable development across Africa.

Addressing regulatory, financial risks

Failing to align with sustainability exposes organizations to regulatory penalties, reputational damage, and financial losses. The BOT's guidelines proactively shield the financial sector from climate-related risks, ensuring long-term stability. Other sectors, such as insurance, telecommunications, and manufacturing, must follow suit to mitigate sector-specific risks and avoid falling behind.

Contributing to Tanzania's climate goals

Sustainability is central to Tanzania's development agenda. Integrating climate risks into strategies supports national and global commitments like the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collective action ensures economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment.

Here's how regulatory authorities in Tanzania can follow the central banks' lead in mandating sustainability and climate risk measures:

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)

TRA administers and collects government revenues to support national de-

velopment. Climate risks like floods and droughts reduce business activity, shrinking taxable income and lowering tax revenues.

TRA can offer tax incentives for businesses adopting sustainability practices, such as renewable energy usage and waste reduction, enhancing resilience and ensuring long-term revenue stability.

Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)

EWURA regulates electricity, water, petroleum, and natural gas sectors to ensure reliable services. Prolonged droughts reduce hydropower capacity, while floods damage critical infrastructure. EWURA can mandate investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, promote renewable energy adoption, and encourage water conservation technologies to ensure sustainable service delivery.

Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA)

The TMDA safeguards public health by regulating medicines, medical devices, and food safety. Climate change escalates health risks through the spread of diseases and food insecurity. TMDA can require pharmaceutical manufacturers to adopt eco-friendly production processes and ensure resilient medical supply chains, maintaining public health while reducing environmental impacts.

Fair Competition Commission (FCC)

The FCC ensures fair trade practices and consumer protection. Supply chain disruptions caused by floods or droughts can lead to market imbalances. FCC can promote sustainable practices like energy efficiency and waste reduction while

supporting environmentally responsible companies through fair competition laws.

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)

TCRA regulates communication and broadcasting sectors. Rising temperatures and extreme weather threaten telecommunication infrastructure. TCRA can mandate energy-efficient technologies, encourage investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, and promote digital solutions like early warning systems to enhance climate preparedness.

Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA)

OSHA enforces workplace health and safety standards. Climate risks such as extreme heat, air pollution, and flooding endanger workers' safety. OSHA can develop climate-specific occupational health guidelines, encourage green workplace practices, and promote training on climate risk management to protect workers and maintain sustainability.

National Environment Management Council (NEMC)

NEMC ensures environmental protection and sustainable practices. Climate change exacerbates degradation, threatening livelihoods and ecosystems. NEMC can enhance policy enforcement, encourage industries to adopt sustainable practices, and align guidelines with global climate goals to build resilience.

Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA)

LATRA regulates land transport services, ensuring efficiency, safety, and accessibility. Climate risks like floods damage road and railway infrastructure, leading to transport disruptions that hinder economic activities and emergency response. LATRA can encourage the adoption of green transport systems, such as electric vehicles and sustainable road designs while mandating climate risk assessments in infrastructure planning to safeguard Tanzania's transport sector against climate challenges.

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA)

TPA manages and oversees port services, ensuring the smooth flow of goods and trade through Tanzania's ports. Rising sea levels, storm surges, and extreme weather events threaten port infrastructure and disrupt maritime logistics. TPA can adopt sustainable practices by investing in

climate-resilient port designs, integrating renewable energy sources, and establishing early warning systems to mitigate risks. Encouraging eco-friendly shipping practices can also reduce emissions and safeguard Tanzania's role as a regional trade hub.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA)

TANAPA manages Tanzania's national parks and conserves wildlife for ecological balance and tourism. Climate change threatens biodiversity through habitat loss, changes in species migration patterns, and increased risks of wildfires.

The authority can integrate climate risk assessments into park management, promote reforestation initiatives, and educate communities about sustainable conservation practices. Additionally, it can encourage eco-tourism to ensure that tourism remains a sustainable source of income while protecting natural resources.

Leading Tanzania into a sustainable future

The message is clear: climate change spares no sector. From the roads we drive on to the ports enabling trade, from parks preserving heritage to communication networks connecting us, every corner of the economy is intertwined with the environment. By embracing sustainability and climate resilience, we protect what we have and create pathways to innovation, growth, and harmony.

The central bank has shown what bold leadership looks like. Now, it's time for every regulatory authority—TRA, EWURA, TMDA, FCC, TCRA, OSHA, NEMC, LATRA, TPA, TANAPA and beyond—to rise to the occasion.

Together, we can guide Tanzania toward a future where businesses thrive, ecosystems flourish, and livelihoods are secured.

Action starts with vision. Vision turns into impact when leaders dare to act. Will your sector lead the change? The time to act is now, and the world is watching. Let's make Tanzania a global example of resilience and sustainability—one regulation, one initiative, one bold step at a time.

Frank Abel is a Senior Programme Accountant at Amref Health Africa Tanzania and one of the stakeholders of sustainable development with more focus on the effects of climate change. He can be reached via +255 753 732 355.

By Fran Pilkington-Cheney

Alcohol may help you fall asleep quicker, but it leads to a worse night's rest overall

ALCOHOL is often used as a sleep aid – with some people crediting a “nightcap” with helping them fall asleep more easily. But while it might be nice to unwind after a long day with a glass of wine or a beer, alcohol may not be as beneficial for sleep as some think. In fact, it may actually lead to a worse night's sleep overall.

If alcohol is consumed before bed, it can initially have a sedative effect – making you fall asleep more quickly. But while we may think a nightcap shortens the time it takes to fall asleep, recent research shows this sedative effect only really occurs after drinking higher doses of alcohol – between 3-6 standard glasses of wine, depending on the person – within three hours of bed.

And while this might seem beneficial, using alcohol to fall asleep is not recommended. This is not only because of the negative health effects of drinking alcohol, but also because alcohol disrupts sleep later in the night.

This disruption mainly affects REM (rapid eye movement) sleep. Alcohol delays the first episode of REM sleep – and reduces the subsequent amount of REM sleep you get throughout the night. It can also make you wake up more often or lead to lighter sleep in the latter part of the night. This is significant, as REM sleep – sometimes called “dreaming sleep” – is thought to be important for memory and regulating emotions.

These disruptions to REM sleep are even seen after drinking low doses of alcohol (around two standard drinks) within three hours of bedtime.

Sleep disruptions of any kind can make you feel more tired the following day. Disturbed REM sleep can also lead to impairments in the consolidation of memories, cognitive function and how you regulate your emotions.

It's worth noting that most research only focuses on the effect of alcohol on a single night of sleep. Generally, less is known about the effect that multiple nights of drinking has on sleep – with only a small number of studies (which had low numbers of participants) showing inconsistent results.

However, one study did indicate that after multiple nights of drinking, disruptions to sleep were still apparent during the first night without drinking. This suggests it may take time for sleep to recover after repeated nights of drinking.

Why alcohol affects sleep

While there's still more research to be done to understand exactly why alcohol affects different components of sleep – particularly in those who drink large amounts



Alcohol can ruin the quality of your night's sleep.

on a regular basis – we do know of a few mechanisms linking alcohol consumption to sleep.

First, alcohol increases the action of a chemical messenger in the brain called GABA. This has a sedative effect, thought to contribute to the sleepy feeling many people experience when drinking alcohol. Alcohol may also increase levels of adenosine, a chemical messenger that is important for sleepiness.

But the increase in these chemicals when drinking is short-lived. Once the body has metabolised the alcohol, there's often a “rebound effect” in which the body tries to compensate for the alcohol-induced changes in physiological functions and sleep. This causes the light and disrupted sleep that people experience during the latter part of the night after drinking.

Alcohol also affects circadian rhythms – the 24-hour body clock that responds to environmental light cues in order to synchronise our sleep-wake cycle. One of the ways our circadian rhythm does

this is through the release of specific hormones at certain times of the day. For instance, our body will release melatonin during the hours of darkness to help us feel tired – and stay asleep throughout the night. But alcohol affects the production of melatonin and alters our body temperature. The timing and amount of melatonin that's released and a decrease in core body temperature are important for sleep. Changes in these will result in changes in sleep.

Further, alcohol relaxes the muscles in the airways, which can exacerbate snoring – potentially disrupting the sleep of your partner too.

Finally, due to its diuretic effect, drinking alcohol before bed may mean more bathroom visits during the night – further disrupting sleep.

How to get a better night's sleep

If you sometimes use alcohol to help you fall asleep, here are

some things you can do instead to get a better night's sleep:

Keep a regular schedule. Going to bed and waking at the same time each day helps regulate the body's circadian rhythms and improve sleep.

Create a peaceful sleep environment. A cool, quiet and dark room is ideal for getting a good night's sleep.

Create a consistent bedtime routine. Do some relaxing activities before bed to help the brain wind down – such as reading or taking a bath.

Limit your afternoon caffeine intake. Caffeine is a stimulant – and its effects can last many hours, with half of it remaining in our bodies four-to-six hours after consuming it, on average. Only consume caffeinated foods and drinks earlier in the day.

Get active. Physical activity can be beneficial for regulating circadian rhythms and helping us feel tired at the end of the day. Even better if you can do your workout in the natural morning light, as morning light exposure regulates circadian rhythm and improves sleep quality.

The good news for people who enjoy a nightcap or the odd night out is that many of the negative effects of alcohol on sleep are relatively short-lived, and can be reversed by avoiding alcohol or reducing intake. While it may take longer for sleep and circadian rhythms to return to normal in people who drink more often in higher amounts, quitting alcohol can help. Better sleep will not only leave you feeling more refreshed, it will also benefit your overall health and wellbeing.

Canada's water governance, management systems threaten the country's water supply

By Tricia Stadnyk

CANADIANS are among some of the most water-rich people globally, with access to about 20 per cent of the world's freshwater supply and seven per cent of the world's renewable freshwater supply.

As a result, Canadians are among the most water-greedy nations in the world, with per-capita water use in the average Canadian household coming in at more than 220 litres a day.

Canadians consume double the United Nations' recommended consumption limit. Canada was the second largest consumer of water in 2017, dropping only to the eighth largest consumer per capita in the world in 2022.

Canada has been largely immune to the issues of water scarcity, quality and accessibility affecting billions around the globe – issues that are only growing in severity, as the Los Angeles wildfires are so vividly illustrating.

But Canada's privileged position will not last forever. Unless properly managed, even Canada's water supplies will eventually run out.

It's time to challenge our wasteful ways and accept that even in Canada, water

must be managed effectively to sustain economic development and societal growth under increasing climate pressures.

Draining the well

Water in Canada is managed primarily at the provincial and territorial level. What this means is that the exploitation of water from rivers, lakes and groundwater reservoirs is largely a provincial and territorial responsibility. In some cases, this governance is subject to agreements with other provinces or other countries.

There is no federal authority over water decision-making in Canada. This lack of oversight complicates data collection, data access and overall water management – though the newly launched Canada Water Agency does aim to address some of these issues.

The Canadian water cycle is highly complex. Water supply in Canada is dependent upon seasonal changes and weather patterns, permafrost, glaciers, snow and snowmelt, wetlands and a range of other factors. What's more, water flows in most of Canada are under-monitored relative to the World Meteorological Organization standards.

Compounding these issues is the regulation and



A boy jumps into Lake Ontario in Kingston, Ont. in May 2024. Canada has around 20 per cent of the world's fresh water in its borders.

fragmentation of Canadian rivers primarily for energy and resource extraction. These uses, coupled with a lack of transparency around reporting changes in river flows, have left flow rates in most of Canada's rivers largely unknown and difficult to predict.

The impact of global warming

Climate change further complicates this picture.

The warming already being experienced has resulted in unusually extreme events ranging from catastrophic wildfires – such as the ones that recently destroyed much of Jasper, similar to those currently decimating Los Angeles – to drought across the Prairies.

Most of Canada will have to adapt to longer dry periods and increasing water stress with competing demands for the limited supply.

Read more: The 2024 Jasper Fire is a grim reminder of the urgency of adopting a Canadian national wildfire strategy

The Palliser's Triangle covering southern Alberta and Saskatchewan is the driest region of Canada and was once thought uninhabitable. Modern engineering has turned this region into Canada's bread basket, contributing \$1.3 billion annually to the Canadian gross domestic product. This engineering, however, is heavily reliant on water supply.

The agriculture industry

in Alberta is responsible for around 45 per cent of Alberta's overall water use. A staggering 70 per cent of the water in the Saskatchewan River basin is allocated to agriculture.

Despite growing water efficiencies, agricultural users still remove water from the system for longer periods of time than municipal or residential users, resulting in a greater impact on the environment. Indeed, factoring in per-capita use across all sectors shoots the litres of water used per day across Canada up from 220 to more than 400 litres.

These are unsustainable levels of water use and Alberta in particular is challenged by diminishing water supply and increasing drought.

Mismanagement

Complicating the water management landscape are transboundary water agreements designed to equitably share water across jurisdictional boundaries.

Alberta's water is shared with Manitoba and Saskatchewan through the Master Agreement on Apportionment, and a further agreement governs the Mackenzie River that flows through Alberta and the Northwest Territories. At the same time, the 1909 Boundary

Waters Treaty between the United States and Canada governs the transboundary St. Mary/Milk River system.

These water agreements are designed to avoid inequalities and ensure that all those within the basin have equal access. However, the dual threat of climate change and increasing demand pressures may stretch many to the breaking point.

Looking back to nature for how best to effectively and sustainably manage water resources for all Canadians and the ecosystem is perhaps our best option. Canada's current political and water governance system is, however, not designed to effectively support this.

Water governance is fragmented across many jurisdictions with little care for overall basin health and the ubiquitous first-in-time, first-right water license system prioritizes agricultural and industrial users. Such management principles do not promote sustainability, nor do they provision for ecosystem services or unlicensed users (such as Indigenous communities).

Wider repercussions

Access to water is intrinsically linked to human health. Meanwhile access to water is itself dependent upon healthy and stable ecosystems. Our current system of

fragmented oversight and privileged licences is not an effective means to ensure Canada's long-term water security.

The Alberta government has made it clear it's more concerned with the rights of individual licence holders than the rights of citizens, the ecosystem and Canada's Indigenous Peoples.

Transformative adaptation of water policy is required to secure Canada's water future. Canada urgently needs a federally enacted co-operative governance model to oversee water information, protection, licensing and allocation.

Addressing these grand water challenges requires an ambitious investment in environmental prediction at a scale never before undertaken in Canada, simulating whole-system pressures and ecosystem feedbacks to understand the socioeconomic impacts imposed by climate change.

In every challenge, however, there lies great opportunity.

The choices we make today will impact our children and their children and will literally mean the difference between them thriving or surviving as a society. Ultimately, it is us and our way of being that must adapt to new extremes – not the other way around.

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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Chinese medical specialists in Zanzibar source of hope for 70-year-old woman

By Special Correspondent

AT 70, Tuma Saidi Hamadi from Pemba Island was on the verge of blindness, but her life took a turn when the 34th batch of the Chinese medical team performed cataract surgery that restored her vision.

Hamadi's journey to regain her sight was challenging. Her brother Yusuph, an anaesthesiologist with Mnazi Mmoja Hospital on Unguja Island, became her unwavering support.

"For a long time, her vision was so poor that she could only see indistinct shadows in front of her. It made her life incredibly difficult and was a source of deep concern for our family," he said. Determined to help his sister, Yusuph took her to the Chinese medical team stationed at the hospital.

After a detailed examination, Zhou Shi, an ophthalmologist with Hua'an No. 1 People's Hospital in east China's Jiangsu Province, diagnosed severe cataracts in both of Hamadi's eyes. Zhou warned that the surgery would be challenging and the outcome uncertain due to the advanced

stage of the condition. Despite the risks, Yusuph trusted the Chinese medical team and pleaded for his sister's treatment.

I can see now!

The surgery was conducted with meticulous care by Zhou and his team. Each step was precise and carefully planned, filled with hope for Hamadi's recovery. The day after the operation, Zhou gently removed the gauze from Hamadi's eyes during a ward visit.

Hamadi's face lit up with joy as she exclaimed:

"I can see now!" Her words brought tears of relief to her brother, who held Zhou's hand tightly and expressed his gratitude in broken but heartfelt Chinese: "Thank you, thank you."

This moment was a profound reflection of the bond between doctor and patient as well as the cross-border friendship that has grown between China and Zanzibar.

Hope and health for many

Hamadi's story is one of many made possible by the presence of the Chinese medical team.

Many patients in Zanzibar miss critical treatment opportunities



Members of the 33rd batch of the Chinese medical team pose for a photo with local children after providing free medical services in Zanzibar, Tanzania, on Oct. 21, 2023. (China Medical Team/Handout via Xinhua)

due to limited resources and outdated technology. Chinese doctors brought advanced medical techniques and donated surgical equipment and medicines, enabling more patients to receive life-changing treatment.

The Chinese medical team has implemented a "small and effective" model of medical care by focusing on cataracts, a widespread yet treatable condition. Their approach combines precision medicine with technical training to deliver significant health improvements at low cost and high efficiency.

Building capacity and writing new chapters

The Chinese medical team's contributions extend beyond surgeries. Recently, they performed Zanzibar's first high-difficulty radical resection of perihilar bile duct cancer, along with other groundbreaking procedures such as pediatric bronchoscopic foreign body removal and combined liver-kidney resection.

Chinese doctors shared detailed techniques with their local counterparts during these surgeries, fostering skill development and knowledge transfer.

The trust placed in the Chinese medical team by local doctors and patients alike underscores the impact of their work.

A local doctor called Rashid said after witnessing a complex surgery, "I hope to go to China to learn more advanced medical techniques."

From restoring sight to performing life-saving surgeries, the 34th Chinese medical team has not only brought cutting-edge healthcare to Zanzibar but also strengthened the ties of friendship and cooperation between China and Tanzania. Through their dedication and expertise, they continue to bring hope and a brighter future to countless lives.

Cultural ties reinforce as Kenyans join Chinese New Year celebration

NAIROBI

SHIELDING himself from the sweltering heat that enveloped the Kenyan capital of Nairobi on Sunday, Benjamin Buyeshe savoured the aroma of fresh dumplings at an ongoing Chinese New Year gala at a vast courtyard of the upmarket Two Rivers Mall located on the northern suburbs of Nairobi.

A Kungfu enthusiast since 2018, Buyeshe has attended several Chinese New Year celebrations, drawn by their electrifying musical performances, dances, and displays of traditional attire and cuisine. "Attending this event to celebrate and honour the Chinese New Year is uplifting to me as a Kenyan and as someone keen to learn more about Chinese culture," he said.

Buyeshe was among hundreds of local visitors who thronged the Nairobi Chinese New Year gala organized by Chinese companies in Kenya. Senior government officials, diplomats, business executives, scholars and others enjoyed Chinese folk and lion dances,

Shaolin monk Kungfu performances and culinary delights.

When students from local universities jumped to the stage and performed a dragon dance, Buyeshe could not resist the urge to sway with the synchronized drum beats.

The 27-year-old Nairobi resident said he looked forward to participating in other events related to the Chinese Spring Festival.

By opening its door to the public, this year's Chinese New Year Gala further promotes friendly ties between the Kenyan and Chinese people, Buyeshe said.

Despite the hot weather, Kenyans from all walks of life joined Chinese citizens to attend the day-long celebration, keen to watch live performances and sample delicacies from the Asian country.

Seated in the front row and holding his toddler, Geoffrey Kengele, a Nairobi-based medic, was thrilled to see a group of local university students performing a folk dance.

Kengele said his wife nudged him to attend the



Actors perform dragon dance during a Chinese New Year gala held in Nairobi, Kenya

gala for its cross-cultural interactions and the opportunity to build business and personal relationships.

"My wife studied architecture in China. She encouraged me to come and

experience Chinese culture. Our relationship with China is developing, and it is wise for us to engage in healthy interactions," Kengele said.

The 2025 Chinese New Year marks the beginning of

the Year of the Snake. The snake is the sixth animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac and represents wisdom, intuition and strategic growth.

Ummi Bashir, principal

Secretary of the State Department for Culture, the Arts and Heritage, underscored the significance of the Chinese New Year, noting that it brings a renewed sense of hope, prosperity

and unity.

In addition, Bashir said the auspicious occasion is a reminder of the huge milestones Sino-Kenyan cultural cooperation has achieved thanks to shared values and mutual respect.

"Kenya and China will contribute to advancing the Global Civilization Initiative, which promotes respect for diversity of civilizations, common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, as well as robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation," said Bashir.

James Mworira, chief executive officer of Centum Investment company, said the Chinese New Year gala epitomizes the vitality of Sino-Kenya economic and cultural ties.

Joseph Onyango, a 27-year-old delivery man, attended the Chinese New Year celebration for the first time together with his friend.

"I will also participate in next year's Chinese New Year celebration," Onyango said. "I am eager to learn more about Chinese culture, food and music."

Kenyan start-up that turns invasive plant into biodegradable packaging

NAIROBI

THE popular Lake Naivasha, a few hours drive north-west of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, is famous for its flamingos and hippos.

But the lake is being invaded by invasive water hyacinths which are threatening the livelihoods of local fishermen.

The engines of their small boats and nets regularly get snarled up in the carpet of green. And with reduced oxygen in the water, there are fewer fish.

Fisherman Simon Macharia says he used to catch a good amount of fish before the water hyacinth invaded.

"But when it affected the breeding zones, the fish decreased. We used to catch up



to 90 kilogrammes per day but now we get between 10 and 15 kilogrammes," he said.

But now a young Kenyan, Joseph Nguthiru, has come up with a solution that

started as a final year university project, following a disastrous field excursion that left

him and his classmates stuck on Lake Naivasha.

His company, HyaPak, is

working with the fishermen, harvesting the plant and transforming it into biodegradable packaging.

"What we are trying to look at is, how we use one problem which is water hyacinth to solve the other problem which is plastic waste pollution," says Nguthiru.

"How we do this is that we work together with fishermen who are affected at the lake, and we contract them to harvest the water hyacinth for us."

The plant is dried on site and then transported to HyaPak's facilities where it is combined with binders and additives, which is then mixed and shaped.

Nguthiru says the company is looking into spaces

that have high plastic use but need to go sustainable and go green.

"One of these is agriculture, where we have a lot of seedlings being packaged in plastic bags," he says.

"We have our biodegradable bags that are inserted with the seedlings into the ground. As they decompose the release nutrients that accelerate the growth rate of plants as well reducing the amount of water used in irrigation."

HyaPak is already exporting to the United States and Germany, and it has plans to establish franchises in India and El Salvador, two countries that are also experiencing problems with the invasive plant.

BUSINESS

DSE's mobile trading platform registers new 38,000 investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) Mobile Trading Platform (MTP) has so far registered cumulative 37,910 investors, of which 27,000 were recorded between January 2023 and December 2024.

Peter Nalitoela, the Chief Executive Officer, DSE, said this on Monday when he was presenting the market performance for the year ended in December.

He said during the reported year, the MTP registration grew by 397 percent to 22,774 last year from 4,578 registered in 2023, driven by enhanced platform, increased awareness and investor confidence due to strong market performance.

The platform's turnover also grew by 618 percent to 14.56bn/- last year from 2.03bn/- in 2023.

Data show the MTP contribution to turnover, excluding pre-arranged transactions, increased six-fold to 24.33 percent in 2024 from 4.84 percent in 2023, underscoring the rising adoption and efficiency of platform.

MTP now accounts for nearly a quarter of DSE's total market turnover, compared to less than 5 percent during 2023 as the growth reflects a significant shift towards digital trading, driven by improved accessibility, investor confidence and robust market performance.

Top counters via MTP included CRDB, which recorded a turnover

of 5.2bn/- which accounted for 82.21 percent of total platform turnover, followed by NMB, which contributed by 5.01 percent and NICO, which contributed by 4.39 percent.

"CRDB Bank's exceptional performance indicates strong investor confidence and trading activity while the combined contributions of NMB and NICO reflect their growing presence on the platform," Nalitoela said in a statement.

Generally, the DSE total market capitalization, which include domestic and cross listed companies increased by 22.29 percent to 17.9trn/- in 2024, from 14.6trn/- recorded in 2023, while domestic market capitalization expanded by 7.38 percent to 12.2trn/- from 11.4trn/- respectively.

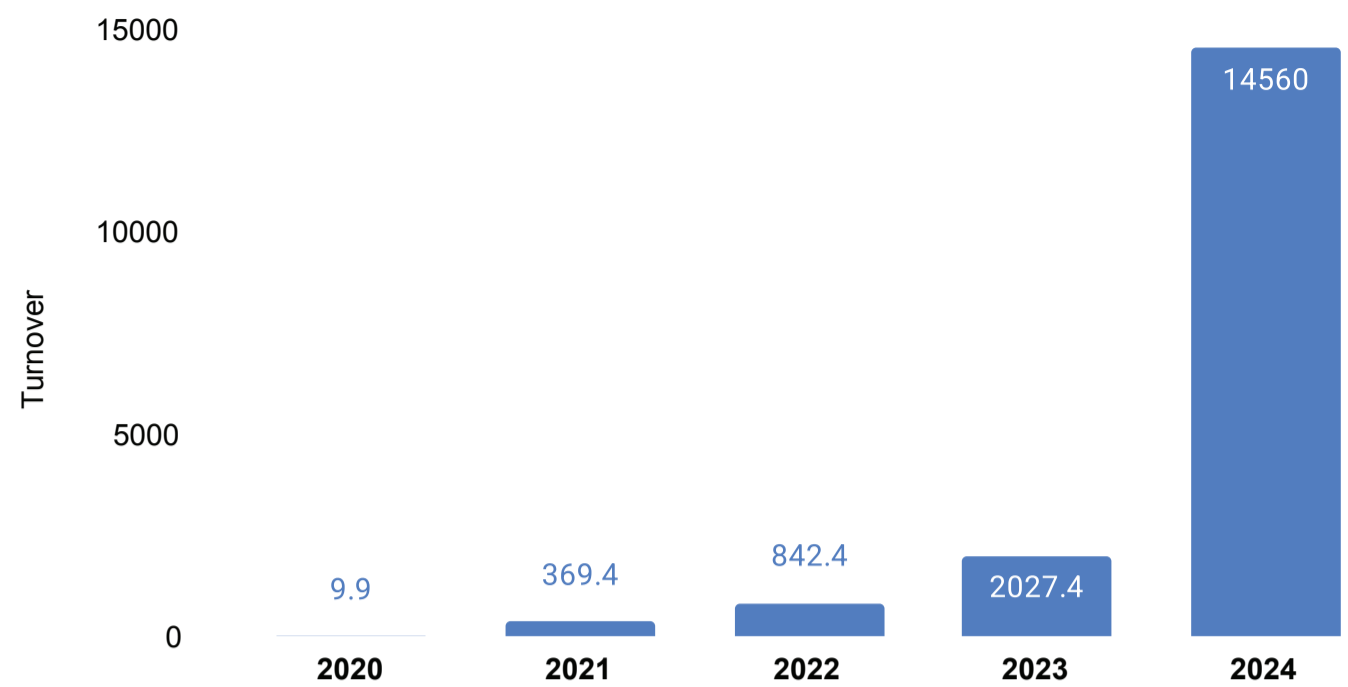
The overall increase reflects a mixed performance influenced by economic factors, investor sentiment and recovery momentum in both domestic and cross listed counters.

The equity trading turnover reached 228.6bn/-, a 1.52 percent increase from 225bn/- recorded in 2023.

According to the CEO, a one-off transaction on the Tanga Cement counter (TCCL), valued at 106bn/-, accounted for a significant portion of turnover of 2023, as by excluding it, the turnover for 2024 would show a 91.5 percent increase compared to 2023.

During the reported period, a total of 228 million shares were traded in

DSE Mobile Trading Platform Turnover 2020-2024 (in Million Shillings)



SOURCE: DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE

2024, reflecting a 21.28 percent rise compared to 188 million shares traded in 2023, driven by mobile trading, increased participation by both local foreign and local investors and strong performances of listed companies.

Indices

The Tanzania Share Index (TSI), which measures the performance of locally listed companies increased by 7.30 percent to 4,618.78 points from 4,304.4 points driven by appreciation in share prices of domestic companies including Afriprise, Tanga Cement (TCCL), Nicol, NMB Bank, CRDB Bank, DCB Bank and self-listed DSE.

The report shows the all share index (DSEI) grew impressively by 22.22 percent to 2,139.73 points from 1,750.63 points, driven by price increase in domestic counters and cross-listed companies such as KCB, EABL and Jubilee Holdings Limited.

"DSEI growth reflects robust market-wide growth, including contributions from cross-listed stocks, showing improved market confidence and attractiveness of investors," the report notes.

On bond market, the report shows that the turnover was 3.1trn/-, a 13.6 percent decrease from 3.6trn/- in 2023 due to re-opening of Bank of Tanzania (BoT) auctions, encouraging investors to prioritise the primary market over the secondary market and decline in market prices, especially low-rate bond.

Meanwhile, DSE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tanzania Institute of Bankers (TIOB) to enhance financial market in Tanzania's capital markets.

The signing of the deal made held yesterday in Dar es Salaam by DSE chief Executive Peter Nalitoela and TIOB executive director Patrick Mususa.

The partnership is aimed at including capital markets education on TIOB syllabus, the use of technology to increase awareness on capital markets among banking experts, to enhance accountability, formulate products and services for capital markets and enhance education awareness on Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) in financial sector.

TIOB executive director Patrick Mususa said is optimistic on the partnership with DSE.

Oil slips as traders digest Trump tariff reprieve

LONDON

OIL prices fell on Tuesday as investors assessed US President Donald Trump's plans to apply new tariffs later than expected while boosting oil and gas production in the United States.

Brent crude futures were down 65 cents, or 0.81 percent, to \$79.5 per

barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down by \$1.15, or 1.48 percent, at \$76.73. There was no settlement in the US market on Monday due to a public holiday.

"The initial sense of relief that trade measures weren't an immediate focus on Trump's 'Day 1' was quickly offset by reports of 25 percent tariffs on Mexico and Canada as early as Febru-

ary, which saw risk sentiments turn," said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG.

Trump did not impose any sweeping new trade measures right after his inauguration on Monday, but told federal agencies to investigate unfair trade practices by other countries.

He said he was thinking of imposing 25 percent tariffs on imports

from Canada and Mexico from Feb. 1, rather than on his first day in office as previously promised.

The tariff reprieve initially helped push oil prices down, but duties on Canadian crude could eventually drive the market higher.

Also pressuring prices on Monday, was a stronger US dollar, as its strengthening makes oil more expen-

sive for holders of other currencies.

"The current weakness is most probably Trump and dollar-related," said PVM analyst Tamas Varga.

The dollar rebounded after Trump's comments on imposing tariffs against Mexico and Canada, Varga said, noting that the dollar's strength is negatively impacting oil prices.

Trump on Monday laid out an ex-

tensive plan to accelerate oil, gas and power permitting in order to maximise already record high US energy production.

The US president also said his administration would "probably" stop buying oil from Venezuela. The US is the second-biggest buyer of Venezuelan oil after China.

Trump also promised to refill stra-

Global nickel supply to fall by 7.4pc in 2024

SYDNEY

GLOBAL nickel production is anticipated to fall by a significant 7.4 percent to 3.4 million tonnes in 2024 as most of the major producers have reduced their output for 2024, linked mainly to declining prices and operational disruptions.

Major declines are expected from Indonesia, the Philippines, and New Caledonia. Output from these three countries is expected to decline from a collective 2.44 million tonnes in 2023 to an estimated 2.29 million tonnes in 2024 - a 6.1 percent decline.

In addition, production will also fall from other key producers such as Russia (-6.5 percent) and Australia

(-12.8 percent).

However, these declines will be partially offset by increases in output from Canada (3.8 percent) and China (3.1 percent), albeit only a marginal offset.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's nickel supply for the year 2024 is expected to decline due to lower output from key operating mines such as the Weda Bay, Gag Island, Pakal Island, Pomalaa, and Tapunopaka, in response to anticipated delays in obtaining Rencana Kerja dan Anggaran Biaya (RKAB) approvals.

In 2023, Indonesia, the world's largest producer, introduced significant changes to the RKAB regulations, extending the validity period from one year to three years. These changes have had

varying impacts on different mining companies, depending on their specific circumstances and the nature of their operations.

Some companies have been able to adapt quickly to the new regulations while others have faced more significant challenges.

Meanwhile, the Philippine nickel industry has seen fluctuations in production over the same period due to global market conditions, regulatory changes, and operational challenges.

Global nickel production over the forecast period is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 4.2 percent to over 4.3 million tonnes in 2030. Indonesia and the Philippines are expected to be key drivers



for this growth.

Upcoming projects that have a high likelihood of starting operations through the end of this decade include the Weda Bay expansion (Indonesia, 2026), Onaping Depth (Canada, 2027), and Nickel West (Australia, 2027).

"Global nickel supply to fall by 7.4 percent in 2024, linked to declining prices and opera-

tional disruptions" was originally created and published by Mining Technology, a GlobalData owned brand.

Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Russia, and Canada account for more than 50 percent of the world's nickel resources.

Nickel has long been a highly versatile metal, but in recent times, it has become a crucial

component in the energy transition. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) predictions, demand for nickel will rise significantly, by around 65 percent, by the end of this decade.

Global nickel reserves as of January 2023 were 102.1 million tonnes (Mt), according to a GlobalData report citing US Geological Survey data.

The majority of these metal reserves are found in Indonesia and Australia, which accounted for 20.6 percent of the global total each, followed by Brazil (15.7 percent), Russia (7.3 percent), and New Caledonia (7 percent). The Philippines and Canada collectively held 6.9 percent of the global total.

Global nickel production in 2025 is expected to be 3.65 million tons, according to the International Nickel Study Group (INSG). This is higher than the 2024 production of 3.52 million tons. However, the market is expected to remain oversupplied, which could lead to lower prices

UK retail embraces automation to cut staff costs

LONDON

ELECTRONIC shelf labels, returns machines, robot bag packers and yet more self-service tills - just some of the many technologies that UK retailers are embracing as they try to solve the problem of rising labour costs.

Investment in automation was a constant drumbeat amid the flurry of festive trad-

ing updates from big retailers in the past few weeks, as they face higher staffing bills from April after the rise in the national minimum wage and employers' national insurance contributions (NICs).

The investments could improve productivity - a key government aim - in an industry long reliant on cheap labour. However, they will also replace entry-level jobs and

reduce the number of roles in a sector that is the UK's biggest employer.

When the British Retail Consortium asked leading retailers' finance directors how they would be responding to the impending increase in employers' NICs, almost a third said they would be using more automation, although this sat behind raising prices, cutting head office jobs and reducing

working hours.

Already prevalent in some other countries, electronic shelf labels could blink into action across UK high streets in 2025. One retail boss told the Guardian the NICs surge in labour costs had suddenly made the switch economically viable.

Prices can be changed at the press of a button, slashing staff hours spent removing and

replacing hundreds of small paper labels. The electricals chain Currys plans to put electronic pricing into 100 of its 300 UK stores by the end of this year, after trials in its Nordic outlets, while supermarket groups Sainsbury's and the Co-op are also testing it out.

Shopper-operated tills have become ubiquitous in supermarkets, but expect to see more in fashion and home-

wares outlets this year.

Primark has them in 41 UK stores with plans to extend to at least five more this spring, while Next is piloting them in one branch.

The Japanese fashion chain Uniqlo and Zara owner Inditex have led the way with technology that can ring up an entire basket of goods without the need for customers to scan them in using radio fre-

quency tags. Marks & Spencer is experimenting with this approach for customers putting through non-food items.

Grocery stores are innovating too. The Co-op is testing a hybrid till that can either be self-service or staff-operated, while several supermarkets have added large self-checkouts suitable for handling a full trolley.

China-Africa trade jumps 4.8pc to \$295 bn in 2024

By Guardian Correspondent

THE slight drop in Africa's trade deficit with China does not show a change in what Africa is exporting. That is mainly because prices for raw materials like gold, copper, and coffee have gone up.

Trade between China and Africa reached \$295.56 billion in 2024, growing by 4.8 per cent compared to 2023, according to data released by China's General Administration of Customs.

Chinese exports to Africa rose by 3.5 per cent last year, totaling \$178.76 billion. Meanwhile, imports from Africa to China reached \$116.79 billion, a 6.9 per cent increase from 2023.

As a result, Africa's trade deficit with China narrowed to \$61.93 billion in 2024, down from \$64 billion the previous year.

However, structural imbalances in the trade relations between the two regions remain. The decrease in the trade deficit mainly reflects an increase in the value of China's imports of certain raw materials, while African countries have been calling for more imports of processed products.

During the 9th Forum on China-Africa Co-

operation (FOCAC), South African President Cyril Ramaphosa urged China to work on balancing its trade relations with Africa by addressing the structure of its imports.

Lauren Johnston, a China and Africa expert and associate professor at the China Studies Center at the University of Sydney, told the South China Morning Post that the increase in Chinese imports from Africa last year was mainly due to the rise in prices of certain raw materials highly demanded by China.

"Gold, copper, cocoa, and coffee prices increased. Last year, coffee reached its highest price since 1977 due to a combination of higher demand and poor weather conditions in Brazil and Vietnam," she explained.

China has also increased imports of agricultural products from Africa, including avocados, soybeans, pineapples, peppers, cashews, sesame seeds, and spices.

Chinese exports to Africa are mainly finished products like textiles, clothing, machinery, and electronics, while African exports to China consist mostly of raw materials such as crude oil, copper, cobalt, and iron ore, which creates a chronic trade surplus for China.

To address this trade imbalance, China has removed tariffs on 98 per cent of products im-



ported from 21 African countries, including Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Togo. Since December 1, 2024, it has also applied zero tariffs on all imports from the least developed countries (LDCs) with which it has diplomatic relations, including 33 African nations.

These successive tariff reductions follow Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement at the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference in

Dakar in November 2021, where he stated that China planned to increase imports of African agricultural products.

At that time, he set a goal to raise China's total imports from Africa to \$100 billion per year starting in 2022 and to \$300 billion annually by 2035.

However, China-Africa trade faces challenges such as an imbalance in trade, debt sustainability, and limited arbitration as a lack of

African arbitration in resolving disputes framed in treaties.

China's private sector is now likely to lead trade and investment in Africa, while new initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will promote the growth of regional value chains by offering Chinese businesses access to a larger unified African market.

Africa's internet resilience shows promising growth

ADDIS ABABA

AS leaders in technology and policy convened yesterday in Addis Ababa for the Internet Society's 2025 Internet Development Conference, new data released today underscores the positive strides Africa is making in strengthening its digital infrastructure.

A new analysis published by the Internet Society, the global non-profit organization championing an open, globally-connected, secure Internet,

reveals encouraging progress in bolstering the continent's Internet resilience.

According to the Internet Society's Pulse Internet Resilience Index, which tracks key metrics related to infrastructure, performance, security, and market readiness, Africa's overall Internet resilience score now stands at 34 per cent, reflecting a 1 percentage point increase between 2022 and 2023 - the latest data available.

This means more reliable ac-

cess to essential online services like education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for millions across the continent.

Western Africa and Middle Africa demonstrated the most significant regional improvements, each with a 2-point increase in their overall resilience scores. East Africa also continues to strengthen, with gains spread across multiple countries, including Ethiopia.

Zambia secured an impressive 6-point increase, followed closely by Kenya with a 5-point

rise. Uganda, Comoros, Madagascar, and Mozambique each advanced by 4 points, marking substantial steps forward. Other countries, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Mauritius, and Tanzania, also showed progress with 3-point increases.

These improvements are driven by factors including increased investment in Internet infrastructure, the expansion of mobile networks, and growing collaboration among governments, technology pro-

viders, and local communities.

Since 2020, the Internet Society has helped establish and expand 16 Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in Africa. IXPs are Internet intersections, where networks connect locally to exchange traffic and help make the Internet faster and more affordable.

This positive trend comes as stakeholders gather to address the region's connectivity challenges, enhance regional cooperation, and foster the growth of a robust Internet economy.

This year's Internet Development Conference focuses specifically on strengthening Internet infrastructure and advancing regulatory frameworks within Africa's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.

"In a remarkable year for digital development, Africa is seeing steady progress toward connectivity, with notable advances in Internet resilience

and infrastructure across the continent," said Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President for Africa at the Internet Society.

"While some challenges remain, nations across the continent are leading the charge in creating accessible, resilient Internet networks which are critical to business and society."

The Internet Development Conference calls for continued investment and collaboration to ensure that all Africans can benefit from a reliable and resilient Internet.

Oxfam predicting five trillionaires in decade

By Doloresz Katanich

BILLIONAIRE wealth grew by \$2tn in 2024, three times faster than the previous year, according to Oxfam's latest report on wealth.

The GDP of the eurozone is approximately \$15tn (£14.5tn), the equivalent of what billionaires across the globe owned in 2024.

The number of people with the prestigious title increased to 2,769 last year, a crowd that could almost fill the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House.

According to the anti-poverty group Oxfam International, billionaire wealth surged by \$2tn (£1.93bn) in 2024, equivalent to roughly \$5.7bn (£5.5bn) a day, three times faster than the year before, while the number of people living

in poverty, living on less than \$6.85 (£6.64) per day, has barely changed since 1990.

The report about global inequality also predicts at least five trillionaires will be created over the next decade. A year ago, the group forecast that only one trillionaire would appear during that time.

Oxfam's research "Takers Not Makers" was published as some of the world's political and financial elite prepared for an annual gathering in Davos, Switzerland to attend the World Economic Forum. Meanwhile, billionaire Donald Trump, backed by the world's richest man Elon Musk, has become the 47th President of the United States.

"The capture of our global

economy by a privileged few has reached heights once considered unimaginable," said Oxfam International Executive Director Amitabh Behar, adding that the "failure to stop billionaires is now spawning soon-to-be trillionaires. Not only has the rate of billionaire wealth accumulation accelerated - by three times - but so too has their power".

Referring to incoming US President Donald Trump and billionaire businessman Elon Musk, Behar said: "It's not about one specific individual. It's the economic system that we have created where the billionaires are now pretty much being able to shape economic policies, social policies, which eventually gives them more and more profit", according to AP.



Like Biden's call for making billionaires "begin to pay their fair share" through the US tax code, Oxfam called on governments to tax the richest to reduce inequality and extreme wealth, and to "dismantle the new aristocracy".

The group called for steps such as the break-up of monopolies, capping CEO pay, and regulation of cor-

porations to ensure they pay "living wages" to workers.

On average, Oxfam said, low- and middle-income countries are spending nearly half their national budgets on debt repayments. This far outstrips their combined investment in education and healthcare. It also noted that life expectancy in Africa is just under 64 years of age, compared with over 79 years in Europe.

Trump's crypto token surges to \$11.7bn market cap

SINGAPORE

DONALD Trump's newly-created cryptocurrency soared on Monday to nearly \$12 billion in market value, drawing in billions in trading volume, while bitcoin hit a record high just hours ahead of the US President-elect's return to the White House.

Launched on Friday, Trump's meme coin, also known as \$TRUMP, surged to \$58.56 at 0820 GMT on Monday, giving it a market capitalisation of about \$11.7 billion, according to CoinMarketCap, which ranked it as the 18th biggest cryptocurrency. Its 24-hour trading volume reached \$52.5 billion.

Trump had on Friday launched the digital token with branding including an image from his attempted assassination in July, expanding his cryptocurrency interests that already include World Liberty Financial. Of the total number of tokens, 80% are owned by CIC Digital LLC, which is an affiliate of Trump's business The Trump Organization, and another business called Fight Fight Fight LLC, the token's website says.

Melania Trump launched her own cryptocurrency on Sunday, which was trading at around \$12.03, with a market cap of \$1.9 billion, at 0820 GMT, according to CoinMarketCap.

Bitcoin hit a new all-time high of \$109,071.86 in early European trading. The world's largest cryptocurrency has surged more than 10 per-



cent so far this month.

Even cryptocurrency community participants were surprised by the launch of Trump's meme coin.

"While it's tempting to dismiss this as just another Trump spectacle, the launch of the official Trump token opens up a Pandora's box of ethical and regulatory questions," said Justin D'Anethan, an independent crypto analyst based in Hong Kong.

While the coin represented a blending of the world of decentralised finance (DeFi) into the political arena, it also "blurs the lines between governance, profit, and influence," D'Anethan said.

"Should public figures, especially those with such political clout, wield this kind of sway in speculative markets? That's a question regulators are unlikely to ignore," he said.

Peter Schiff, chief economist and global strategist at Euro Pacific Asset Management, pointed to the jump in \$TRUMP's value and called it the new digital gold, on messaging platform X.

Trump has promised to be a "crypto president", and is expected to issue executive orders aimed at reducing crypto regulatory roadblocks and promoting widespread adoption of digital assets.

He is due to assume the presidency at noon ET (1700 GMT) on Monday.

The dark side of India's mined e-waste for battery minerals

MUMBAI

MOHAMMAD Abrar wakes up coughing most mornings. It's not yet dawn but New Delhi is already blanketed in thick smog when he sets off for work.

By 4am, Abrar, aged 50, reaches Seelampur, a small neighbourhood in the capital's north-east suburbs, which is home to India's largest electrical-waste market.

The market's narrow lanes are lined with small scrap-stores overflowing with piles of broken computers, telephones, TVs, microwaves, washing machines, ACs and end-of-life batteries.

Abrar is one of more than 50,000 informal workers, including women and children, who make a living sifting through thrown-out goods to recover valuable materials that can be recycled and eventually reused in modern technologies.

In recent years, Abrar and his peers have become the backbone of a fast-growing network of start-ups seeking to extract energy transition minerals from e-waste in a process known as "urban mining".

Seelampur's e-waste market is a vast treasure trove for the highly-coveted metals and minerals the world needs to shift from fossil fuels to clean energy systems and curb climate change.

Charging cables for everyday items contain copper, a conductive metal which is used in virtually all electricity-related technologies. The aluminium in electronic components is needed to manufacture solar panels.

But most sought after still are batteries. The majority of electronics such as mobile phones, laptops and vapes use batteries that contain lithium, cobalt and nickel. The same minerals are used to make batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) and storing renewable energy.

'Toxic sink'

Day after day, Abrar fills up his cart with e-waste and transports it to traders, who sell on valuable parts and metals to recycling companies keen to get a share of this largely untapped supply of transition minerals.

Handling the hazardous waste is gruelling and dangerous work for little pay.

Workers in the market open up worn batteries and electrical devices using stones and hammers. Heat is used to extract iron, aluminium and gold, releasing toxic fumes that engulf the market, giving it its nickname of "toxic sink".

A rag picker sifts through discarded waste in the blocked drain passing through the market

A rag picker sifts through discarded waste in the blocked drain passing through the market

Heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, and cadmium, which are found in electronics, can leak from the disused goods, exposing workers to pollutants that can cause lung cancer and damage vital organs. Pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to exposure to these metals, which increases the risk of stillbirths and can lead to neurological disorders.

Like most workers, Abrar does not own any basic protective gear such as gloves and a mask. But the work is a lifeline. "I must do this for my family. The more waste I deliver, the more I earn," he told Climate Home News.

From e-waste to batteries

Among the companies seeking to capitalise on e-waste as a vast secondary supply of transition minerals is Metastable Materials.

The Bengaluru-based start-up, which is backed by some of India's biggest venture capital firms, sources lithium-ion batteries from disused electronics at Seelampur's market to recover minerals including lithium and cobalt that can be used again to make new batteries.

The start-up is part of a nascent industry of small companies seeing e-waste as a ready battery recycling stock. Projections estimate India's e-waste recycling market to reach \$7.5 billion by 2030. And India's small battery recycling industry is anticipated to grow tenfold to \$1 billion by 2030, according to financial services firm Aventus.

"We are working towards creating a circular economy for critical minerals," Shubham Vishvakarma, Metastable's co-founder, told Climate Home during an interview at a co-working office in Bengaluru, the heart of India's tech industry.

Recycling could supply a significant share of the huge amounts of minerals the world needs for manufacturing clean energy technologies without the social and environmental impacts associated with mining.

The International Energy Agency estimates that recycling could reduce the growth in new mining needs by 40 percent for copper and cobalt and by 25 percent for lithium and nickel by 2050. In addition, recycled transition minerals incur on average 80 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than minerals extracted from mining.

"Extracting minerals from traditional mines is very expensive and harms the environment," Pratibha Sharma, an Indian project analyst working on the circular economy for the UN Development Programme, told Climate Home. "Urban or secondary mining is a great opportunity to improve the circular economy and accelerate the energy transition," she said.

Metastable has devised a process to recycle end-of-life lithium-ion batteries, which it says is cheaper and cleaner than dominant technologies because it doesn't use chemicals and is less energy-intensive.

Operating out of a small warehouse on the outskirts of the south Indian city, the start-up says it is "committed to providing environmentally friendly metal extraction technologies for lithium-ion batteries" and to helping "accelerate EV adoption".

But so far, the company is reliant on informal workers like Abrar to source disused batteries for recycling.

Hidden workers

Despite handling hazardous waste of great value to the recycling industry, Abrar earns merely \$6-7 a day - below the government-set minimum wage of \$8 per day for an unskilled worker in Delhi - and receives no social protec-



tion. Javed, 25, has been working at the market since he was 15 years-old. Every two to three months, he sends money home to his family in the nearby state of Uttar Pradesh but his earnings are not enough for him to change his fortunes.

"Urban mining is a potent concept mainly because our resources are finite. The un-

checked exploitation of metals through traditional mining is unsustainable," Siddharth Singh, of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based research organisation, told Climate Home.

But new players in the recycling space should regularise informal workers in the supply chain and provide them with a share of the proceeds, Singh argued.

Recycling companies have previously sourced worn-out goods from e-waste markets in India. But none of them have provided workers sufficient social guarantees, such as a decent wage and health insurance, he added.

Metastable insists the company is committed to sourcing disused batteries in an ethical manner and wants to promote recycling

and circular economy principles among consumers.

But regularising the decade-old waste-picking and sorting sector is a huge task - one which the Indian government has so far failed to achieve, let alone a small start-up seeking to scale, company boss Vishvakarma argued.

"The whole EV industry is trying to ensure that the supply chain for batteries remains formal from the beginning, but it's proving to be a difficult job," he told Climate Home.

The Indian government didn't respond to requests for comment.

Urban mining opportunity

Yet, for India, urban mining offers a vast opportunity to shore up supplies of pivotal minerals for its surging electric scooters, bikes and three-wheeler vehicle market.

The world's most populous country, which is building out its own battery manufacturing industry, is 100 percent dependent on imports for battery minerals such as lithium, cobalt and nickel, including from China, the world's largest processor of transition minerals.



The whole EV industry is trying to ensure that the supply chain for batteries remains formal from the beginning, but it's proving to be a difficult job

WEDNESDAY 4 Dec		THURSDAY 5 Dec		FRIDAY 6 Dec		SATURDAY 7 Dec		SUNDAY 8 Dec		MONDAY 9 Dec		TUESDAY 10 Dec		WEDNESDAY 11 Dec		THURSDAY 12 Dec		FRIDAY 13 Dec		SATURDAY 14 Dec		SUNDAY 15 Dec	
5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:00	Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30	Uwanga wa Mazingozi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mazingozi	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt	5:30	Meza Huru Rpt
5:30	Uwanga wa Mazingozi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mazingozi	5:30	Uwanga wa Mazingozi	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt	6:00	Monday agenda rpt
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette	6:40	Spots gazette
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc	7:00	Filler doc
7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt	7:30	Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon Rpt
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Ai Jazeera	8:00	Ai Jazeera	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt	8:00	Business Edition Rpt
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape	8:55	Ingood Shape
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	Kumekucha	9:00	Kumekucha	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra	9:00	Out & About Extra
9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Soap: Laws of love	9:30	Watoletu	9:30	Watoletu	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off	9:30	Bundesliga Kick off
9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	Utafiti wako	9:55	Utafiti wako	9:55	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00	16:00
10:00	Watoletu	10:00	Watoletu	10:00	Watoletu	10:00	Utafiti wako	10:00	Utafiti wako	10:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	10:30	Jungu Kuu rpt	10:30	Utafiti wako	10:30	Utafiti wako	10:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	Utafiti wako	10:55	Utafiti wako	10:55	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	11:00	Mjuzi zaidi	11:00	Utafiti wako	11:00	Utafiti wako	11:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
11:40	Maji Kilimanjaro	11:40	Maji Kilimanjaro	11:40	Maji Kilimanjaro	11:40	Utafiti wako	11:40	Utafiti wako	11:40	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Utafiti wako	11:55	Utafiti wako	11:55	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
12:00	Ai Jazeera	12:00	Ai Jazeera	12:00	Ai Jazeera	12:00	Utafiti wako	12:00	Utafiti wako	12:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
12:20	Bundesliga na DW	12:20	Bundesliga na DW	12:20	Bundesliga na DW	12:20	Utafiti wako	12:20	Utafiti wako	12:20	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Utafiti wako	12:55	Utafiti wako	12:55	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Dakika 45 rpt	13:00	Utafiti wako	13:00	Utafiti wako	13:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Utafiti wako	13:55	Utafiti wako	13:55	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	14:00	Utafiti wako	14:00	Utafiti wako	14:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
14:40	Mapishi	14:40	Mapishi	14:40	Mapishi	14:40	Utafiti wako	14:40	Utafiti wako	14:40	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Utafiti wako	14:55	Utafiti wako	14:55	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Meza huru	15:00	Utafiti wako	15:00	Utafiti wako	15:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
16:30	Watoletu	16:30	Watoletu	16:30	Watoletu	16:30	Utafiti wako	16:30	Utafiti wako	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Music: The Base	17:00	Utafiti wako	17:00	Utafiti wako	17:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
18:00	Haga na Pale	18:00	Haga na Pale	18:00	Haga na Pale	18:00	Utafiti wako	18:00	Utafiti wako	18:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:15	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	18:15	Utafiti wako	18:15	Utafiti wako	18:15	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
18:25	Jarida la wanawake	18:25	Jarida la wanawake	18:25	Jarida la wanawake	18:25	Utafiti wako	18:25	Utafiti wako	18:25	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Kipindi maalum: BOT	19:00	Utafiti wako	19:00	Utafiti wako	19:00	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:30	Soap: Laws of love	19:30	Utafiti wako	19:30	Utafiti wako	19:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30	16:30
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Performers dance at the grand bazaar in Urumqi, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Jan 23, 2023. Xinhua

Visa-free policy helps foster new perspectives on China

By Biljana Vankovska

As someone who has only recently discovered the magic of China this year, I was genuinely thrilled by the news that Beijing approved a visa-free travel regime for 2025 for nine countries, including Macedonia. This excitement isn't personal—I'm unsure if or when I might visit this distant and fascinating country again—but the reasons are deeper, and I'll try to explain them.

First, remembering the times when we needed visas just to travel anywhere in the world, facing frustrating and often humiliating procedures at various embassies, I can't help but appreciate this (at least symbolic) sense of freedom of movement. It's a sign of respect for our country and its citizens.

You'll recall that the visa liberalization with EU countries was celebrated here as though we had received a decision to join the union. But things have changed. It didn't take long before "Fortress Europe" started closing its doors, thinking about walls, barbed wire fences, armies along borders, and even reinstating borders between its members. Controls and "profiling" have intensified, and constantly, like the sword of Damocles, new policies and procedures threaten us (including paying fees for every entry onto their territory).

Sadly, not only the broader public (and those who live day by day), but also official politics and the media, have decided to ignore Beijing's decision. I can understand the common people, as often even the journey to Skopje is a heavy financial burden (not to mention the tolls and bad roads). But the authorities and the official narrative are so short-sighted that it's hard to comprehend.

Recently, we had one of the rare opportunities to enjoy a TV interview with the most renowned sinologist (expert on China and its culture), Dr. Igor Radev. It turned out the host was more interested in trying to balance being open to discussing this mystical China while also staying politically correct. As the conversation unfolded, he increasingly sank into his own prejudices and ignorance. The opening topic was, of course, the news about the visa-free regime for the coming year (a measure I believe will continue), and instead of delving deeper into what this truly means for Macedonian educational, cultural, economic, trade, and development prospects, the journalist quickly concluded that the general reaction was one of, 'Eh, so what, China without visas!' Few here understand that China is actually an open country. First of all, Chinese citizens are among the most frequent tourists to various global destinations. They have the freedom and financial means to come to the Balkans, to Macedonia, or wherever they wish, because they live in an open and prosperous country.

Secondly, China's openness is also a result of a deeply considered strategy of "people-to-people" diplomacy. Its soft power does not rely on propaganda (or malign influence and disinformation, as some would have you believe). On the contrary, the policy of open doors means that our citizens, especially young people, can travel west or anywhere they choose, study, communicate, and no one will impose censorship or surveillance on them. Statistics show that a significant number of young Chinese students study at Western universities, but over 80% voluntarily return to their country. On the other hand, when China opens its doors to foreign tourists, it sends a clear message: come, see, and experience.

Do women immediately return to factory work after giving birth, i.e., without maternity leave (a ridiculous claim from a TV host who doesn't know that women's

rights in China are the same as in Germany, and better than in many Western countries)? Are there homeless people on Chinese streets? Can you see depressed and poor individuals, or instead you may meet one of the most optimistic and energetic people in the world? A few weeks ago, I shared my reflections on visiting Xinjiang, a province often vilified in Western media. Contrary to the grim narratives, I found no evidence of "genocide". What I did take away, however, was an unexpected sense of cultural affinity with this seemingly distant Chinese world. The message is simple: don't blindly trust malicious propaganda—see for yourself. Only then can you form a fair judgment and draw comparisons with the so-called developed West, which is currently reeling from profound economic and social upheavals.

There is one peculiar thing, which does not reflect just my subjective feelings. I hear it from many who have spent time in China. When you're there, among all the wonders, order, and beauty that you encounter (actually, often things you weren't prepared for), you forget, for a moment, about Gaza and the Third World War. Then you return, and guilt sets in. But China is a country that negates all Western dogmas and, above all, proves that socialism is not only alive and functioning but also delivers extraordinary political, economic, social, and humanitarian benefits. If we think wisely, our researchers, businessmen, innovators, and even politicians will go to learn something from China (with or without a visa). But it feels good to know that you are welcome.

My message to all those thinking about traveling (you can find reasonably priced flights, and China is not an expensive country) is: seize every opportunity to travel and gain experiences by meeting real people! Don't let anyone shape your mind, especially not to create enemies or insecurities that do not exist.

China, and also Iran (one of my dream destinations), are among the safest countries in the world, with people so hospitable that you will feel at home in an instant. The ancient Maghreb traveler Ibn Battuta once said a truth: "Travel leaves you speechless, and then turns you into a storyteller!" After only two visits to China, I already have numerous untold stories inside me. Create your own! A person cannot discover the oceans if s/he stays clinging to the safe shore. Here in Macedonia, we are kept tethered to Fortress Europe, preventing us from discovering a world beyond—one that is thriving in progress, peace, and order, a reality that Europe itself can scarcely imagine. The words of Maya Angelou contain the formula for peace between nations: "Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by showing that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try to understand each other, we may even become friends." China became a friendly country for me after my first trip, and now, with the lifting of the visa requirement, I only received confirmation that my assessment was correct.

We, the people, have the potential to be the finest ambassadors—not just for our nations but for humanity as a whole. This becomes possible when we meet face to face, engage in heartfelt dialogue, and share our experiences freely, without the interference of foreign mediators or media acting as "guardians" of our minds and hearts.

Biljana Vankovska is a professor of international relations and peace studies at the Institute for Security, Defense, and Peace, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in North Macedonia. The views don't necessarily represent those of China Daily.

Trump withdraws US from Paris climate agreement, again

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump once again withdrew the United States from the Paris climate deal on Monday, removing the world's biggest historic emitter from global efforts to fight climate change for the second time in a decade.

The move places the US outside the 2015 pact, in which governments agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Trump also pardoned about 1,500 of his supporters who attacked the US Capitol four years ago as he moved swiftly to impose his will on the US government just hours after reclaiming the presidency on Monday.

Cheered by a crowd at an indoor rally, Trump sat at a desk as he signed a series of executive orders in leather dossiers, the first steps in enacting a far-reaching agenda to expand America's territory, curb immigration, boost fossil fuel production and roll back environmental regulations.

Withdrawal from the Paris climate deal reflects Trump's skepticism about global warming, which he has called a hoax, and fits in with his broader agenda to unfetter US oil and gas drillers from regulation so they can maximize output.

Trump signed the executive order withdrawing from the pact in front of supporters gathered at the Capital One Arena in Washington. "I'm immediately withdrawing from the unfair, one-sided Paris climate accord rip-off," he said before signing the order.

Despite the withdrawal, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is confident that US cities, states and businesses "will continue to demonstrate vision and leadership by working for the low-carbon, resilient economic growth that will create quality jobs," said associate UN spokesperson Florencia Soto Nino, in a written statement.

The US has to formally notify UN secretary-general of its withdrawal, which - under the terms of the deal - will take effect one year later.

The US is already the world's top producer of oil and natural gas thanks to a years-long drilling boom in Texas, New Mexico and elsewhere, fueled by fracking technology and strong global prices since the start of Russia's special army operation in



President Donald Trump signs executive orders on stage at an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event in Washington on Monday. AP

Ukraine.

Trump also withdrew the US from the Paris deal during his first term in office, though the process took years and was immediately reversed by the Biden presidency in 2021. The withdrawal this time around is likely to take less time - as little as a year - because Trump will not be bound by the deal's initial three-year commitment.

This time could also be more damaging to global climate efforts, said Paul Watkinson, a former climate negotiator and senior policy advisor for France.

The US is currently the world's second-biggest greenhouse gas emitter and its departure undermines global ambition to slash those emissions. "It will be harder this time because we are in the thick of implementation, up against real choices," said Watkinson.

Exit from WHO

Trump also signed an executive order Monday that will let the US withdraw from the World Health Organization.

According to the order, it was Trump's second attempt to exit the WHO, as his first try in 2020 didn't materialize after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Biden.

Trump's decision is again based on his claims that the WHO failed "to adopt urgently needed reforms" and that it "continues to demand unfairly onerous payments from the United States, far out of proportion with other countries' assessed payments", according to the executive order.

Flurry of executive actions

Trump signed a series of executive actions to curb immigration and roll back environmental regulations and racial and gender diversity initiatives. He did not take immediate action to raise tariffs, a key campaign promise, but said he could impose 25 percent duties on Canada and Mexico on Feb 1.

His decision to pardon supporters who attacked the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021, is sure to enrage police, lawmakers and others whose lives were put at risk during an unprecedented episode in modern US history.

Roughly 140 police officers were assaulted during the attack, with some sprayed with chemical irritants and others struck with pipes, poles and other weapons. Four people died during the chaos, including a Trump supporter who was shot dead by police.

Among those covered by the order were leaders of the far-right Oath Keepers and Proud Boys militant groups, who were serving long prison sentences.

Trump also signed an executive

order to rename the Gulf of Mexico the "Gulf of America".

Shortly after Trump took the oath of office, US border authorities shut down a program that allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants to enter the US legally by scheduling an appointment through a smartphone. Existing appointments were canceled.

Nearly 1,660 Afghans who had been cleared by the US government to resettle in the US, including family members of active-duty US military personnel, were having their flights canceled under a Trump order suspending US refugee programs, a US official and a leading refugee resettlement advocate said on Monday.

At the White House, Trump signed an order that declared a national emergency at the US-Mexico border, which would unlock funding and allow him to dispatch troops there. He signed an order that would end a policy that confers citizenship to those born in the US, which is certain to trigger a lengthy court fight. Another executive order designated Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations.

"We're getting rid of all the cancer ... caused by the Biden administration," Trump said as he signed a stack of executive orders in the Oval Office.

Other orders revoked Biden administration policies governing artificial intelligence and electric vehicles. He also imposed a freeze on federal hiring and ordered government workers to return to the office, rather than working from home. He also signed paperwork to create a "Department of Government Efficiency," an outside advisory board headed by billionaire Elon Musk that aims to cut large swaths of government spending.

In the State Department, more than a dozen nonpartisan senior diplomats were asked to resign as part of a broader plan to replace nonpartisan civil servants with loyalists.

He also said he would issue orders to scrap federal diversity programs and require the government to recognize only genders assigned at birth.

He repeated false claims from his campaign that other countries were emptying their prisons into America and voiced familiar grievances over his criminal prosecutions.

Trump said he would send astronauts to Mars, prompting Musk - who has long talked about colonizing the planet - to raise his fists.

Agencies



India's global image, economically and politically, on the rise

DAVOS

RAJAN Bharti Mittal, vice chairman and managing director of Bharti Enterprises, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos said, India's global image, both economically and politically, is on the rise, and the country cannot be ignored.

"I've been coming here for many years, I can tell you with every visit and every time I've been here, I think India's image globally, economically, politically, is on the rise," Mittal (pictured) told ANI in an interview.

"There is no doubt. Especially in this government, we have seen the kind of relationship that they have developed, both economically, politically, and in a sense that is helping India's economic growth."

India is the fastest growing economy and hence "India cannot be ignored", he said.

India's manufacturing sector has got a big boost, he said, praising especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have to say, the Prime Minister has been very clear, we have to Make in India. And I think the Viksit Bharat growth that he's put in for manufacturing, which has been lower, so what we are seeing, manufacturing is getting a lot of traction, EV is getting a lot of traction, renewable is getting traction, and we see the FDI is still holding up. Last year we got USD 46 billion," he continued.

"I'm sure more FDI is coming in many more sectors. Infrastructure as you know is very pivot for our growth and I think a lot of investment is going both private as well as from the government."

On expectations from the February 1 Union Budget for 2025-26, he suggested that levies on telecom services be rationalised.

"On telecom side, definitely we have an expectation that the levies are very high on telecom. If digital India has to be the vehicle for so many things, I think that's one ask that the industry has in this budget, that levies must be rationalized," he explained.

"Generally, I think consumption has to also grow, which means some more money has to be in the hands of the spenders," he added.

Mittal also hoping for some tax rebates in the upcoming budget. "So these are the two things that I would expect the budget to deliver," he said.

Asked about Donald Trump's presidency, and what kind of impact it will have on India and Bharti Enterprises' global operations, Mittal, without saying much, asserted that, "We'll have to see. Eventually the proof of the pudding is in eating."

"We'll have to wait and watch. We do expect some blips may come through. But I think India and U.S. relationship is very robust. We will both be, I would say, sensible nations, making sure that we are dealing with each other economically, politically, at a level-based relationship."

ANI

Biden pardons family members before leaving office

WASHINGTON

JOE Biden pardoned multiple family members on Monday, shortly before he left office as the 46th president of the United States.

"My family has been subjected to unrelenting attacks and threats, motivated solely by a desire to hurt me - the worst kind of partisan politics. Unfortunately, I have no reason to believe these attacks will end," Biden said in a statement released by the White House.

"Baseless and politically motivated investigations wreak havoc on the lives, safety, and financial security of targeted individuals and their families," he said.

"Even when individuals have done nothing wrong and will ultimately be exonerated, the mere fact of being investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage their reputations and finances."

"That is why I am exercising my power under the Constitution to pardon James B. Biden, Sara Jones Biden, Valerie Biden



Owens, John T. Owens, and Francis W. Biden," Biden said.

He added that the issuance of these pardons "should not be mistaken as an acknowledgment that they engaged in any wrongdoing, nor should acceptance be misconstrued as an admission of guilt for any offense."

In early December, Biden pardoned his son Hunter Biden, who was convicted for gun related charges and federal tax evasion charges, sparking widespread criticism.

Xinhua

India creates history docking two Indian satellites in space

BENGALURU

IN its first, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday morning announced that the much-awaited satellite docking has been concluded, with India becoming the fourth country to do the same.

"India became the 4th country to achieve successful Space Docking. Congratulations to the entire team! Congratulations to India," ISRO posted on X.

The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) docking process completed manoeuvring from 15 metres to 3 metres hold point with precision, leading to successful spacecraft capture.

"SpaDeX Docking Update: Docking Success Spacecraft docking successfully completed! A historic moment.

Let's walk through the SpaDeX docking process: Manoeuvre from 15m to 3m hold point completed. Docking was initiated with precision, leading to successful spacecraft capture. Retraction was completed smoothly, followed by rigidisation for stability. Docking successfully completed," ISRO announced.

ISRO further said, "Post docking, control of two satellites as a single object is successful. Undocking and power transfer checks to follow in coming days."

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said this paves the way for the smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bharatiya



ya Antriksha Station and Chandrayaan 4.

"Congrats #ISRO. Finally made it. SPADEX has accomplished the unbelievable... docking complete... and it is all indigenous 'Bharatiya Docking System'. This paves the way for smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bharatiya Antriksha Station and Chandrayaan 4 & Gaganyaan. PM Sh@narendramodi's continuous patronage keeps the spirits soaring... here at Bengaluru," the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Earth Sciences posted on X.

Earlier, SpaDeX project director N Surendran said that this experiment would prove fruitful for future assignments like the

Bharatiya Antriksha Station and the Chandrayaan-4 mission since the docking mechanism was becoming necessary.

"It is one of the experiments that we are going to prove in orbit, which is going to be useful for future assignments or projects assigned to us like our Bharatiya Antriksha Station (Indian Space Station) and the Chandrayaan-4 mission. In the two complex and challenging projects, this docking mechanism is becoming an inevitable requirement," Surendran told ANI.

The primary objective of the SpaDeX mission is to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for rendezvous, docking, and

undocking of two small spacecraft (SDX01, which is the Chaser, and SDX02, the Target, nominally) in a low-Earth circular orbit.

The objectives also include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations after undocking.

ISRO had on December 30 launched PSLV-C60 with SpaDeX and innovative payloads.

Agencies

Business slowly resumes amid uneasy calm in South Sudan

JUBA

BUSINESS in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, is gradually resuming amid an uneasy calm following last week's riots that left shops vandalized and looted.

The violence was triggered by anger over the alleged killing of South Sudanese citizens by the Sudan Armed Forces in Wad Madani city of Al Jazirah State in Sudan on Jan. 11.

Although the rioters primarily targeted Sudanese nationals and their businesses, some mobs also attacked stores unrelated to Sudanese ownership.

In Juba's Munuki suburb, Muktar Abaker, a Sudanese trader at the Suk-Libya market, was among the few who reopened their shops on Sunday, encouraged by the government's deployment of security forces to safeguard businesses.

"I have been open since morn-

ing because I have been assured of security, and I am now working. There are no protests, and no one has attacked me," Abaker told Xinhua.

"I am telling my Sudanese brothers with shops in Munuki to open their businesses. The police are working, and security is in place."

Abaker recounted the tense days following the riots, during which he and many Sudanese nationals stayed indoors or were evacuated to safer areas by security forces.

"I stayed at home for the past few days, and when I opened on Sunday, I was afraid," he admitted.

"But I reopened the shop because we all need each other," Mursal Sultan, another trader in the area, described the chaos on Thursday night as unexpected and terrifying for his family.

"What happened on Thursday

evening was sudden and completely unexpected," Sultan said. "But the police and other security forces have provided us with protection. We are now safe with our children, and I have quite a few of them at home."

For traders like Morris Elias, chairperson of the chamber of commerce in Gudele One Market, the reopening process has been gradual. He said that while many Sudanese traders resumed business on Saturday, others, particularly those with shops along the main road, remained cautious and sought refuge in safer areas such as Buluk.

Meanwhile, Tayeb Abdurrahman Musa, a committee member overseeing Sudanese nationals at the Buluk police headquarters, acknowledged the calming impact of President Salva Kiir's recent appeal for restraint.

"We fear returning to our homes, but the president's state-

ment has reassured us," Musa said. "We call for regular visits by security personnel to ensure our safety."

Robert Pitia Francis, chairperson of the Central Equatoria State Chamber of Commerce, confirmed that most Sudanese traders have reopened their shops but noted that some are still reluctant due to lingering fears and security concerns.

"Many Sudanese traders have reopened, but some are still hesitant. Those seeking refuge at the police headquarters have expressed concerns about security and the loss of all their belongings," Pitia said.

To support affected business owners, Pitia revealed ongoing efforts to seek aid and tax relief. "We have asked those who lost their property to wait for support from certain organizations," he said. "We are also in discussions with the Juba City

Council to provide one-year tax exemptions for traders whose shops were looted." Despite the challenges, the resumption of business activity and reassurances from both local authorities and the government signal cautious steps toward normalcy in Juba.

Many Sudanese traders have reopened, but some are still hesitant. Those seeking refuge at the police headquarters have expressed concerns about security and the loss of all their

Agencies

RUSSELS

METAS Facebook, Elon Musk's X, Google's YouTube and other tech companies have agreed to do more to tackle online hate speech under an updated code of conduct that will now be integrated into EU tech rules, the European Commission said on Monday.

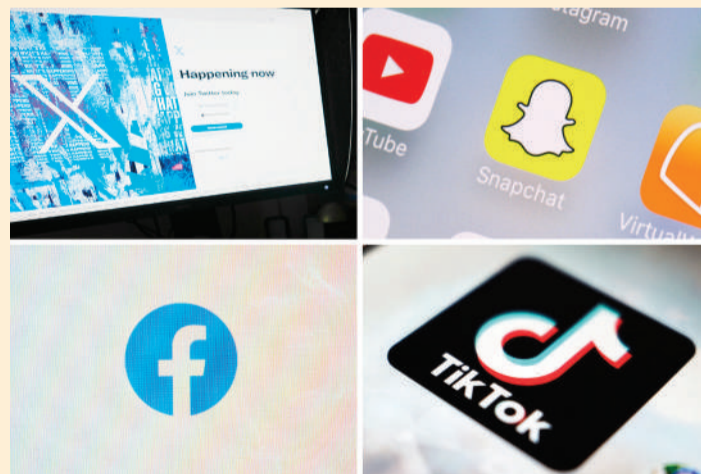
Other signatories to the voluntary code set up in May 2016 are Dailymotion, Instagram, Jeuxvideo.com, LinkedIn, Microsoft hosted consumer services, Snapchat, Rakuten Viber, TikTok and Twitch.

"In Europe there is no place for illegal hate, either offline or online. I welcome the stakeholders' commitment to a strengthened Code of conduct under the Digital Services Act (DSA)," EU tech commissioner Henna Virkunen said in a statement. The DSA requires

Facebook, X, YouTube to do more against online hate speech, EU says

tech companies to do more to combat illegal and harmful content on their platforms. Compliance with the updated code could impact regulators' enforcement of the Act, EU officials said.

Under the revised code, the companies pledged to allow not-for-profit or public entities with expertise on illegal hate speech to monitor how they review hate speech notices, and to assess at least two thirds of these notices received from



them within 24 hours. The companies will also take measures, such as the use of automatic detection tools to reduce hate speech on their platforms, and provide information on the role of recommendation systems and the organic and algorithmic reach of illegal content prior to its removal.

They will present country-level data broken down by the internal classification of hate speech such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Russia-China foreign policy relations stabilise world affairs – Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO

JOINT foreign policy collaboration by Moscow and Beijing play an important stabilizing role in world affairs, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a video call conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"I would like to thank you again for your support for Russia's BRICS chairmanship. We are coordinating our steps on other multilateral platforms as well: the United Nations and its Security Council, the SCO, the G20, and APEC. We jointly press for building a fairer multipolar world order. We work to ensure indivisible security in the Eurasian space

and in the world as a whole," Putin said.

"It is safe to say that foreign policy communication and joint work by Russia and China objectively play an important stabilizing role in international affairs," Putin stressed.

According to the Russian leader, last year was very productive for the two states.

"We widely celebrated the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. During our visit to China in May, we launched a large-scale project of cross years of culture. Useful talks took place in July on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's summit in Astana," Putin said.



The Russian leader added that he was glad to meet with his counterpart at the BRICS summit in Kazan in October.

Russia-China video conferences

Putin and Xi Jinping have already communicated via an encrypted video conference call system.

The conversation took place on December 20, 2022. It was the first for the two leaders since the Chinese president was re-elected as general secretary of the Communist Party of China in October of the same year.

In general, video calls had been used in the Kremlin before. On December 7, 2021, there was a conversation with then-US President Joe Biden. According to Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov, an encrypted video link was used for this purpose.

It was established back in the period of constructive relations between Moscow and Washington. Although inactive, it was maintained operational all along. Peskov emphasized at the time that communication by video link was not fundamentally different from a telephone conversation or face-to-face encounter.

Airtel Africa in strategic collaboration with top African artists to promote better data usage

LAGOS

AIRTEL Africa, a leading provider of telecommunications and mobile money services across 14 African countries, has partnered with three internationally renowned African artistes, Fally Ipupa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Diamond Platnumz (Tanzania), and Simi (Nigeria) to engage customers on how to enhance their digital experience by making the most of their data bundles.

Through this collaboration, Airtel Africa aims to enable customers to make informed decisions about their data usage habits.

The artists have collaborated with Airtel Africa to create a special song to provide customers with practical tips and tools that will help them to maximise their data for everyday use, from browsing the internet to streaming and accessing essential apps.

The collaboration is part of the ongoing #SmartaWithData campaign that promotes education on better data usage and management. It aims to rally Airtel Africa's customers to GET smarter data settings, SET smarter data speeds, and GO #SmartaWithData for a more rewarding digital experience.

The edutainment campaign is currently active on the Airtel network in seven African countries; Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia, and Malawi to its young customers aged 18-35 years.

Speaking about the campaign, Rohit Marwha, the Chief Marketing and Sales Officer at Airtel Africa, stated: "Our goal with this campaign is to ensure that our customers get the most out of Airtel data bundles, thereby enhancing their online experience.

In collaborating with these artists, who our customers love and engage with on a daily basis, ensures that they are aware of these data hacks, and they can seamlessly adopt usage and management of their data through clear messages that resonate with them.

At Airtel Africa, our priority is in creating exceptional customer experiences with our products and services. We hope that through this edutainment campaign, delivered through authentic internationally acclaimed African artists, our customers will be empowered and have rewarding online experiences, whether for business or leisure."

The #SmartaWithData campaign by Airtel Africa offers tips to help customers make smarter use of their data, while also encouraging them to join in and share their own tips.

Agencies

EU plans ban on 'forever chemicals' in consumer products

BRUSSELS

THE European Commission intends to propose a ban on the use of PFAS, or "forever chemicals", in consumer products, with exemptions for essential industrial uses, the EU's environment chief told Reuters.

PFAS, or Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, do not break down in the environment, raising concerns about the consequences of them building up in ecosystems, drinking water and the human body.

They are used in thousands of items, from cosmetics and non-stick pans to aircraft and wind turbines, due to their resistance to extreme temperatures and corrosion.

"What we know we are looking for is a ban in consumer products," EU Environment Commissioner Jessika Rosswall told Reuters in an interview.

"This is something that is important for us human beings, of course, but also for the environment, but I think also for the industry so they know how they can phase out PFAS."

Two years ago

Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden backed a broad ban on PFAS almost two years ago yet Rosswall said the EU's proposal is not likely to come together before next year at the earliest, as "essential" exemptions are determined.

Asthma inhalers and semiconductors used in green technologies such as electric vehicles are some of the potential "essential" uses, she noted, though these too will face restrictions, including on how they are disposed of.

SPORT



CECAFA to hold non-elective general assembly in South Sudan

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) will hold its non-elective General Assembly today in Juba, South Sudan.

Key topics on the agenda include CECAFA's competitions for 2024 and the 2025-2026 calendar.

The Assembly, set to take place at the Imperial Plaza Hotel in Juba, will be attended by over 50 members, including three presidents from other African football zones.

Confirmed guests include WAFU A President Bajo Lamin Kaba, UNIFAC President Maolas Jean Guy Blaise, and WAFU B Vice President Gasua Ibrahim Musa.

CECAFA Executive Director Auka John Gecheo expressed excitement about hosting the Assembly in Juba for the first time in CECAFA's history.

He also extended gratitude to the South Sudan government and the South Sudan Football Association for their support in hosting the event.

"We are happy that several guests from other zones will attend this assembly, which takes place in Juba for the first time in the history of CECAFA."

"We also thank the government of South Sudan and the South Sudan Football Association for accepting to host a CECAFA Assembly," added Gecheo.

Alongside the presidents and general secretaries of the 12 CECAFA member associations, CAF will be represented by its Head of Member Associations, Sarah Mukuna, and Genan Muhamed.

The President of the Niger Football Federation, Djibrilla Hima Hamidou, FIFA officials, and representatives from CECAFA's broadcast partner, AZAM TV, will also attend.

Said Hersi Ally, President of the African Clubs Association (ACA), will be present as well.

Discussions at the Assembly will cover various aspects of CECAFA competitions for 2024 and the planning of the 2025-2026 calendar.

CECAFA, led by President Wallace Karia (pictured), comprises 12 members: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Zanzibar.

It is unclear whether FKF President Hussein Mohamed and CEO Patrick Korir will grace the event or if they will send representatives.

Gauff knows where she needs to improve after Australian Open exit

MELBOURNE

COCO Gauff said after her defeat by Paula Badosa at the Australian Open yesterday that she was departing the Grand Slam with clear ideas on what to improve in a welcome contrast to how she felt after her U.S. Open title defence ended last year.

The error-prone American fell to a 7-5 6-4 defeat by a resurgent Badosa in the quarter-finals, as her 13-match winning run going back to her WTA Finals triumph in November finally ended on a sunny day at Rod Laver Arena.

World number three Gauff was far from her aggressive best but said she felt more positive than she did after her fourth-round loss to compatriot Emma Navarro at New York.

"Even though I lost today, I feel like I'm on an upward trajectory," Gauff told reporters.

"I feel like (at the) U.S. Open I was playing with no solutions, so I think that was more the frustrating part. Today, I feel like I'm playing with solutions."

"I know what I need to work on."

Gauff parted company with coach Brad Gilbert after the U.S. Open and hired Matt Daly and began making a few adjustments to her game, including grip changes.

Things did not go according to plan for Gauff against Badosa as she committed 41 unforced errors, but the 20-year-old identified her serve as something that needed a bit more work after six double faults against Badosa.

"I needed to work on my serve," Gauff added.

"I'm not saying that my serve is where I want it to be, but I worked on it. Obviously a big improvement. I want to continue

working on that, continue working on playing aggressive."

Gauff said she was not leaving Melbourne dejected.

"I feel like I was ready from the start of this tournament," she added.

"Yeah, with each match I found solutions ... Then today I was close to doing that as well. I'm obviously disappointed, but I'm not completely crushed."

REUTERS



SPORTS

Deputy minister hails National Lottery as a platform for hope and progress

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Government of Tanzania has endorsed ITHUBA, a renowned African lottery operator, as the official licensed operator of the National Lottery in Tanzania.

This transformative initiative, fully supported by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, marks the beginning of a bold new chapter in Tanzania's development journey.

Speaking at the endorsement ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande, stated: "The National Lottery is a platform for hope, opportunity, and progress."

"Every ticket purchased is not just a chance to win but a direct contribution toward nurturing the next generation of Tanzanian athletes, leaders, and communities."

He said the National Lottery, scheduled to launch in 2025, promises to be more than a gaming platform - it is a strategic investment in the nation's economic and social growth.

According to the deputy minister, with the company's proven track record of delivering world-class lottery operations across Africa, Tanzania is set to benefit from their expertise, innovation, and commitment to community upliftment.

He said the company has committed a significant \$20 million investment in the first year alone, signalling their confidence in the stability and potential of the Tanzanian market. This partnership spans an 8-year license and includes:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Creating sustainable jobs and empowering individuals with life-changing jackpot opportunities.

- **Community Development:** Fifty percent of proceeds from gaming taxes and commissions will fund sports promotion and sponsorships across Mainland Tanzania.

- **Commitment to Integrity:** The Gaming Board of Tanzania will oversee operations, ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness.

Speaking during the event, Ambassador Modest J. Mero, Chairman of the Gaming



Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, Hamad H. Chande, delivers his keynote address in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the official endorsement of the National Lottery of Tanzania, emphasizing the Lottery's potential to transform the gaming sector and contribute to national development. Photo: Correspondent

Board of Tanzania, emphasized: "This initiative demonstrates the transformative potential of gaming to drive community upliftment and economic progress, while maintaining the highest standards of trust and integrity."

The National Lottery is designed to unite communities, empower local businesses, and provide life-changing opportunities. Beyond jackpots, its proceeds will fund critical social initiatives, promote sporting excellence, and foster national pride.

Speaking also during the event, the Gaming Board of Tanzania Director General, James Mbalwe, said the Government invites Tanzanians - players, retailers, business partners, and stakeholders - to join this groundbreaking initiative.

Charmaine Mabuza, Group CEO of ITHUBA, shared her vision: "This partnership is more than a lottery - it's a symbol of collaboration and a promise to build a brighter future for all Tanzanians. Together, we will transform lives and create a legacy of empowerment and shared prosperity."

As the company actively sets up the market, opportunities are already being created for businesses and individuals to participate in this nationwide movement.

When the National Lottery goes live in 2025, it will not only bring thrilling entertainment but also mark the start of a journey that uplifts communities, empowers individuals, and drives Tanzania's progress.

Sabalenka won't let Paula Badosa friendship dent 'three-peat' dream

MELBOURNE

ARYNA Sabalenka will not let her friendship with Paula Badosa affect her quest to win a third successive Australian Open title when the best friends clash in the semi-finals, the defending champion said yesterday.

Badosa upset American third seed Coco Gauff to make her first Grand Slam semi-final, while Sabalenka (pictured) downed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova to stay on course to be the first woman to complete a "three-peat" since Martina Hingis from 1997-99.

Sabalenka, who has a 5-2 record against Badosa, was pleased with her friend's progress in the tournament but said the Spaniard should not expect any easy treatment when they meet at Melbourne Park.

"We decided a long time ago that off the court we are friends, while on the court she really wants to win, I really want to win," Sabalenka told Reuters after her 6-2 2-6 6-3 win over Russian 27th seed Pavlyuchenkova.

"So on the court we are competitors and there is no place for friendship."

While she would not speculate on her chances of joining an elite group of players who have won three Australian Open titles in a row, including Margaret Court (1969-71), Evonne Goolagong (1974-76), Steffi Graf (1988-90), Monica Seles (1991-93) and Hingis, the Belarusian said it was not beyond her reach.

"I'm really happy that I put myself in this situation where I have the opportunity to become one of them," she told reporters.

"To be next to those names, wow, that's just a dream. Of course, it has always been in the back of my mind that I can do that. But you know, my main focus is ... step by step."

"I know that if I will be able to bring my best tennis on each game, if not the best tennis, then the best fighting spirit, I know that I'm capable of doing that."

REUTERS



Chelsea boss Maresca lauds team's response after ending winless run

LONDON

CHELSEA manager Enzo Maresca was pleased as his side returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Monday, with his players regaining the lead after a late first-half equaliser.

Chelsea snapped a five-game winless run in the Premier League thanks to second-half goals from Marc Cucurella and Noni Madueke after Tosin Adarabioyo's opener was cancelled out by Matt Doherty's goal for the visitors.

Following two draws in their last two games after throwing away early leads, Maresca praised his team's reaction to take the home win that lifted them into fourth place.

"The performance until 40 minutes was very good, then the last five minutes we struggled. They scored a goal and we lost a bit of confidence, which was something that has happened a few times this season," Maresca told BBC.

"We need to learn to manage these situations better. In the second half we started well and scored the goals. Overall I think we deserved to win the game.

"We reacted well in the second half. After five games without a win it is not easy to do that. So it was important to win the game."

Chelsea, who had been second as recently as last month, are now on 40 points, four points behind Nottingham Forest in third and second-placed Arsenal.

When asked about defensive miscues, the Italian manager denied that the 27 goals they have conceded in the Premier League had prevented his side from fighting higher up the table.

"If I'm not wrong only four or five teams in the league have conceded less than us. So why (ask about) a defensive problem?" Maresca said.

"I think the balance is quite good between offensive and defensive. Then you can concede a goal in any way."

Maresca also stood up for goalkeeper Robert Sanchez after the Spaniard gifted Wolves the equaliser by dropping a corner that led to Doherty's strike.

"Is part of our job when you make some mistakes," he said. "Robert has saved us many times, it happens, no problem."

REUTERS

Real Madrid to face Leganes in cup quarter-finals, Valencia host Barcelona

MADRID

REAL Madrid will take on lowly local rivals Leganes while Barcelona are set to travel to Valencia in the Copa del Rey quarter-finals, following the draw on Monday.

Atletico Madrid will host Getafe in another Spanish capital derby while Real Sociedad will take on fellow Basque side Osasuna. The matches will be played between Feb. 4-6.

The draw left open the possibility of a Clasico between old rivals Real and Barca in the cup final, something that has not happened for over a decade.

Real and Barca have met in the Copa del Rey final on 18 occasions with Real leading the rivalry with 11 wins over seven from the Catalans, including their last encounter, a 2-1 triumph in the 2014 final at Valencia.

However, Barcelona have thrashed Real both times they've met the current season, delivering a 4-0 win at Santiago Bernabeu in LaLiga in October and a 5-2 victory in the Spanish Super Cup final in Saudi Arabia last week.

Real are top of the LaLiga standings with 46 points, two ahead of Atletico Madrid in second, with third-placed Barcelona trailing by seven points.

REUTERS

Valencia condemn racist abuse aimed at two Sociedad substitutes

MADRID

HOSTS Valencia and Real Sociedad have condemned the racist abuse aimed at visiting Japan international Take Kubo and forward Ander Barrenetxea during Sunday's match at the Mestalla stadium.

In a video posted by Sociedad on X, racist insults could be heard from the stands towards Kubo and Ander Barrenetxea (pictured), who was born in the city of San Sebastian in the Basque Country, while the players were warming up before being brought on.

The incident was reported to LaLiga straight after the match, Sociedad said in a statement on Monday.

Valencia condemned the racism, saying the actions of a few do not represent the values of the club.

"The club is at the disposal of the authorities for whatever they may require," Valencia said in a statement, opens new tab.

"If the individuals responsible are identified, the club will take appropriate measures, including imposing severe disciplinary action leading to their expulsion from Mestalla."

In June, the Magistrate's Court of Valencia issued the first conviction for racism in a soccer stadium in Spain following an investigation into racial slurs directed at Real Madrid's Brazil forward Vinicius Jr at Mestalla stadium.

Clubs and players have been outspoken about the issue with Vinicius saying in September that Spain should be stripped of its 2030 World Cup hosting rights unless significant progress is made in addressing racism in the country.

The Spanish Football Federation and LaLiga have taken steps to tackle an increase in racist abuse with measures including partial stadium closures, including at Mestalla.

The Spanish government joined an investigation after racist insults were allegedly directed towards Barcelona players at Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium in October.

REUTERS



Chelsea get back to winning ways with 3-1 defeat of Wolves

LONDON

CHELSEA won for the first time in six Premier League matches when they beat relegation-threatened Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-1 at home on Monday with goals from defenders Tosin Adarabioyo and Marc Cucurella and a third from winger Noni Madueke.

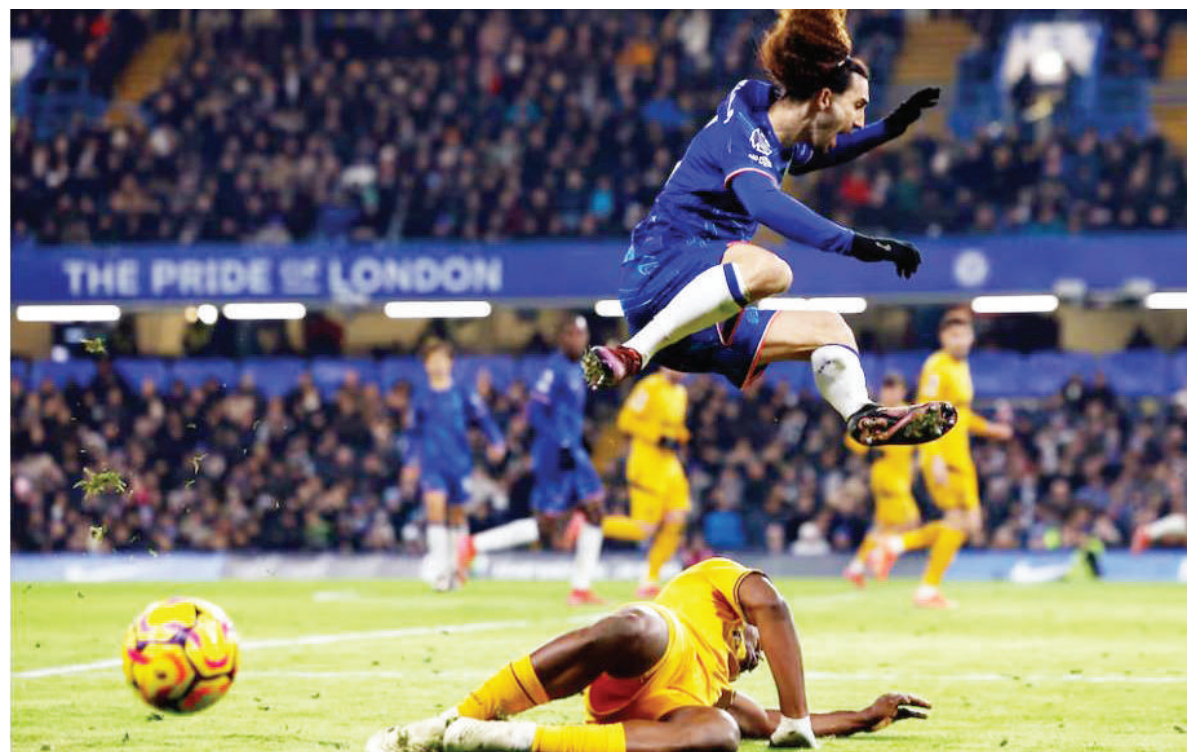
The win pushed Chelsea - who had been second as recently as last month - above Manchester City and Newcastle United into fourth place, while Wolves remained out of the bottom three only on goal difference ahead of Ipswich Town.

The hosts, seeking to get back on track for a place in next season's Champions League, went ahead in the 24th minute when Tosin side-footed home from close range.

But goalkeeper Robert Sanchez gifted Wolves an equaliser in first-half stoppage time when he dropped a corner and Matt Doherty stabbed the ball in.

The home fans were fearing a repeat of recent games when Chelsea threw away leads until Cucurella popped up in attack to score after Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall - in his first league start for the Blues - flicked on a Madueke cross on the hour.

Five minutes later, Madueke nodded in to make sure a header from Trevoh Chalobah - returning to Stamford Bridge after being recalled from a loan spell at Crystal Palace -



Chelsea's Marc Cucurella in action with Wolverhampton Wanderers' Emmanuel Agbadou during their Premier League match at Stamford Bridge, in London, Britain on Monday. Agencies

crossed the line.

"It's instinct. Attacker's instinct," Madueke told Sky Sports. "I knew it was going over the line. I said sorry to Trevoh after. I had to put this in the net for sure."

"He was saying 'No way you took my goal' but I said 'You have to understand, this is what they pay me for.'"

Chelsea have 40 points from 22

games, 10 adrift of leaders Liverpool and four behind second-placed Arsenal and Nottingham Forest. They are two points above Manchester City and Newcastle.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca was boosted by the return of club captain Reece James who made his first start after the latest in a string of injury absences.

Chalobah also gave the Blues' de-

fence a stronger shape after the loss of Wesley Fofana and Benoit Badiashile due to injuries.

Defender Levi Colwill and midfielders Romeo Lavia and Enzo Fernandez were all absent from the squad ahead of Chelsea's trip to champions Manchester City on Saturday.

REUTERS

Amorim was wrong, Man United are the worst team in the world

BY RICHARD JOLLY

RUBEN Amorim was wrong. And if there may be a broader concern that Amorim is wrong, in trying to impose a system on a group of players who look ill-suited to it, on trying to change too much too soon, in simply being the wrong man in the wrong place at the wrong time, his assessment of a floundering Manchester United was incorrect.

"We are the worst team maybe in the history of Manchester United," he said, adding a flourish. "Here you go: your headlines." And when the manager makes that admission, the headlines follow.

Where they might have been about a 3-1 Old Trafford defeat to Brighton, they take on a wider status. They become a greater statement of failure.

Amorim (pictured) may have failed the history test. His United are set to prove their worst team in the Premier League era. By some distance, too.

"You are getting a new coach who is losing more than the last coach," he said. "Imagine that." It seemed as though Erik ten Hag had bottomed out for United by taking them to eighth, their lowest Premier League finish.

Now Amorim's United, if hampered by Ten Hag's start, are 10 points off eighth. They are averaging a point a game under the Portuguese, 11 in 11, and their recent record is still worse, with four in the last six.

But the worst in their history? Newton Heath, as they then were, earned just 14 points in 1893-94; like this team, they lost six of their first 12 home league games. United were dismal for most of the 1930s. They conceded 115 goals while getting relegated in 1931-32.

Two years later, they came 20th in Division 2, barely escaping demotion to Division 3 North. The season the late, great Denis Law joined, they finished 19th in Division 1, albeit salvaging it with FA Cup victory and when the club was rebuilding from the Munich Air Disaster.

They were relegated in 1973-74, six years after winning the European Cup: Alex Stepney and Brian Kidd, two of those who starred in the 1968 final and laid wreaths for Law, were among those who went down.

Sir Alex Ferguson, another of those paying tribute, led United to 13th in 1989-90, though that season's FA Cup win was the catalyst for a spell of unprecedented success.



Ferguson retired with 22 consecutive top-three finishes, the first of them when Amorim was only seven years old. That forms the backdrop to his doom-laden appraisal. For generations, the worst-case scenario was third: later the depths of sixth, seventh or eighth that the post-Ferguson managers explored. But then the whole framework of football has changed.

United have had a size and a grandeur for much of their history, certainly since Sir Matt Busby's appointment in 1945, and greater resources than most of their peers.

But underachievement felt capped in the era of the superclub: they were too rich to truly fail. Until, perhaps,

United do now.

When, in the December defeat to Newcastle, Gary Neville branded them "pound for pound, the worst football team in the country," he was, if anything, underselling it.

Pound for pound, dollar for dollar, euro for euro, United are arguably the worst team in the world. Only the Todd Boehly Chelsea of 2022-23 can compete to be the worst in English football history; they came 12th, again breaking the law that the elite could not drop below eighth.

As Brighton surged to victory at Old Trafford, with a goal from the £3m buy Kaoru Mitoma, with the £5.2m recruit Yasin Ayari excelling in midfield, the

£900,000 bargain Joel Veltman at right-back and the £1.8m arrival Jan Paul van Hecke also in a defence with the homegrown Lewis Dunk, United fielded a starting 11 who cost around £430m.

Liverpool's team at Brentford on Saturday came for a similar price, but they are the league leaders. United's bench cost almost £300m on top of that, even if Antony and Casemiro account for half of it.

None of the fees are Amorim's fault; none of the expenditure came on his watch, though the head coach himself cost £9m in compensation.

United's squad, according to the CIES Football Observatory, cost more than €1bn, if add-ons are triggered (and perhaps they are doing so badly, they won't be). It is the second most expensive in world football, behind only Chelsea.

Their wage bill last season, meanwhile, reached £364.7m. Those individuals, as Amorim's comments indicate, are far less than the sum of their parts as a team.

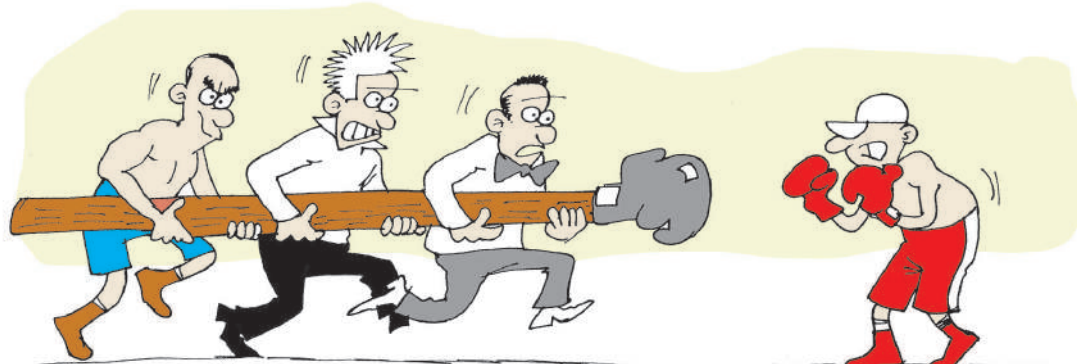
"Everybody here is underperforming," said Amorim. That is an understatement. They are performing worse, relative to their salaries and price tags, than almost any other team ever.

And if some of the numbers reflect players who were overpriced and overrated, whose fees reflect a failure of negotiation and whose arrivals highlight a failure of judgement, there is a historic low nonetheless.

Amorim's comments may have designed as shock therapy. He did not try to escape his share of the blame. But they are a colossal indictment of United, players and managers past and present, the executives responsible for recruitment, and owners.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Amorim was wrong, Man United are the worst team in the world

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Fixture amendments confirmed for Premier League resumption

By Correspondents Seth Mapoli & Michael Mwebe

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has officially released the fixtures for the Premier League, with matches set to resume early next month after a temporary suspension.

The league was paused to allow for preparations for the African Nations Championship (CHAN), originally scheduled to begin on February 1 across Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. However, CHAN was postponed to August, paving the way for the resumption of domestic football.

Simba SC will kick off their second-round campaign on February 2 with an away fixture against Tabora United at the Ally Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora.

The league leaders, who currently top the table with 40 points from 15 matches, will be aiming to extend their impressive form that includes 13 wins, one draw, and one loss.

After the match against Tabora United, Simba's upcoming fixtures include away games against Singida Big Stars, followed by home matches against Tanzania Prisons and Dodoma Jiji.

They will then travel to play Namungo FC in what promises to be an action-packed schedule.

The much-anticipated Dar es Salaam Derby between Simba SC and their fierce rivals Young Africans SC has been scheduled for March 8.

This match, a highlight of the Tanzanian football calendar, is expected to draw massive attention from fans across the country.

Meanwhile, the Mzizima Derby between Azam FC and Simba SC will take place on February 24 at the KMC Complex.

This will be the first time the derby is hosted at this venue in the Premier League, adding an extra layer of excitement for fans of both sides.

Another derby clash to watch will see Azam FC hosting Young Africans on May 10 at the Azam Complex. The last encounter between these two sides ended in Azam's favour, with Gibril Sillah scoring the decisive goal.

The upcoming match is expected to be a thrilling showdown as both teams vie for supremacy.

Simba currently lead the league standings with 40 points from 15 matches. They have been dominant this season, securing 13 victories, one draw, and suffering only one defeat.

Young Africans, the defending champions, sit in second place with 39 points from 15 matches. They have recorded 13 wins and two losses so far.

Young Africans' next five fixtures include matches against Kagera Sugar, KenGold, JKT Tanzania, KMC FC, and Singida Big Stars.

Azam FC occupy third place with 36 points from 16 matches. They have managed 11 wins, three draws, and two losses.

Azam's upcoming matches include games against KMC, Pamba Jiji, Mashujaa, Coastal Union, and a high-stakes clash with Simba.

As the Premier League resumes, fans can look forward to intense battles on the pitch as the top teams fight for glory. With derbies, revenge matches, and title races all on the horizon, this promises to be a thrilling second half of the season.

All eyes will now turn to February, as the league kicks off with renewed energy and excitement.

Taoussi optimistic despite friendly loss to Mtibwa Sugar

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli



AZAM FC head coach Rachid Taoussi expressed satisfaction with his team's performance despite a 1-0 defeat to Mtibwa Sugar in a friendly match, describing it as a valuable test to fine-tune preparations for the resumption of the Premier League next month.

Speaking after the match, Taoussi (pictured) highlighted the positives he observed from his players, emphasizing their competitive spirit and determination despite the loss.

"Our game against Mtibwa Sugar was the right test at the right time. Losing doesn't mean we weren't better. We faced a team that executed their tactics well, and I'm happy because it challenged us," he said.

The match, held at the Manungu Stadium in the Morogoro region, saw Azam narrowly lose to the Championship side after Raizin Hafidh converted a penalty in the 78th minute.

While the result may not have been favourable, Taoussi remained upbeat, stating it provided an opportunity to address key areas for improvement.

"The loss has given us the right time to return to the training ground and correct the mistakes that led to us being punished," the Moroccan tactician noted.

"Everyone could see the gaps, and we're committed to improving. We will continue to recover and prepare for another friendly match before resuming league action."

Taoussi also commended Mtibwa Sugar for their performance, praising their ability to test his side's defensive and tactical organization.

"We played against a good team that provided the perfect measure to assess our readiness for the challenges ahead. Matches like these are essential as they push us to grow and adapt," he said.

The defeat comes as Azam look to regain momentum after a league break. Despite the result, Taoussi expressed confidence in his squad, noting significant improvements in their cohesion and individual performances.

He believes the players are gradually returning to peak form after the pause in competitive action.

"There are big changes and growing confidence among the players," he said. "Even though we've had a break, they've come back with the right attitude and determination. These kinds of tests are important for keeping the competitive mood alive."

Azam are keen to make a strong statement in the league as they prepare to battle for top honours. Taoussi acknowledged the importance of continued hard work and focus to achieve their objectives.

"This was just one game, but it has shown us what we need to improve," he added. "Our goal is to compete strongly for the championship, and I am confident we are moving in the right direction."

The coach also confirmed that the team plans to schedule another friendly match in the coming days to further refine their tactics and address any lingering weaknesses.

He stressed that such preparations are vital for building a team capable of challenging for silverware in the highly competitive Premier League.

Azam's next match is scheduled for February 6, where they will host KMC at the Azam Complex Stadium. This will be followed by an away clash against Pamba Jiji FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium on February 9. The team will then return home to face Mashujaa FC on February 19.

Simba prepared for any opponent in the Confederation Cup quarter-final

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's 2-0 victory draw against CS Constantine on Sunday secured their position as CAF Confederation Cup Group A winners.

Goals from Kibu Denis and Leonel Ateba maintained Simba's perfect home record in the CAF Confederation Cup this season, advancing them to the knockout stages for the sixth time in seven years.

That outcome means that Simba will be one of four seeded teams in the quarter-final draw alongside Zamalek, USM Alger and RS Berkane and will also have the advantage of playing the second leg in Dar es Salaam.

Defending champions Zamalek SC and RS Berkane are two-time winners, while USM Alger won the competition once when they defeated Young Africans two years ago.

Simba will either be drawn against South Africa's Stellenbosch, Al Masry of Egypt or ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast.

Simba and CS Constantine can't meet together in the quarter-finals, as they were in the same group.

Simba SC's Media and Communication Manager Ahmed Ally (pictured) said they are anxiously waiting for the draw but remains unshaken at the prospect of coming up against Stellenbosch, Al Masry or ASEC Mimosas.

He said: "Whichever of the three teams we are drawn against, we are ready to face them. We don't know much about Stellenbosch, it is a new team to us, and we have not faced them before.

"However, we would welcome the chance to meet them, especially since traveling to South Africa by bus allows us to bring many fans along."

He added: "If we are drawn against Stellenbosch, we will organize a massive trip involving supporters from Dar es Salaam, Iringa, and Mbeya, traveling to South Africa to cheer for the team. That kind of support could create an electrifying atmosphere.

"If we are drawn against ASEC Mimosas, it will be our third meeting with them in a short period. On the other hand, being



drawn against Al Masry would mark our first encounter with them, although we have recently played several matches against Egyptian teams.

"No matter who we are drawn against, we are prepared to face them. We will approach the games with excitement and determination. This time, we see ourselves as strong contenders, ready to make it to the semi-finals."

The 2024/25 CAF Confederation Cup quarter-final draw will take place in the first week of February at the CAF's headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The semi-final draw will also be held, meaning teams will learn their potential

path to the final.

The quarter-finals, scheduled for late March and early April, promise compelling matchups across both legs.

The first legs will take place on March 30th, with the return fixtures set for April 6th.

The semi-finals will follow in quick succession, with first-leg matches scheduled for April 20th, and the decisive second legs taking place a week later on April 27th.

The CAF Confederation Cup champion will be crowned following a two-legged home and away final, with the first match set for May 17th and the return leg scheduled for May 25th.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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Another derby clash to watch will see Azam FC hosting Young Africans on May 10 at the Azam Complex. The last encounter between these two sides ended in Azam's favour, with Gibril Sillah scoring the decisive goal