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Tanzania is working to ensure that efforts to enhance clean cooking are inclusive but also focus on women in rural areas, as we push for higher levels of collaboration

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan pictured yesterday with the President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (R), and United Nations Secretary General António Guterres on the sidelines of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP28) in progress in Dubai's Expo City. Photo: State House

Burundian refugees: 166,000 quit camps, leaving 155,000

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Burundi have agreed to accelerate efforts for voluntary repatriation of refugees to the neighbouring country in line with the terms of the tripartite agreement of May 2001.

Home Affairs minister Hamad Yusuf Msauni signed a joint communiqué for voluntary repatriation, affirming that between September 2017 more than 166,000 Burundian refugees opted to return to Burundi, while 155,000 are yet to agree to repatriation.

This assessment was affirmed in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening as the parties, namely governments of Tanzania and Burundi plus the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) met for the 24th meeting of the tripartite commission for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees living in Tanzania.

The joint communiqué hailed the government for its role in hosting Burundian refugees for several decades, seeking to draw a line under that situation soon, for refugees to "go back home and contribute to the development of their homeland."

The minister said the process will be guided by a well-defined roadmap set out at the two day technical working group meeting earlier in the week, focused on improved infrastructure, expansion of reception facilities for the returnees.

It also seeks to enhance capacities for appreciating progress in conditions if return, counselling, and registration for repatriation, he said, adding that this will enable

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ATCL for London direct flights soon

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

AIR Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) has announced plans to start direct flights from Dar es Salaam to London using a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner early next year.

Ladislaus Matindi, the ATCL director general said at the launch of Air Tanzania online application platform that the firm is set to increase the number of flights to Mumbai, the Indian commercial capital, and the Chinese business hub of Guangzhou, while starting new flights to Dubai, Muscat, Lagos, Kinshasa and Goma, the eastern provincial capital in the DRC.

The online App is a service accessible from various types of phones, whether "android" or "ios" systems, providing travelers with "a unique experience of privacy and freedom of choice," he said.

Through the Air Tanzania App, the customer will be able to choose the day of the trip, the travel class, the seat, or buying an extra bag when traveling to any place inside and outside the country with the airline, he said.

In addition, customers will be able to get travel tickets online, instead of being served at 15 domestic and 11 foreign stations, he stated.

ATCL stations will be set up in Pemba, Tanga, Mafia, Nachingwea and Musoma, along with restoring trips to Iringa and Mtwara, so that more businesspeople and other stakeholders can benefit from the presence of Air

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PM: Indicators show HIV infections falling sharply

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY released findings on HIV/Aids indicators for 2022/2023 show that new infections among adults aged 15 years

and above dropping further.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this observation when officiating at the new infections among adults decreased from 72,000 in 2016/2017 to 60,000 in

2022/2023.

The decrease indicates that 0.18 percent of the population were newly in-

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shows copies of a research report on AIDS indicators shortly after launching it at World AIDS Day celebrations held at national level in Morogoro municipality yesterday. With him (L-R): Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), Prof Joyce Ndalichako; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Jenista Mhagama; Health minister Umyy Mwalimu; and Morogoro regional commissioner Adam Malima. Photo: PMO



Burundian refugees: 166,000 quit camps, 155,000 not as yet

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the refugees to make informed decisions for voluntary repatriation.

He reiterated the government's commitment to the principle of voluntary repatriation of refugees as provided for by international refugee law, thus the ongoing voluntary repatriation exercise strictly observes the terms of the tripartite agreement.

While voluntary repatriation is being pursued, Burundian refugees will remain in position, protected by international protocols as at present, he said.

He emphasised the government's goodwill towards the presence of the refugees, underlining that the country keeps its doors open to genuine and credible asylum seekers.

This includes refugees fleeing persecution, instability and wars, thus in need of international protection as asylum seekers, he stated.

Martin Niteretse, his Burundian counterpart, said the government and the Burundian people welcome with open arms all Burundian refugees who wish to return.

"I personally call on those who remain in countries of asylum to make the right decision to return and contribute to the country's development, working alongside other citizens," he said.

Among other key recommendations, all parties agreed to facilitate the recognition of school certificates and vocational training obtained by refugees in the country of asylum, upon return.

They also agreed on the need for review of the cost-effectiveness of administering Burundian examinations in camps across the border, while UNHCR agreed to redouble efforts in resource mobilization to support the repatriation and reintegration of returnees.

Mamadou Dian Balde, the regional bureau director for East Africa, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes said that the agency is committed to supporting governments to find durable solutions for refugees.

It intends to support people to return home once conditions allow, appealing to the international community to support Burundi's efforts to provide essential services, extend support to returnees and their communities.

This will allow for sustainable returning as well as supporting voluntary repatriation efforts, he asserted, elaborating that since voluntary repatriation started in September 2017, more than 230,000 refugees have taken up the offer to repatriate, with over 161,000 hailing camps in Western Tanzania.

By late October, around 248,000 Burundian refugees were hosted in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Of these, around 155,000 refugees reside in the Nduta and Nyarugusu camps in Tanzania, officials noted.



Former president Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, current chairman of the board of directors of the Global Partnership for Education, and the agency's CEO, Laura Frigenti (R), have a first-hand account of classroom activities at Mikongeni Primary School in Dar es Salaam's Gongo la Mboto suburb yesterday. It is one of the schools supported by GPE, a multi-stakeholder partnership and funding platform out to strengthen education systems in developing countries in order to dramatically increase the number of children who are in school and learning. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Tanzania loses 3pc of GDP in climate upsets'

By Guardian Reporter

TWO to three percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is being lost due to climate change, President Samia Suluhu Hassan declared yesterday. Addressing a conference delegated for the global climate change jamboree in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) the president appealed to developed nations to meet their pledges in financing adaptation efforts.

She said that despite minimal contribution to global warming, Tanzania was mobilizing support for increased use of clean and affordable cooking fuels and technologies for women across Africa. All nations need to play their part, she emphasised.

Honouring commitments to climate solutions was the only way to meet the challenges regarding climate change adaptation, now less a matter of choice but vital for sustained economic capacity, thus requiring collaborative efforts, she stated.

Developed countries need to meet their pledges, she said, pointing at the \$100bn a year to developing nations to help adapt to climate change "and mitigate further rise in temperatures."

She referred to assertions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that efforts to adopt precautions will be constrained and made less effective in the near future, underlining that the world "needs to choose to adhere to science or face the consequences."

The Paris and Copenhagen

climate change conferences saw promises being made to reduce temperatures to within 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels, but the current rate of global warming was alarming.

It has detrimental effects on economies of least developed countries, the president noted at the COP 28 jamboree.

She said that Tanzania was attending the meeting to push the need for the conference to approve the formulation of a special fund to address climate change destruction.

"Tanzania is working to ensure that efforts to enhance clean cooking are inclusive but also focuses on women in rural areas, as we push for higher levels of collaboration," she said.

Ensuring that debate on

gender equality considers national values and women are accorded priority in addressing climate change effects was equally vital, she said.

The jamboree kicked off on Thursday and is projected to close business on December 12, attended by more than 70,000 participants from upwards of 190 countries and territories worldwide.

The president leads a delegation comprising several cabinet ministers, permanent secretaries, envoys to foreign countries, ministerial experts and select members of the media, among others.

Under the theme 'Unite, Act and Deliver!' the conference is expected to push the goal of limiting long-term global temperature rises to within 1.5 degree Celsius.

On the sidelines of the conference, Tanzania has prepared to host three high level side events on clean energy, sustainable farming and the blue economy, officials said.

President Samia is set to lead leaders of various countries to launch the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP), focused on the use of clean cooking energy to address health, environmental, economic and social effects upon women and children when unclean energy is used.

She will also witness the signing of a bilateral cooperation agreement with the UAE for cooperation between the Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations and the Dr Anwar Gargash Centre for International Relations.



Chief Justice Ibrahim Hamis Juma pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a ceremony to welcome 279 lawyers who were being admitted to, and placed on, the country's roll of advocates. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

ATCL for London direct flights soon

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Tanzania, he said.

Musa Mbura, the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) director general, said that in order to get optimal results of a new product in the market, a feasibility study is needed before introducing the

product.

"The results of the research report make it possible to get the real picture, helping to make the right decisions," he said, underlining the impression that the decision to introduce the online application satisfies these requirements

This innovation is in line with investing the right capital in products to increase competitiveness in the market for positive results, he said, affirming that introducing the App shows how Air Tanzania intends to compete at a wider level, using technology to facilitate access to services.

Acquisition of travel tickets and giving customers additional benefits will bring travelers to an elevated situation, giving them special status, he said, praising ATCL for initiating the technology revolution in its services.

PM: Indicators show HIV infections falling sharply

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fect, with 0.24 percent of women and 0.11 percent of men being newly infected.

This year's theme, 'Let communities lead,' makes the celebration an opportunity to reflect on the progress made to raise awareness about the challenges that remain to achieve the goals of ending AIDS by 2030.

It also reflects on mobilising all stakeholders to jointly redouble efforts to ensure the success of the HIV response, he said, elaborating that the government resolved to conduct a survey on the current HIV/AIDS infection situation.

The findings have shown that Tanzania has made remarkable strides in the fight against the disease, he said, noting that the HIV Indicators Survey 2022/23 measured HIV prevalence among youth aged 15.

It aims at understanding the rate of the spread of the disease and those on antiretroviral treatment in the various regions, an indicator that is important because those diagnosed with HIV are healthy, not suffering from AIDS and opportunistic diseases.

With treatment, when one reaches the level where the virus is not visible in the laboratory, then such a person will not be able to infect others, he said.

Regarding the prevalence of HIV for ages 15 and above, the report indicates that research has shown that it ranges from 1.7 percent in Kigoma region to 12.7 percent in Njombe, Mbeya and Iringa regions.

"Njombe Region has a rate of more than 9 percent, twice the national level,

the premier noted, affirming that in the case of Zanzibar, AIDS prevalence shows that it ranges from 0.2 percent in the North Pemba Region to 0.8-percent in the South Unguja Region.

Young people need to value their lives by protecting themselves from new HIV infections, while stakeholders need to prioritise this important group to save it from the threat of infections.

He also urged people living with HIV to ensure using ARV drugs with due adherence in order to improve their health, affirming that the nation depends on the youth.

The government ensures that ARV services in the country are readily available, he stated, directing regions and districts countrywide to implement instructions to mark the World AIDS Day. This should go in tandem with providing appropriate services to those in need, he said.

"Each region should prepare a commemorative notice that will classify various social services and submit it to the Office of the Prime Minister," he specified.

Jenista Mhagama, the Policy, Parliament and Coordination state minister in the Prime Minister's Office said that the ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will organise to foster the protection of the youth to withstand the AIDS pandemic.

Health minister Ummy Mwalimu said the rapid spread of HIV infections demands that a programme be developed to harmonise HIV, other sexually transmitted diseases and hepatitis as there are similarities in how they are transmitted.

Deputy Prime Minister for closer cooperation in war on HIV/AIDS

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Doto Biteko has called upon stakeholders involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS to collaborate with the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) to ensure sufficient allocation of funds in fighting the disease.

Biteko made the remarks during special stakeholders' conference on November 30th, 2023 in Morogoro Region that involved government leaders, development stakeholders and people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Tanzania has made great strides in the fight against Aids; I want TACAIDS and stakeholders to cooperate in fighting against the disease by enhancing people's participation," said Biteko.

He said the government has continued to take various efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS which has led to a decrease in new infections, a decrease in the number of HIV related deaths and increased number of people on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment," he said, adding that transmission of the disease from mother-to-child has also decreased while the goal is to have zero AIDS-related deaths by 2030.

He added: "We have also witnessed the reduction of stigma against people living with HIV, all this is happening with the cooperation from stakeholders."

He said despite the various efforts taken by the government and stakeholders, the disease has not yet been fully controlled, a situation that could lead to an increase in new infections.

He asked stakeholders to continue with efforts in providing interventions aimed at ending HIV/AIDS.

TACAIDS Acting Executive Director, Dr Jerome Kamwela said the meeting aimed to provide an opportunity for discussions between the government and stakeholders for purposes of enhancing the fight against HIV.

He said the conference was crucial as Tanzania is moving towards achieving the global goal of ending Aids by the year 2030 where there should be no new infections, HIV related deaths and stigma.

He said that the meeting discussed how the management, government and stakeholders can responsibly work together and ensure financial sustainability in fighting HIV/AIDS. He said that it was also an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss achievement and challenges.



Chief Sheikh Dr Abubakar Zubeir Bin Ally (R) shows CCM National Executive Committee Ideology and Publicity secretary Paul Makonda (in green shirt) around Dar es Salaam's King Mohammed VI of Morocco Mosque yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania's mining sector realises increase in growth in local content

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

EFFORTS by the government to ensure increased local content in the country's mining sector have started to bear fruit, thanks to the Mining Commission.

March this year the government through the Mining Commission launched a special digital system to help attract more Tanzanians to take part in the mining sector and to ensure the involved mining companies are rolling out diverse social services through Social Corporate Responsibility (SCR) regulations.

As a result, it has been unveiled that currently, at least 86 percent of indigenous companies are providing services and products in mines, while the remaining 14 percent are provided by foreign companies through a special permit issued by the Mining Commission.

In an interview with the Guardian yesterday, Executive Secretary of the Mining Commission, Eng Yahya Samamba said the number of employment of locals (Tanzanians) in the mining sector has currently reached 97 percent while foreign nationals are three percent.

He expressed that the commission continues to work on a series of strategy to heighten the participation of Tanzanians in the mining sector.

He added: "The vision is to ensure the mining sector pays a great contribution to the growth of the country's economy and the citizens to benefit from the available mineral resources."

Eng Samamba said the government through the commission has so far made various improvements to the mining law and its regulations with the aim of ensuring that there is potential increase in the participation of Tanzanians in the sector while the government is receiving its statutory various taxes along with generating more jobs.

"One of the improvements includes formulation of regulations for the participation of Tanzanians in the Mining Sector (local content) which have brought benefits to mining stakeholders, especially citizens living in the vicinity of mining mines," he expressed.

Engr Samamba said through the regulations, no company is allowed to import goods or services from abroad without obtaining permission from the Min-

ing Commission, the goal being to ensure every Tanzanian benefits from the sector.

He added that in the management of the principles of the participation of Tanzanians in the mining sector, the commission through the committee for the participation of Tanzanians has continued with its primary responsibility of analysing the plans submitted by all companies engaged in mining and exploration of minerals, and service providers in the mining sector as required by the Mining Law of 2010 which was amended in 2017 and the Regulations for the Participation of Tanzanians in 2018 as well as its amendments.

He said during the quarter of the fiscal year 2023/2024, the commission received a total of 234 plans for the participation of Tanzanians in the mining sector, presented for the first time for analysis and approval in accordance with the principles of participation of Tanzanians.

He added that among the 234 companies that submitted their plans for the participations of the Tanzanians in their sides, three companies own a license for large mining, five companies own/apply for a license for me-

dium mining, seven companies own/apply for an exploration license and 219 companies are the service providers (Contractors & Subcontractors) for mining license holders.

"We're continue running a series of initiatives to ensure for the increased participation of the Tanzanians in the sector, these include providing education to companies that own mining licenses, organizing various forums and workshops regarding the implementation of the policy for the participation of Tanzanians in the sector as well as staging numerous exhibitions

related to mining technology," he emphasized.

According to relevant reports, employment for Tanzanians in large mines has increased from 6,668 in 2018 to 15,341 in 2022 with Tanzanians getting various training to build the capacity to work professionally in the sector, the works that were previously handled by foreigners.

Moreover, there has been an impressive increase in domestic purchases, whereby in 2022, a total of \$2.22, equal to 97.4 percent of all purchases by mining companies were made using Tanzanian companies, compared to

the \$238.71 (46 percent) of all purchases made in 2018.

Contributions of the mining sector to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have increased to 9.1 percent from 7.2 between 2021 and 2022 as the sector registered an impressive growth, from 9.6 percent to at least 10.9 percent during the period.

During the 2022/23 fiscal year revenues collections accrued from the mining sector has reached at 678bn/-, whereby the mining market points managed to raise at least 154.4bn/- during the period.



A contractor (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday briefing Energy deputy minister Judith Kapinga (C), who was on an assessment tour focusing on the implementation of projects meant to improve Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) infrastructure. This is at the Ilala power cooling centre. Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

US firm Titan Lithium to start drilling programme at Titan 1 project in K'njaro

NEVADA

TITAN Lithium Inc, a US based company is set to start drilling at its lithium project in Tanzania after enlisting a new technical director to oversee the significant auger drilling program at Titan 1.

Dr Joas Kabete of Kilimanjaro Lithium Ltd will lead the program, according to a statement from the company.

The drilling, set to commence soon, will delve to a depth of 100 feet across a minimum of five drill holes. Titan Lithium said in a statement that it is hoping to enhance its understanding of the geology at Titan 1, a key site within its expansive lithium projects.

Titan 1 currently boasts the world's largest lithium-in-soil anomaly, covering 40 square

miles. The region exhibits continuous lithium values averaging over 4,000 ppm, with some high-grade areas showcasing lithium values soaring up to 4.82 percent Li2O (22,400 ppm Li).

The company selected targets based on robust Li2O values from earlier surface sampling.

Titan Lithium has operations in both Nevada and Tanzania.



WWF for a living planet

DOCUMENTATION OF THE SELOUS ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SECAD) PROJECT IMPACTS, SUCCESSES, BEST PRACTICES, AND LESSONS LEARNED.

Background of consultancy assignment/ project: The Government of Germany committed to providing the Government of Tanzania (GoT) with a Financial Cooperation grant to support the conservation and development of the Selous Ecosystem. Subsequently, the GoT and KfW and its implementing partners (WWF, FZS, and GOPA) signed a financing contract and respective separate agreements to implement a project known as the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development Program (SECAD). In the SECAD project, WWF is implementing a component that focuses on the buffer zone and particularly on the five Wildlife Management Areas in the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC), which directly aligns with WWF's strategic goal of halting natural resource degradation and biodiversity loss in WWF Tanzania's priority landscapes by securing habitats and species, promoting nature-based solutions and sustainable production practices for harmonious coexistence between people and nature.

The overall objective of SECAD is to contribute to the effective conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, contribute to rural development in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts, and ensure that Selous Game Reserve (SGR) and Nyerere National Park (NNP) and the wider globally significant ecosystem remains intact. The overall expected results of SECAD are: 1. Management of Selous Game Reserve and Nyerere National Park is strengthened; 2. Sustainable Ecosystem Management of the natural resources in priority parts of the NNP/SGR buffer zone; 3. Infrastructure and equipment of NNP, SGR, and WMAs improved and sustainably maintained.

The objective of the consultancy: The overall objective is to take stock of the achievements made by the Project with particular emphasis on successes against the project's expected results, best practices, and lessons learned for the project approach to inform future programming. The consultant is also expected to document at least six case studies of successful interventions across six outcomes and recommend the best approach for scaling up.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES: The following outputs are expected to be delivered: Six (6) success stories (at least 1 per outcome mentioned above) in softcopy; Develop an e-book (maximum 25-page booklet) on project successes, lessons, and best practices with high-quality photos. Produce over 200 high-quality action-oriented pictures of various successes to be submitted in electronic/soft copy. Five (5) testimonial video documentaries not more than 8 minutes in length, each highlighting success stories; At least five (5) document summaries from the available project documents (assessments, consultancies, and project annual report) summarizing project outcomes.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS: Advanced University Degree (Masters or equivalent) in Project Management, Social Sciences, Communication, or related field; Proven experience in identifying lessons and documenting lessons learned; Expertise in lesson learning and documentation methodology; Excellent facilitation, presentation, and writing skills; Experience in collaborating and working with CSOs and Government; Fluency in spoken and written English and Swahili; Good research skills and experience; Experience and skills in filmmaking and photography; Access to high-quality filming, light, sound, design, and editing equipment; Knowledge and experience in conservation or natural resources management.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Interested and appropriately qualified consultants are invited to submit their application comprising the following: A cover letter detailing how their experience maps to the objectives and requirements of the consultancy (maximum 1 page); Three links to work samples demonstrating the most relevant previous productions (policy brief, success stories, and testimonial videos); Financial proposal showing a detailed cost breakdown, including daily fee rate, daily allowances, direct costs/reimbursable expenses, and any applicable taxes; Brief presentation of the team, with updated CVs and functional responsibilities of the key people to be engaged in work, including two professional references per team member; Registration and other relevant statutory/tax documents will be required from the successful bidder before contracting but should not be submitted at this stage.

Applications should be sent electronically to procurement@wwftz.org. The deadline for submission is 15 December 2023 at 3 pm EAT. Interested applicants may get the detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) through the following websites: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption; if you encounter such an incident, then report it by sending an email to fccl@wwftz.org.

Graduates urged to do research to address obstacles facing the public

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

FORMER Minister for Finance Janeth Mbene has challenged newly graduates of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) to use the knowledge they have acquired to conduct various research to address challenges facing the general public. Speaking during convocation ahead of the 21st graduation ceremony which is expected to take place today, the former minister urged the graduates to continue looking for opportunities including entrepreneurship after completing their studies.

She called upon the graduates to be innovative as the job market was minimal, saying it was only through innovation that they could employ themselves.

"Graduates should be creative and provide solutions to these challenges by starting various activities that will bring solutions to the challenges that the country is facing," she said.

She also asked them to develop themselves technologically by intro-

ducing modern services that are often not available especially in rural areas, especially in health services.

"If you are a doctor, a nurse, you can use your skills by using technology to serve the people there and be ready to commit yourself because these services are a calling, not just a job, you should be eager to serve the people," she said.

Mbene praised HKMU for introducing incubation program to help graduates start and develop their businesses instead of relying only on their professions.

She said that the graduates should use the available opportunities and collaborate with their colleagues to do something together because by doing so they can see good results earlier than everyone being on their own.

"You have heard these complaints, so what I can say is that the government should be careful so that those who get it are really those who deserve to get it, because if they get those who are capable, it becomes meaningless," he said.



Asha Ressa Izina (R), acting chairperson of the board of trustees of Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, cuts ribbon in the city yesterday to launch the institute's newly acquired ambulance. Left is the JKCI managing director Dr Peter Kisenge. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

MNH spends 1.7bn/- annually on patients unable to pay medical bills

By Guardian Reporter

MUHIMBILI National Hospital has been granting financial amnesty amounting to 1.7bn/- every year for those who aren't in a position to pay their bills in an effort aimed to ensure that everyone receives quality service to restore health.

Dr Julieth Magandi, MNH acting director said this in Dar es

Salaam on Thursday when the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) through the Accountants' Annual Conference 2023 handed over 15m/- to support children with cancer at MNH.

The funds were collected from participants of the conference and stakeholders at a special Fun Run organized by the board.

Dr Julieth said the hospital at-

tends over 6000 patients per day where 4500 patients are served at MNH Upanga and 1500 in Mloganzila campus.

She said cancer treatment is costly starting from diagnosis to treatment. That's why the hospital has been directing some exemptions to children with cancer from families that are unable to afford the expenses.

"In efforts to ensure that even those coming from vulnerable families access quality health services, the hospital has been issuing amnesty to those who do not afford costs. We have been leaving over 1.7bn/- in exemptions every year where 10 percent of the relief goes to children including those with cancer," she explained.

She thanked the accountants

and auditors under NBAA for supporting the children with cancer calling on other stakeholders to extend their support to help provide relief to patients at the hospital.

She however commended the government for the universal health coverage scheme which is greatly going to provide relief to the country in reducing costs and disease burden.

NBAA executive director, Pius Maneno said there is no country in the World which is not facing health challenges, so supporting the sector was vital in order to improve service provision.

"We are handing over a dummy check of 15m/- to support medical services and related care to children with cancer here at Muhimbili National Hospital," he said.

PS calls on stakeholders to cooperate with TBS in preparation of standards

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Dr Hashil Abdallah has called upon stakeholders to participate in preparation of standards to ensure produced goods are of higher quality and safe.

He made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at commemorations to mark the World Standards Day organized by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

He asked standards stakeholders to continue cooperating with TBS by providing support and sharing experience and professionalism to ensure successful preparation of standards.

"It is encouraging to see that preparations of standards involve all stakeholders. Making the process participatory ensures safety, health and quality of products," he emphasized.

Dr Abdallah said that commemoration of World Standards Day is a way to honour stakeholder's collaborative efforts around the world who create voluntary and mandatory technical agreements that are published as national and international standards to protect consumer health and the environment.

He said TBS works in close collaboration with various stakeholders in developing the industrial and commercial sector as well as managing standards for products that are manufactured locally.

He said the government through the Ministry of Industry and Trade will continue to create an enabling environment for producers, traders and industrialists for them to produce more.

He said the government will continue to manage the development of standards and quality of products produced in various sectors and industries. "The industrial and commercial sector are one of the main pillars in developing the economy and contribute to the national income and job creation," he said.

TBS Director General, Dr Athuman Ngenya said the commemorations involved a series of activities which included provision of public education through media and social networks.

He said the commemoration aimed to educate the public on the importance of participating in the process of preparing national, regional and international standards.

He said TBS in collaboration with various stakeholders, has succeeded to prepare more than 4,000 standards which include those that specify safety, manufacturing and usage requirements.

However, towards commemoration of the African Organization for Standardization Africa (ARSO), which is expected to take place in March 2024, Dr Abdallah launched an essay writing competition for university students dubbed 'Empowering consumers through Standardization to achieve their rights to safe Quality Good & Services'.



Chief guest Janeth Mbene (3rd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate to one of the outstanding students at the city's Hubert Kairuki Memorial University. It was at a convocation preceding graduation lined up for today. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt making reforms to ensure predictable tax policies, says PS

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has said that it will continue to make tax reforms every three years to have a predictable tax policy and motivate investors to establish more projects.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Elijah Mwandumbya made the statement during a conference to collect opinions on taxes that was held in Mbeya City.

The meeting was part of on-going sessions taking place in various zones in the country with objectives to improve the country's tax policy for the 2024/2025 financial year.

He said the current procedure is to make tax amendments in the coming three years, noting no changes will be made until 2024/2025.

"We previously had a procedure that caused people to complain that the budget depends on taxes from alcohol,

cigarettes and soft drinks. Such statements were drawn from the fact that every year the government would change tax rates imposed on the above-mentioned commodities. This will no longer be a practice," said Mwandumbya.

Concerning the already executed tax improvements, Mwandumbya said the government has increased capital goods produced in the country in the scope of postponement of the Value Added Tax (VAT)

starting from July 01, 2023 and the removal from the scope capital goods from abroad commencing on July 01, 2026.

He underscored the need to add value to products from the agriculture sector for Tanzanians to sell them at competitive prices, adding farmers need to be provided with machines for processing of the agricultural goods. He explained that the government has exempted value added tax from a special procedure on machines that

are used for value addition to boost the income of the people and economy in general.

Other improvements according to the PS include exemption of value added tax on tools used for changing vehicles' operating system from using fuel to gas or electricity.

Service Manager, Tax Information and Grievance Redressal Institute (TOSTI), Godwin Barongo said it is important to ensure governance in the tax system for taxpayers to pay

taxes rightfully.

He said taxpayers with complaints file them through TOSTI. He said the institute will consult the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as it always does in finding solutions to such challenges.

He said the institution is not there to create conflicts between the government and TRA but it is there to help taxpayers and TRA to facilitate smooth payment of taxes.

Chairperson of the Tanza-

nia Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Eric Sichinga lauded the Ministry of Finance for coming up with the approach that involves traders in respective zones.

A team of experts on tax policy analysis from the Ministry of Finance is continuing with zonal conferences aimed to collect views on improvement of financial policies. The meetings are held in Arusha, Mwanza, Kigoma and Mbeya regions.

Z'bar government working to improve Chamanangwe industrial area in Pemba

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government in Zanzibar is planning to develop the Chamanangwe industrial area in Pemba as part of strategies to open up investment opportunities in the island.

The remarks were made in Chukwani, Zanzibar by Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, Minister of State in the Zanzibar, President's Office, Labour Economic Affairs and Investment, when responding to a question from Special Seats Member of the House of Representatives, Shadya Mohamed Suleiman who wanted to know the government strategies to improve the Chamanangwe industrial area.

Soraga said the government aims to open up investment and business opportunities in Pemba, a move which is expected to create a number of jobs for youth.

The minister informed the representatives that so far there are four companies that have already shown interest to invest at the Chamanangwe Pemba industrial area. He said among the companies, is a solar power firm that will generate electricity for Pemba residents.

He said there are also investors who have requested

for establishment of fruit processing industries.

Soraga said the major work currently going on at the area is setting-up of important infrastructures including clean and safe water as well as electricity services.

Soraga said efforts are also ongoing to improve other infrastructure within the island which includes construction of the Pemba airport where the preparations have been completed and that the contractor is expected to start executing the project in coming months.

He said the government in Zanzibar is also improving ports within Pemba to enhance transportation services and attract more investors. He said that opening up the island would connect it with countries eastern and central Africa.

"We are going to open-up Pemba through construction of industrial areas and improvement of other infrastructures. We want the island to be connected with countries with the East African Community (EAC)," he added.

Omar Said Shaaban, Minister for Trade and Industrial Development said the government has allocated a special area at Dunga in Unguja District and Pangatupu in North Unguja for construction of industries.



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma (R) cuts ribbon in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to launch 'Utawala Bora' (literally, Good Governance), a book by former Chief Justice Barnabas Samatta (L). With them is the Legal and Human Rights Centre's Capacity Building and Accountability director, Felista Mauya. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAWASA praised for embracing ICT in its operations

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) has been commended for prioritizing the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems in its operations.

Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (AUWSA), Dr Richard Masika gave the sentiments when he visited DAWASA on a familiarization tour.

Dr Masika hailed DAWASA for implementing strategic projects aimed at improving access to clean water as well as revolutionizing technology through the use of ICT.

"During our visit we have been more interested in the use of ICT in the collection of information, the review of information as well as the establishment of a unit to control water loss which has been mentioned as a great help to the Authority," he explained.

He advised other water authorities in the country to embrace DAWASA as it has made great strides in the operation and implementation of large projects.

Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors of DAWASA, Lanston Msongole, said DAWASA implements its various activities using ICT systems to keep up with the great technological revolution in the world as well as the large increase in the population.

"In addition to implementing water and environmental sanitation projects with great success, DAWASA is also proud of a major revolution in the ICT sector that has facilitated the provision of services as well as communication between the client and the authority," he said.

The tour of officials from the AUWSA board of directors involved receiving information on the implementation of various water projects as well as visiting the Kigamboni water project implemented by DAWASA at a cost of 25bn/.

World Bank officials impressed with implementation of REGROW project

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has assured the World Bank that it will continue to effectively manage the Resilient Natural Resources Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project and ensure proper community involvement.

The assurance was given by Deputy Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Commissioner Benedict Wakulyamba in Morogoro Region as he graced the opening of the task force meeting involving experts from the World Bank and project implementers.

The meeting intended to create a joint understanding on the steps reached during the project execution.

Wambulya said the compliments given by the global lender to the government on the efforts taken to ensure fast implementation of the project are a reflection of the positive results drawn from the efforts by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to boost tourism and conservation sectors in the country.

The PS called on all contractors implementing the REGROW project to ensure the project is completed efficiently and timely. He warned some few people attempting to sabotage the project, insisting the project aims at bringing development to the people.

Speaking during the meeting, World Bank's REGROW Project Supervisor, Enos Esikuri expressed satisfaction with the steps reached in the implementation of the project, adding the World Bank will continue to closely monitor the remaining section of it.

He said the WB will monitor the project to ensure all the procedures are observed and completed Tanzanians can benefit from it by sustainably conserving the environment, thus increase tourism earnings.

Esikuri said Tanzania has been endowed with abundant natural resources and tourist attractions, thus, implementation of the project will not only benefit Tanzania alone but also the African continent.

He said project is executed in one of the biggest conservation areas in Africa including the Nyerere national park which an important heritage to Africans.

TREES FOR THE FUTURE TANZANIA



2 December, 2023

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

TENDER NO. THQ/004/2024/PQ/ 01-16

1. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC during the financial year 2024 is intended to establish and manage a prequalification supplier list that will be suitable to supply materials or services to organization, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for which this Request for information is issued. You are asked to formally apply for the pre-qualification along with profiles and references. It is intending part of the funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply of goods and provision of services for financial year 2024 starting in January.
2. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC invites applications for Pre-Qualifications from the eligible, highly competent and experienced Suppliers and Service Providers under the listed categories.
3. The Selection and final short listing of suppliers and service providers will be conducted through the Competitive and open Tendering Procedures as specified in the TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC Procurement Policy and Procedures. Shortlisted suppliers and service providers will be invited to quote under competitive procedures each time when TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC will be in need of the specified services and goods.
4. The selection Criteria shall involve Legal registration/compliance and Capabilities.

a. Legal Registration/Compliance

- Possession of business registration certificates.
- Submission of business license, company certificate of incorporation, (if any) Tax Identification Number (TIN)
- Current physical location which will be inspected for verification.
- Proof of EFD receipts.
- Company/business profile.

b. Company's Capabilities,

- The business must have not less than three years' experience in the relevant field. (provide evidence like 3 years business licence).
- Ability to carry out the assignment.
- Financial Capability (submit the latest Five months bank statements)
- Demonstrate capability in terms of tools & equipment, skills and technology as per requirement in respective categories if applicable.

Please note that in assessing the submissions, consideration will be given to the firm with ability to meet requirements (Legal Registration/Compliance and Business Capabilities). Eligible and qualified Bidders with demonstrated experience and excellent track record in similar assignments will be considered for prequalification.

5. In case of any further clarification required, the interested qualified firm may obtain information from the Office from 08: 00A.M to 4: 00P.M hours Monday to Friday except on public holidays. TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC will respond to the request for clarifications received within Five (5) days prior to the deadline for submission of application.
6. The pre-qualification is of (16) lots and each lot are independent, Suppliers and service providers may apply for a single lot, multiple lots or all (16) lots and pre-qualification will be on lot basis as follows:

S/N	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/01	Provision of Design and Printing Services (T-shirts, Banners, Cap & Brochures.
2	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/02	Supply of ICT Equipment (Photocopier, Printers, Computers & Accessories)
3	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/03	Provision of Security Services
4	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/04	Provision of Motorcycle & vehicles Services.
5	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/05	Provision of Internet Services
6	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/06	Supply of Safety & protective gears (gumboots, safety boots, Hemet, Motorcycle gloves, raincoats, Jackets)
7	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/07	Supply of General Office Stationery & Printing farmers work book.
8	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/08	Supply of Office Furniture & Fitting
9	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/09	Supply of Polythene tubes
10	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/10	Supply of Motorcycle Spare parts TVS & BOXER
11	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/11	Supply of Tools (Spades, Rakes, Wheelbarrow, Pruning shears, watering cane, empty plastic drums
12	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/12	Supply of Motorcycles (TVS & BOXER)
13	THQ - TTF/004/2024/PQ/13	Supply of Computer Software and Licenses
14	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/14	Supply of Fruits seeds (Papaya seeds & Citrus seeds & passion seeds.
15	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/15	Supply of Vegetable seeds (Tomato, Onion, Chinese, Amaranthus, Beetroot, Cabbage, Swisschard, Carrot, Sweet pepper & cucumber
16.	THO - TTF/004/2024/PQ/16	Supply of fuel in Magu, Busega, Bariadi, Tabora & Mwanza

7. The deadline for submission of the applications will be at 10:00PM hours on Friday 18th December, 2023 and applications received will be opened promptly thereafter and in the presence of tenderers' representatives who may opt to attend the opening ceremony at TREES FOR THE FUTURE Office.
8. The applications must be written in English, in a sealed envelope containing 3 copies 1 original and 2 copies and delivered by hand to the Country Director, TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC Singidani Complex building 2nd floor P.O Box 1624 Singida. The outer cover shall be clearly marked: Pre-qualification for supply of Goods and Provision of Services for the financial year 2024 and the inside documents should clearly indicate the Lot/Lots Number applied for.
9. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
10. The submitted proposals must be delivered in sealed envelopes to the following address.

Country Director.
TREES FOR THE FUTURE INC
N.H.C, Singidani Complex building 2nd floor,
P.O. Box 1624
Singida Tanzania.



HERI RASHID
COUNTRY DIRECTOR.
TREES FOR THE FUTURE

NGO embarks on training to push for the rights of domestic workers

By Beatrice Philemon

DOMESTIC workers from Morogoro, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Coast regions have hailed the special training offered by the Tanzania Domestic Workers Network (TDWN) which has helped them to recognise and access their rights.

TDWN coordinator Demitila Faustine said yesterday that they are very happy to see what has been achieved so far as the training has brought positive changes to the group.

Right now, more than 387 domestic workers have been able to acquire employment contracts from their employers while 198 have received legal aid services.

He said domestic workers are now aware of their rights saying they can report the challenges they face in the workplace to TDWN, police and other authorities, something that was not the case in the past.

This has been possible through a 12 months project dubbed: 'Sauti Yangu Nguzo ya Mabadiliko project' that is being implemented by TDWN with funding from Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFTT).

"In 2022 and 2023, we received 60m/- from WFTT for the implementation of the Sauti Yangu Nguzo ya Mabadiliko project.

The main goal of the project was to provide capacity building for members on human resources and finance, and how to handle domestic workers complaints and cases.

The other goal was to make advocacy and train domestic workers on laws and guidelines that protect domestic workers and promote good governance.

The programme also involved monitoring and evaluation, organizing TV and radio programs, print brochures for public awareness and members.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from TDWN so far 198 domestic workers have been able to receive legal aid service, psychological



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting the Largest Taxpayer award to M.M. Integrated Steel Mills Ltd CEO Veer Patel (2nd-R) and director Ratish Kamania during the TRA Taxpayers' Appreciation Awards 2023 ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Women and youth urged to come up with quality products to win AfCFTA markets

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WOMEN and the youth business community have been challenged to present quality products in order to win the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) markets.

The Director of Trade Development in the Ministry of Trade and Industries, Sempeho Manongi, made the call during the national AfCFTA women and youth dialogue, organised by the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC).

TWCC in collaboration with the UN Women—the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment in Tanzania and Trade Mark Africa organized the dialogue that brought together different stakeholders like entrepre-

neurs, experts, among others from across the country to discuss and share information about opportunities in the AfCFTA agreement.

The dialogue, held in the capital city of Dodoma, aimed to provide a platform for women and youth entrepreneurs to engage in open discussions, exchange ideas, and address challenges they face in accessing regional markets under the AfCFTA.

Themed "Positioning Women and Youth at the Centre of AfCFTA", the event fostered an environment that encouraged dialogue, networking, and mentorship, among others.

Leveraging the potential offered by the framework of the AfCFTA, participants explored various industries, including agriculture, manu-

facturing, technology, and services.

They discovered new avenues for collaboration, joint ventures, and partnerships that could drive sustainable economic growth and job creation in Tanzania.

The dialogue featured prominent speakers, including government officials, business leaders, policymakers, and representatives from UN Women.

Manongi, who represented the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, underscored the need for women and youth-led businesses to be at the forefront in the AfCFTA, adding that they should showcase the quality of products that Tanzania has been endowed with.

He said the crucial Dialogue came at the right time when Tanzania is

set to host the 2nd AfCFTA conference to be held in Dar es Salaam between December 06 and 08, 2023.

The conference next week will be conducted under the theme: "Strengthening Women's Participation in Business and Accelerating the implementation of AfCFTA."

UN Women Tanzania representative, Lilian Mwamanga highlighted the importance of active participation by women and youth in leveraging the AfCFTA for socioeconomic progress. She paid tribute to the government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan for coming up with friendly policies that help more women and Youth to engage in Business, promising collaboration from the UN body.

"We have witnessed how the

government has been providing opportunities to youth and women in strengthening their businesses as well as providing for business rights," said the UN Women Tanzania representative.

She also highlighted the need for inclusive economic growth and gender equality. She noted, "Empowering women and youth through initiatives like these dialogues provides them with equal opportunities to contribute to the nation's economic development.

In her remarks, TWCC Executive Director, Mwajuma Hamza, said that during the dialogue, participants would equally be taught about the transformative potential of the agreement and that they would be encouraged to seize the opportunities it pre-

sents. Several panel discussions centred on strategies to enhance the competitiveness of women and youth-led businesses in both the domestic and regional markets were done at the event.

The event emphasized the significance of capacity-building and the formation of support networks to ensure sustainable success.

Also, the dialogue showcased success stories of women and youth entrepreneurs who have already begun to benefit from the AfCFTA implementation.

The AfCFTA promotes trade among African countries and opens doors for entrepreneurs to expand their businesses regionally, leading to increased incomes and improved livelihoods."

El Niño floods cause a million to flee their homes in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE Somali authorities say more than a million people have now been forced to abandon their homes in the country because of floods caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

The heaviest rains in more than two decades have caused widespread destruction, displacement and death across the Horn of Africa.

It comes as world leaders gather in Dubai to discuss the climate crisis at the COP28 summit.

At least 270 people are reported to have died in Somalia, Kenya and southern Ethiopia as the continental region, which is just coming out of prolonged drought, braces for further torrential rains.

Whole towns have been submerged forcing nearly their entire population to seek shelter elsewhere. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has said the country is in a critical state.

Neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya are also dealing with widespread floods.

The situation is expected to get direr as heavy rains are predicted to continue to early next year.

The World Food Programme says the situation compounds the food security crisis in the region. There are also fears of disease outbreaks.

Humanitarian organisations are calling on world leaders meeting at COP28, to remember countries - like those in the Horn of Africa - which are vulnerable to the effects of climate change while contributing the least to it.



Technicians move to repair communications infrastructure in downtown Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

COP28: EU, IMF, Zambia call for more ambitious, widespread carbon pricing

OVIEDO, Spain

ON the sidelines of the UN climate change conference COP28 on Friday, leaders of the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, Zambia, and the World Bank argued for the urgent need to implement more carbon pricing.

"There is a way to cut emissions while fostering innovation and growth - put a price on carbon," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her opening remarks to the meeting. "The message is very clear: If you are polluting, you must pay a price; if you want to avoid the payment, then innovate and decarbonize."

Just 23 percent of global emissions are currently covered by carbon pricing, according

to a 2023 World Bank report.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said that the aim was to get at least 60 percent covered as soon as possible.

Kristalina Georgieva, IMF managing director, said she could not think of a more important topic than carbon pricing.

"Is it possible for us to decarbonize fast enough without pricing carbon? The answer is no," she said frankly, explaining that without the extra revenue it raises, countries would be forced to take on an unsustainable amount of debt to fund the climate action needed to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

She also said that the price of emitting carbon needs to increase quickly. Of the 23 percent of carbon emissions currently covered

by a pricing scheme, the average price to emit a ton of CO₂ is \$20. She said that needs to increase to \$80 per ton to reach 2030 climate targets.

She acknowledged that carbon taxes, while efficient, are often not viable politically. She said the IMF now recommends making carbon pollution more expensive through trade, like the EU, or through regulations that make it more expensive for industries or consumers.

The EU implemented its carbon emissions trading system in 2005. Von der Leyen said that in those 18 years, the bloc has reduced emissions by 40 percent and raised €175 billion (\$190.5 billion) in extra revenue that goes exclusively to climate action, innovation, and supporting developing countries.

Georgieva of the IMF said developed countries should be paying more, while nations with fewer resources could be exempt from mandatory markets.

They also spoke about the importance of carbon credits, which can reward countries for protecting biodiversity or vast forests.

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema advocated for clear international standards and regulations around the credits to avoid forcing countries to have to "reinvent the wheel" and "waste time."

He also praised the carbon credit system as a way for less developed countries to get a "fair share" of the capital being used to make the green transition.

Zambia is in the advanced stages of developing a framework to regulate carbon credit

activities.

"Finance is not neutral. And signals are needed. We call on stakeholders to join us and help us send a strong political signal to tell the world that carbon markets work for the economy, the people and the planet," said Spain's Sanchez during the opening remarks.

According to the World Bank report, carbon pricing has been increasing in recent years. In 2010, just 5 percent of emissions were covered by a carbon pricing scheme, after major nations like China, Japan and South Korea implemented plans. In September, Indonesia also began trading Co₂ emissions credits.

The World Bank report said revenues from carbon taxes and emissions trading systems

COMESA launches trade in services portal to support online negotiations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has launched a trade in services portal to facilitate online negotiation of offers and requests between member states under the COMESA trade in services liberalisation programme.

The launch was conducted recently during the 44th Meeting of the COMESA Council of Ministers in Lusaka, Zambia.

The portal provides tools to ensure the technical quality of the offers being made and exchanged is transparent and confidentiality in information sharing.

It also provides messaging tools for users to interact safely and support the provision of trade in services data collected from all Member States.

Speaking at the launch, COMESA Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe said the platform is not meant to replace, but rather to support and enhance physical trade in services negotiations.

He assured that it will be hosted on the Secretariat's servers to

ensure its security and confidentiality.

The need to develop the portal followed the COVID-19 pandemic, which restricted travels and curtailed the ability to organise physical meetings.

The COMESA secretariat requested for technical assistance from the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) on capacity building in Trade in Services to help speed up negotiations and to harmonize the Trade in Services processes at regional and continental level which was granted.

The platform has been customized for the COMESA region to support and compliment the ongoing negotiations on Trade in Services.

It will enhance preparation for negotiations by providing a tool to assist Member States representatives to create and edit offers that are of a high technical quality efficiently.

It will also facilitate negotiation of sector specific commitments digitally to complement physical negotiations and minimise delays and better coordination.



Tanzania Airports Authority director general Mussa Mbura presses button to launch an Air Tanzania Company Limited app in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

'Let's embrace technology in addressing effects of climate change and food crisis'

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has reiterated the need to embrace technology in addressing effects of climate change including food production.

COSTECH director general Dr Amos Nungu, made the sentiments recently during the Media Award and Gala dinner that took place at COSTECH headquarters.

"If scientists and researchers can conduct a research well and make sure information or results ob-

tained from a research reach farmers, we will get enough food, assist farmers to increase farm productivity and even cope with the ongoing climate change," he said.

He called on researchers and scientists to assist farmers and other people to come up with new scientific technologies that will help farmers increase productivity and contribute to social and economic development in accordance with the community's needs.

For three consecutive years, COSTECH has been providing funding to support different re-

search that in turn has brought positive results to the communities, wildlife, agricultural sector, livestock sub sector, industry and manufacturing industry, health, forest and other sectors.

He said COSTECH is committed to coordinate, promote and facilitate science, technology and innovation in the country by meeting legal and customer requirements and even exceeding customer expectations.

COSTECH's director of research and coordination Bugwesa Katala, and promotion added that cur-

rently COSTECH is a member of the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI) that comprises 17 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through SGCI, since 2018-2023, COSTECH has received more than \$3 million from SGCI for research and innovation purposes.

He commended SGCI for their funding that in turn has helped researchers, scientists and innovators to conduct research in different areas and later on contribute to social and economic development in Tanzania and even transform people's life.

He said through COSTECH's research funding, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) were able to develop a new Newcastle disease vaccine for poultry.

"As COSTECH we are very happy to see what has been achieved so far because Tanzania Vaccine Institute (TVI) that is located at Kibaha in Coast Region has secured a huge market in Nigeria and is now exporting vaccines in Nigeria," he said.

TVI is the only Animal Vaccine producer in the Country. So far they produce six vaccine which are Temvac 1-2 Vaccine (for Newcastle dis-

eases), CBPP Vaccine, Anthrax Vaccine, Black quarter vaccine, Brucella Vaccine and Tecobax (mixture of Anthrax and Black quarter vaccine).

Elaborating on Media Award winners for 2023, Dr Philbert Nyinondi, the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB)'s country lead added that this year two journalists scooped top science journalism award among 33 journalists who were writing different stories relating to science and technologies across the country that was organized by OFAB in collaboration with COSTECH.

Ghana and Tanzania expect closer ties with China in minerals co-development

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SOME African countries are ready to deepen cooperation with China in the mineral exploration sector, based on their abundant natural reserves and the advancing industrial chain of Chinese companies, to foster mutual benefit.

The revelation was made recently by Ambassadors of Ghana and Tanzania to China.

Tanzania's ambassador to China, Khamis Mussa Omar, told the Global Times that China is one of its major cooperation partners, and both sides have investment cooperation in multiple sectors including mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, and all of them are going well.

"Tanzania has abundant untapped minerals including nickel, cobalt, manganese, copper, and graphite, which underscore huge potential for mineral cooperation with Chinese companies," said the ambassador.

In 2022, the China-Tanzania trade volume was recorded at \$8.31 billion, an increase of 23.7 percent year-on-year, and Chinese companies' investment stock in Tanzania reached \$1.44 billion, according to data from China's Ministry of Commerce.

"China has provided what African

countries need in the past several decades, such as infrastructure, without interference in the governance of the countries, and with huge respect for local laws, culture, and people," said Omar, noting that these factors are the most important competitive advantages of China compared with Western countries.

Omar encouraged Chinese companies to make full use of Tanzania's raw materials to facilitate local industrialization, and to establish more China-Tanzania direct flights to boost bilateral communication. Hammond said Ghana is eager to collaborate with more Chinese investors to realize mutual benefits in future cooperation under the BRI.

Ghana has maintained a close relationship with China over the past decade, including cooperation in the mineral sector and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partnership, Winfred Nii Okai Hammond, Ghana's ambassador to China said during the 2023 Global Mining Business Development Forum.

"Minerals are one of the economic backbones of Ghana, and we have established the Ghana Investment Promotion Council to attract investors to Ghana's mineral sector, especially Chinese investors," said Hammond.



EYESORE: Public health at serious peril with garbage lying abandoned for several days, as captured earlier this week at a spot Temeke municipality's Buza suburb. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Concern as 70 young people contract HIV/Aids daily in Uganda

KAMPALA

AS the country marked the World Aids Day 2023, experts have raised concerns that intergenerational and transactional sex is frustrating the fight against the disease.

About 68 young people below 25 years have acquired HIV/Aids on a daily basis in the country in the last two years, a trend which casts a shadow on the country's ambition of ending the virus by 2030.

According to analysis of the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) statistics, more than 50,000 new HIV infections in the last two years were

among young people aged 15-24 and children aged 0-14.

According to the UAC statistics, the young people contributed three-quarters of the new infections (39,000 out of 50,900 HIV infections) in 2021 and 2022.

Children aged 0-14, who acquired infections through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT), were 11,900. The 50,900 infections in the age group were part of a total of 106,000 new HIV infections for the general population in the two years.

"We are off target to ending Aids by 2030," said Dr Cordelia Katerebe, the national coordinator of HIV Care

and Treatment at the Health ministry.

"Currently as we speak, we still have new infections among children and we still have a burden of children and adolescents living with HIV," he adds.

Dr Katerebe explains that although the country has seen a 52 percent reduction in new HIV infections over the years, the new infections registered annually are still unacceptably high.

"The decline we expected to see for new infections is also off-track. We still see that the maternal anti-retroviral therapy (ART) coverage is

still low (at 72 percent) and that explains the cracks we continue to see. There still remains treatment inequity among children and adolescents," she says.

According to UAC figures, a total of 47,000 new infections were registered among children and young people below 25 years in 2010, a figure which is about two times higher than the 24,900 new infections registered in the same age group in 2022.

"There still remains treatment inequity among children and adolescents. That said, a lot of strides have been made, we may not be there but we know all the strategic inter-

ventions and all the initiatives that worked in the past," she adds.

The Health ministry, in a move to curb new HIV infections, last week launched the Global Alliance to End Aids in Children by 2030, an initiative hinged on four pillars; early testing and comprehensive treatment and care, as well as closing the treatment gap and optimising the continuity of treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV.

The initiative also seeks to prevent new HIV infections among pregnant and breastfeeding women and address rights, gender equality, and the social and structural barriers that

hinder access to services. Dr Nelson Musoba, the UAC director general, says ending Aids by 2030 is feasible.

He noted that this would involve embracing the strategies the government has come up with and taking personal responsibility in the fight would see the country achieve the target of ending Aids.

"Our goal of ending Aids by 2030 means zero new infections, zero Aids-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination. It is seven years to go and we believe we can hit that target if we get everyone involved," he says.

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2023

**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

With greater transparency, options for accountants, auditors narrowing

HIGHLY placed public administrators are making efforts to bring into line habits in accounting, to which auditing is tied.

The idea is to ensure that all concerned, in playing their role, bring conformity to what they do individually and as members of a profession - both ways earning public trust.

Accounting generally, and auditing in particular, used to be secretive spheres of public life - and, for most of the period since independence, reports by the Controller and Auditor General were intended as purely advisory to the president and not really to the government as a whole. Now it is tabled and extensively debated.

This feature alone shows that there is plenty of transparency at present compared to the past even while, judging by government measures and pronouncements from time to time, plenty remains to be done.

One difficult area is how far it is actually accountants and auditors that are to blame, or they are basically merely facilitators of what some other people having institutional ability to order them around.

This goes in line with the famous aphorism, "the buck stops here", as to who is the accounting authority - and, unavoidably, it is accountants who keep the books it is presumed that they are the ones best placed to offer professional advice.

The Minister of State charged with overseeing conduct in the public service recently made remarks in that direction. It is that accountants and auditors have to shape up more so that their profession goes in tandem with the changing digital technology atmosphere.

It was an auspicious occasion where members of the profession met for three days to look into what they are doing at present and the challenges they face as members of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors.

The minister was emphatic that being equipped with professional skills was not good enough in the absence of efficiency and integrity,

meaning taking into account professional and other values and being responsible for technical decisions.

One issue bedeviling not just the profession but the public service or stakeholders at large is the precise environment in which being accountable and standing for ethics makes a difference.

It often so happens that people are implored to emulate truly exemplary people, but the social reality is that people seek to emulate only "successful" people, where there is a different book of key rules.

It means that accountants are under enormous pressure to let things pass when the situation looks orderly enough and presentable, to a reasonable extent, even if not really so.

So we can say this is where the shoe pinches, to expect that accountants will stand their ground on professionally and legally proper use of public funds when they are under collective pressure to sign on.

At times charges relating to particular anomalies are raised against executive directors - who are the decision makers, not accountants. It is collective action, usually.

That is why it is a bit difficult to say what precisely accountants and auditors meeting in the nationwide conclave will really have learned at their recent conference.

The idea that they themselves need to be moral goes without saying, as all those doing the wrong thing on their own accord will likely suffer the consequences. However, when groups of powerful or empowered individuals engineer some crafty use of public funds, should anyone expect accountants and auditors to give opinion to the contrary?

And if these professionals stop short of telling senior public officials what the moral and other rules are supposed to be, can anyone frankly say they it was dereliction of duty on their part?

The fact is that they are there to serve rather than to save, if the world has heaped praise on failed heroes, let's consider that more than enough.

One wishes initiatives by Africa-led IPU will see peace resume in the ME

ONCE again African diplomats and their leaders are grappling with a global devastating issue that is not within the grasp of Africa as a zone or individual diplomats wishing to make notable contribution.

Mid-year saw South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, whose country is active in the BRICS diplomatic alliance, lead a mission to Ukraine and Russia wielding ideas for peace.

That was unlikely to tie things up, but some accords were sought on food security for African states as the situation was taxing after supply chains were disrupted, etc.

Another taxing matter is the outbreak of war between Israel and the Palestinian enclave of Gaza, in the wake of a rush into southern Israel of militants usually identified as resistance fighters.

This amounted to lighting a raging fire the world is trying to put it down, with a patchy accord for a humanitarian truce stuck.

National Assembly Speaker Dr Tula Ackson, in her recently "added" capacity as president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), has broken the wall of silence that Africa has observed since the outbreak of war, with exception of measures by South Africa to recall its envoy in Tel Aviv in the wake of the deaths and suffering in the Gaza Strip.

The world is torn between acknowledging Israel's right to defend itself, and thrusting efforts behind United Nations agencies and nearby states that demand major powers to talk Israel into peace talks.

The Speaker's effort arises in the latter context, to add a voice of concern on the matter, even if IPU and indeed any specific legislature, does not wield enough influence to really get anything done.

One wonders what sort of diplomacy can get the two parties to agree about basics, without which it is not easy to find workable peace. In 2018 the Abraham Accords worked elaborately by the then US government prepared the way for Israel to be accepted in the Middle East as a dignified member.

However, there are those who are not satisfied with only enclaves like Gaza and the West Bank ruling themselves.

That is why statesmen and women around the world who keep reminding global public opinion on the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution 242 of June 1967, after the Six-Day War, have to consider talking all concerned into accept peace.

IPU is an international organization of national parliaments, its primary purpose being to promote democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among its members.

Its other initiatives include facilitating the development of international law and institutions, strengthening the foundations and enhancing the vision for peace and the common good.

In the circumstances, having its top leader strive to add to international efforts to ensure peace in the Middle East is commendable intervention.

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Is there any single drug to treat cancer alongside cardiovascular disease?

By Bryan Smith

WHAT would you guess are the two biggest killers in the world? Based on media coverage, maybe you guessed gun violence, accidents or Covid-19.

However, the top two killers are actually cardiovascular disease and cancer. These two diseases combined account for nearly 50 per cent of deaths in the United States.

Cardiovascular disease and cancer share many parallels in their origins and how they develop. Nanoparticles offer one potential way to effectively treat both with reduced side-effects.

Cardiovascular disease and cancer seem to be quite different on the surface. But newly discovered parallels between the origins and development of these two diseases mean that some treatments may be effective against both.

I am a biomedical engineer who has spent two decades studying and developing ways to improve how drugs travel through the body. It turns out that tiny, engineered nanoparticles that can target specific immune cells may be a way to treat both cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease and cancer

Atherosclerosis is the most deadly form of cardiovascular disease. It results from inflammation and the buildup of fat, cholesterol and other lipids in the blood vessel wall, forming a plaque.

Lipids are fatty compounds that perform a variety of functions in your body. They are part of your cell membranes and help control what goes in and out of your cells.

Lipids help with moving and storing energy, absorbing vitamins and making hormones. However, having too much of some lipids is harmful.

Most heart attacks are caused by plaque rupture. The body's attempt to heal the wound can form a blood clot that blocks blood vessels and result in a heart attack.

On the other hand, cancer usually arises from genetic mutations that make cells divide uncontrollably. If untreated, rapid cell growth can be destructive because it is difficult to stop without harming healthy organs. Cancer can start from and occur in any organ of the body.

Although cardiovascular disease and cancer appear to have different origins and causes, they share many risk factors. For example, obesity, smoking, chronic stress and certain lifestyle choices like poor diet are linked to both diseases.

Why might these two diseases share similar risk factors? Many of the similarities between cardiovascular disease and cancer can be traced to inflammation.

Chronic inflammation is a primary cause of atherosclerosis by damaging the cells lining the blood vessels and progressively worsening plaques.



Identifying the commonalities between cardiovascular disease and cancer could lead to improved treatments for both. Photo credit: Sveta Zi/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Likewise, chronic inflammation can initiate cancer by increasing mutations and support cancer cell survival and spread by increasing the growth of the blood vessels that feed them nutrients and suppressing the body's immune response.

Treating two conditions at once

Research hints that therapies designed for cancer can also help treat atherosclerosis. One example is drugs that target immune cells called macrophages in tumours and cause them to eat cancer cells. It turns out that a similar drug can cause macrophages to clear dead and dying cells in atherosclerosis, which shrinks plaques.

Another example is antidiabetic therapies that prevent the breakdown of glucose. Glucose, or sugar, is the body's main source of energy.

These drugs can make diseased tumour blood vessels and atherosclerotic blood vessels look more "normal", essentially reversing the disease process in those vessels. They can also reduce inflammation in atherosclerosis.

Although currently marketed treatments like statins and fibrates can lower lipid levels and blood clotting in atherosclerosis, these drugs have not sufficiently addressed the risk of death from cardiovascular disease.

To improve outcomes, clinicians are increasingly using multiple drugs directed against different targets. One intriguing class of treatments is sodium glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors, which are traditionally used to treat diabetes.

Researchers have shown that these drugs both provide significant protection from cardiovascular disease and treat cancer.

Clinical trials on statins and so-

through openings in new blood vessels grown in inflammatory conditions.

This is known as the enhanced permeation and retention effect, where larger molecules and nanoparticles accumulate in tissues with leaky blood vessels and remain there for some time because of their size.

Researchers are applying this effect, first discovered in cancer, to improve drug delivery for cardiovascular disease - which can also involve leaky blood vessels.

Improving drug development

The molecular pathways which cancer and cardiovascular disease share have important regulatory implications. The costs involved in getting drugs into the clinic are enormous.

The possibility of applying the same drug to two different patient populations offers big financial and risk-reduction incentives. It also offers the potential for simultaneous treatment for patients with both diseases.

Nanoparticle-based cancer drugs first entered the clinic in 1995, and researchers have developed many others since.

However, there is currently only one cardiovascular nanodrug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. This suggests opportunity for new nanotherapy approaches to improve cardiovascular drug efficacy and reduce side-effects.

Because of the parallels between cancer and cardiovascular disease, cancer nanodrugs may be strong drug candidates to treat cardiovascular disease - and vice versa.

As basic science discovers other molecular parallels between these diseases, patients will be the beneficiaries of better therapies that can treat both cancer and cardiovascular disease.

***This article is from The Conversation, an independent nonprofit news organisation dedicated to sharing the knowledge of academic experts. Bryan Smith Bryan Smith is Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Michigan State University in the US. He receives funding from the US National Institutes of Health (the National Cancer Institute) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He has also received funding from the American Heart Association, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust.**

These nanotubes can carry anything that researchers put on them, including drugs and imaging contrast agents.

The immune cells carrying the nanotubes naturally home in on tumours through the inflammatory response. Since cancer and atherosclerosis are both inflammatory diseases, my research team and I have been studying whether nanotube-loaded immune cells may also serve as delivery vehicles to plaques.

Nanotubes can be loaded with a therapy that stimulates immune cells to "eat" plaque debris and thus reduce plaque size.

Moreover, restricting drug delivery specifically to those immune cells reduces the risk of off-target side-effects. These nanotubes can also be used to improve diagnosis of cardiovascular disease by highlighting plaques.

Another way nanoparticles can enter tumours is by squeezing

This dedicated doctor helps women ward off cervical cancer

By Athar Parvaiz

WHILE working as a doctor in the initial months of his medical career in southern India, a telephone call from his home in the Ladakh Himalayas convinced Nordan Otzer to involve himself with cervical cancer awareness.

"While I was working in a hospital in rural Tamil Nadu (in 2007), one day I received a distressing call from my family informing me that my mother's health had deteriorated and she urgently needed my presence back home," says Otzer, an ENT surgeon who is now in his mid-40s and works as a medical practitioner and social worker in Ladakh, a cold desert in the Himalayan Plateau in India.

"When I saw my mother lying on the bed, she was hardly recognizable. It was only at that point that she disclosed to me that she had been experiencing persistent spotting and occasional abdominal pain that had worsened over time," Otzer tells IPS. "Unfortunately, she only sought medical assistance when her pain (because of cervical cancer) became intolerable."

According to the WHO, a large majority of cervical cancers (more than 95%) are caused by human papillomavirus (HPV), which is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract.

"Although most HPV infections clear up on their own and most pre-cancerous lesions resolve spontaneously, there is a risk for all women that HPV infection may become chronic and pre-cancerous lesions progress to invasive cervical cancer," reads a segment of a fact sheet about cervical cancer on the WHO website.

"When screening detects an HPV infection or pre-cancerous lesions, these can easily be treated, and cancer can be avoided. Screening can also detect cancer at an early stage where treatment has a high potential for cure," the WHO fact sheet says and urges the countries that screening (of women for HPV infection) "should start from 30 years of age in the general population of women, with regular screening with a validated HPV test every 5 to 10 years, and from 25 years of age for women living with HIV."

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, with 90 percent of an estimated 604,000 new cases and deaths worldwide in 2020 occurring in low- and middle-income countries, according to the WHO.

Otzer says his mother was flown to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi for treatment, but her condition deteriorated, and she succumbed to the disease within days.

"Throughout the journey from my home to Delhi, she held my hand, perhaps also hoping that her doctor son would save her life. But unfortunately, I couldn't do anything except watch helplessly while she slowly faded away," Otzer recalls ruefully.

As someone who has studied medical sciences, says Otzer, "I knew my mother's life could have been saved if she was aware of cervical cancer and its preventable measures."

"My mother's death due to cancer altered the course of my career, leading me to make the choice to remain and contribute to my own community." Since those days, Otzer says that he started making efforts to launch an awareness campaign about cervical cancer and screening of women for HPV infection in Ladakh, a remote mountainous region more than 14,000 feet above sea level in the Tibetan Plateau, which remains cut off from the rest of the world in winters.

Since 2009, Otzer, with the help of his local supporter, Stanzin Dawa, and visiting doctors from Singapore led by Swee Chong Quek, has organized over 140 awareness and screening events for women across Ladakh, where villages are spread out across the terrain and not easily reachable.

"We have conducted screenings for 12,400 women thus far, among whom one out of every 10 women has precancerous lesions. This implies that without timely treatment, these lesions could progress into full-blown cancer," Otzer says.



Nordan Otzer during a cancer awareness event in a village in Ladakh, India. Credit: Athar Parvaiz/IPS

Besides the logistical challenges, such as travelling long distances and traversing tough terrain, other challenges, according to Otzer, included women being too shy and reticent.

"Women in Ladakh tend to be reticent about discussing women's health matters openly, not even with their own family members. Therefore, when I initially launched a cervical cancer screening program, there was a noticeable reluctance among them to undergo checkups," he says, adding that initially, women would avoid making eye contact and refrain from asking any questions.

"However, with the passage of time, they gradually became more receptive and started attending our screening camps for examinations."

Cervical cancer awareness and India

In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women, and India contributes the largest proportion of the global cervical cancer burden. In December last year, the federal government in India urged the state governments to create awareness and take steps to prevent cervical cancer.

According to an article published by Lancet in March 2023, the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare plans to vaccinate 68 million girls across India against human papillomavirus (HPV) by the end of 2025, which will be followed by vaccination of a further 11.2 million girls aged 9 years and older each year.

Cervical cancer accounted for 9.4 percent of all cancers

and 18.3 percent (123,907) of new cases in 2020 in India, says this December 2021 Springer study, adding that cervical cancer is still among the most common cancers in India and a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in women in low- and middle-income countries.

According to the Springer study, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for females in 12 Indian states. "The situation is more alarming in rural areas where the majority of women are illiterate and ignorant about the hazards of cervical cancer and healthcare resources are scarce.

Research has established that awareness and the availability of medical infrastructure play a significant role in preventing cervical cancer. Results of a study published in the Asian

Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention have confirmed that stages (of cervical cancer) "are strongly correlated with survival outcome, and early stages of the disease are associated with an exceptionally favourable prognosis provided they are adequately treated, whereas survival for stage III and IV cancers was dismally low."

A study published by Lancet in October 2023 found heterogeneity in cervical cancer survival across India, with higher survival rates in urban areas where healthcare facilities are much better than predominantly rural and mountainous north and northeastern regions.

"The disparity in survival between the populations could explain the overall effectiveness of the health care system. This informs policymakers to

identify and address inequities in the health care system," the study says, emphasizing the "importance of promoting awareness, early detection, and improving the health care system."

IPS UN Bureau Report



My mother's death due to cancer altered the course of my career, leading me to make the choice to remain and contribute to my own community." Since those days, Otzer says that he started making efforts to launch an awareness

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Climate crisis is a 'substantial risk' in fight against malaria, says WHO

By Sarah Johnson

THE climate crisis poses a major threat to the fight against malaria, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), with evidence suggesting extreme weather events and rising temperatures have already led to spikes in cases.

Mosquitoes, the carriers of the disease, thrive in warm, damp and humid conditions, which are increasing with global heating. "The changing climate poses a substantial risk to progress against malaria, particularly in vulnerable regions," said the WHO director general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Sustainable and resilient malaria responses are needed now more than ever, coupled with urgent actions to slow the pace of global warming and reduce its effects." Although data on the long-term impact of the climate crisis is scarce, the WHO's world malaria report, published on Thursday, said rising temperatures have contributed to malaria transmission in African highland areas that were previously free of the disease.

This is the first time the annual report has had an entire chapter dedicated to the climate crisis and its links to malaria. It said Pakistan saw a five-fold increase in cases after severe flooding last year - from 500,000 reported cases in 2021 to 2.6 million in 2022. Standing water became an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Peter Sands, the executive director of the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria,

said: "I would put climate change right up there as the thing that is changing the game on malaria in ways that we can see happening, but we don't know fully the magnitude and how it's going to unfold."

Sands added that other factors related to the climate crisis - including displacement, the destruction of health services and increased levels of food insecurity and malnutrition - threatened progress to end the disease.

"If anything, the discussion of the potential impact in the world malaria report is conservative," he said. "We could well be seeing more dramatic consequences, partly because of the second and third-order things."

Dr Photini Sinnis, the deputy director of the malaria institute at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of public health, said the climate crisis "is going to have an impact", but that it would be hard to predict.

The number of global malaria cases in 2022 remains significantly higher than before the Covid-19 pandemic, despite a slight decline in numbers, said the report. In 2022, there were 249m cases compared with 233m in 2019. The number of deaths also rose from 576,000 in 2019 to 608,000 last year.

That amounts to nearly 12,000 lives each week, and pregnant women and children under the age of five are most susceptible to the disease. Most of the cases and deaths are in Africa.

The report highlighted other threats to eradicating malaria, in-



cluding the growing resistance to insecticides and an invasive mosquito, Anopheles stephensi, which has spread beyond its native Asian and Arabian habitats to Africa.

The species has been linked to malaria outbreaks and thrives in urban settings, endures high temperatures and is resistant to many insecticides. Its spread, along with rapid urbanisation, could heighten malaria risks in African cities, said the WHO.

Resistance to medicines, including artemisinin, which was critical to reducing the global burden of malaria between 2000 and

2015, is also a growing concern, according to the report.

But there are signs of hope. Sinnis and Sands said there are a number of measures and initiatives in place to tackle resistance, such as the distribution of improved insecticide-treated bed nets, and the development of new insecticides and antimalarial drugs.

Earlier this year, a highly effective malaria vaccine - R21/Matrix-M - was recommended for widespread use by the WHO. Doses of another vaccine, RTS,S, endorsed by the agency in 2021, arrived in Cameroon last week, one of

12 African countries expected to receive doses over the next two years.

The WHO said the RTS,S vaccine had resulted in a substantial reduction in severe malaria and a 13% drop in early childhood deaths in the areas it was administered compared with areas it was not introduced.

"We have, including the vaccines, quite a powerful set of tools," said Sands. "The issue is we're not even deploying them to their full extent. The world is not investing as much as we should to deal with malaria as it is, let alone malaria fuelled by climate change."

Loss and damage fund approved at UN's COP28 climate summit in Dubai

DUBAI

UNITED Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Sultan Al Jaber has called for "proactively engagement" of fossil fuel companies as part of the solution to climate challenges.

The United Nation's annual climate summit is under way in Dubai, with world leaders approving a climate disaster fund that will help vulnerable nations cope with the impact of drought, floods and rising seawater.

The agreement marked a "positive signal of momentum" at the start of the 2023 conference - known as COP28 - its host UAE's Sultan al-Jaber said in the opening ceremony on Thursday.

Al-Jaber, who is the UAE's minister of industry and also heads the national oil company, is chairing the summit for its 28th meeting. His leading role has drawn backlash from critics who believe his oil ties should disqualify him from the climate post.

In opening remarks, al-Jaber made the case that the world must "proactively engage" fossil fuel companies in phasing out emissions, pointing to progress by some national oil companies in adopting net-zero targets for 2050.

"I am grateful that they have stepped up to join this game-changing journey," al-Jaber said in opening remarks. "But, I must say, it is not enough, and I know that they can do much

more." The UN's climate chief, Simon Stiell, gave a more stark assessment, saying there must be a "terminal decline" to the fossil fuel era if we want to stop "our own terminal decline".

People stand for a moment of silence for victims in Gaza during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) opening in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November 30, 2023. REUTERS/Amr Alfiky

People stand for a moment of silence for victims in Gaza during the COP28 opening in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November 30 [Amr Alfiky/Reuters]

With more than 70,000 attendees, the two-week-long affair is billed as the largest-ever

climate gathering.

Among its expected attendees are dozens of world leaders, including the heads of state of France, Japan, the UK, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Brazil. Also represented are crowds of activists, lobbyists, and business leaders, including billionaire Bill Gates.

However, the presidents of the world's two biggest polluters - the US and China - are not attending. The summit comes at a pivotal time, with global emissions still climbing and 2023 projected to be the hottest year on record. Scientists warn the world must commit to accelerating climate action or risk the worst impacts of a warming planet.

UN Secretary-General An-

tonio Guterres said leaders should aim for a complete "phase-out" of fossil fuels, a proposal opposed by some powerful nations that has dogged past negotiations.

On Thursday, nations formally approved the launch of a "loss and damage" fund to compensate climate-vulnerable countries after a year of hard-fought negotiations over how it would work.

Later in the summit attendees are due to review and calibrate the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC's) terms, Paris Agreement, and Kyoto Protocol, a binding treaty agreed in 1997 for industrialised nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This

year, UNFCC members will also face their first Global Stocktake (GST) - a scorecard analysing countries' progress towards the Paris Agreement - so they can adapt their next climate action plans which are due in 2025.

At the same time, host UAE aims to marshal an agreement on the tripling of renewable energy and doubling the annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

Rallying a common position on these points will be challenging, as COP requires all nations - whether dependent on oil, sinking beneath rising seas or locked in geopolitical rivalry - to act unanimously.

The UAE sees itself as a bridge between the rich developed nations most responsible for

historic emissions and the rest of the world, which has contributed less to global warming but suffers its worst consequences.

But the decision for it to host has attracted a firestorm of criticism, particularly as the man appointed to steer the talks, al-Jaber, is also head of UAE state oil giant ADNOC.

Al-Jaber, who also chairs a clean energy company, has defended his record, and strenuously denied this week that he used the COP presidency to pursue new fossil fuel deals after allegations reported by the BBC.

On Thursday, al-Jaber said the "role of fossil fuels" must be considered in any deal at the climate talks, saying "it is essential that no issue is left off the table."

UN Women, EABC forge alliance to advance gender equality and empower women in business

By Guardian Reporter

UN Women - the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment and the East Africa Business Council (EABC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration in advancing gender equality and empower women in the business sector across East Africa.

The MoU, signed by representatives of both organizations, solidifies their commitment to collectively address gender disparities and enhance opportunities for women in various spheres of business, particularly in trade, policy advocacy, digital inclusion, capacity building, and research initiatives.

Dr Paulina Chiwangu, Country Representative of UN Women, Uganda said: "UN Women is delighted to formalize this partnership with EABC. This collaboration reflects our joint commitment to promote gender equality and provide tangible support to women entrepreneurs and business leaders in the region."

EABC, as a key regional body promoting trade and investment in East Africa, has continuously worked towards fostering an inclusive business environment. John Bosco Kalisa, CEO of the East Africa Business Council said: "We are proud to collaborate with UN Women to further our efforts in supporting women in business. This partnership aligns with our vision of enabling women's participation in trade and economic activities, amplifying their voices, and creating sustainable opportunities."

The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration between UN Women and EABC, covering various key areas of cooperation including



Dr Paulina Chiwangu (L), Country Representative of UN Women in Uganda, and John Bosco Kalisa, CEO of the East Africa Business Council, during the signing of MoU to foster collaboration in advancing gender equality and empower women in the business sector across East Africa

joint resource mobilization to advance gender equality and women's empower-

ment in trade initiatives and influence gender-responsive trade, tax regimes, and investments.

The MoU also includes advancing and

promoting women in cross-border trade and business through innovative solutions and support, digital inclusion and promotion of gender responsive e-commerce, focusing on women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs as well as capacity building and training programs for women entrepreneurs, encompassing entrepreneurship skills, financial management, leadership development, and market access.

On research and knowledge management, it seeks to identify challenges faced by women in business and inform policy interventions. On business development services, it seeks to provide mentoring, coaching, access to finance, and networking opportunities for women-owned enterprises.

The agreement also underscores the parties' commitment to exchanging information and documents, recognizing each other's contributions publicly, and settling disputes amicably through established mechanisms.

The MoU will be effective for three years and is extendable by mutual agreement.

Both UN Women and EABC are enthusiastic about the collaborative potential outlined in the agreement and anticipate substantial progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the business landscape across East Africa.

Public transport changes as govt sinks in Rwf20bn

KIGALI
The government has injected up to Rwf20 billion in public transport as one of the interventions meant to fix the shortage of buses and long queues at bus stations in the City of Kigali.



The changes include the government's move to buy 200 buses from Chinese manufacturers and provide them at a subsidised price for potential investors in public transport.
1. Govt orders new buses
Out of 300 buses needed in Kigali, the government has bought 200. Half of them will be available by the end of the week, Minister of Infrastructure Jimmy Gasore said, adding that the remainder will be available before the end of February 2024.

to offer the investors loans at lower interest rates, Tusabe said, adding that the new buses will cost around Rwf20 billion. The Business Development Fund (BDF) has also agreed to sponsor up to 70 per cent of the value of the collateral required by the banks. Minister of Infrastructure Jimmy Gasore said the government has ordered up to 200 new buses, which interested investors will be able to buy at a subsidised price.

2. Public transport opened up

The new regulations have opened up the public transport sector to anyone with a bus that meets the required standards. Previously, the City of Kigali would call for investors or companies to bid for the provision of public transport. The buses that are allowed to carry passengers in the city should have at least 29 seats. Bigger buses that carry 70 or more passengers will be given priority on main roads in the city to ensure adequate passenger service. All operators are required

to have cashless payment systems in place.
3. No more monopolised lines
As more stakeholders have been encouraged to invest in the public transport sector, Gasore said no company or operator would monopolise a route. "Any individual who will express interest in investing in transport will find a route to operate on. The City of Kigali needs a lot of buses and there will no longer be routes served by one operator or company,"

he said. There are at least two or more transport operators per route in order to allow competition and motivate them to deliver good service to passengers, Gasore said. Investors can also identify underserved routes and request the authorities the licence to operate in them, he said.
4. Unlicensed seven-seater vehicles no longer allowed
The government has terminated a directive that allowed owners of seven-seater vehi-

cles to use them to ferry passengers without a transport operator licence after introducing new changes in Kigali's public transport. The move, which was announced in early October allowed the owners of unlicensed seven-seater cars to carry passengers at a negotiated fare and without paying taxes. Minister Gasore said it was a temporary measure introduced to deal with the shortage of buses and long queues at bus stations, but the government has now taken further long-term measures to fix the issues in public transport in the City of Kigali.
5. Subsidies to bus companies to stop
After the new buses have been deployed to the roads, government subsidies will stop. The subsidies were introduced to cushion bus companies from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. "We believe the subsidy has helped a lot since the Covid pandemic, but we need to have a sustainable solution," Tusabe said. "Once we have provided sufficient buses at an affordable price, there won't be any need for subsidies, and we will continue to support investors in this sector in more ways

other than through subsidies." In July five state-of-the-art buses arrived as part of the measures to address the issues faced by commuters in public transportation and ensure the smooth functioning of the system. Public transportation has always been a crucial mode of commuting, especially in urban areas like Kigali. The buses have been acquired by the Jali Transport Company, whose fleets normally operate from Nyabugogo Bus Park to Kimironko Bus Park, Downtown Bus Park to Kimironko Bus Park, Kimironko Bus Park to Batsinda, and other areas in Kigali, have been added, a local news outlet reported. Additionally, the company is expecting 20 more Yutong buses— a Chinese manufacturer of commercial vehicles, especially electric buses, headquartered in Zhengzhou, Henan, with the intent to reduce the queues during peak hours, particularly in the evening. Innocent Twahirwa, Managing Director of Jali Transport, said, "They are new models that closely resemble the older ones. However, they are incorporating updates and improvements in various aspects such as aesthetics, safety features, comfort and performance."



Kiv Moodley, MD Workday South Africa

Workday makes a stage play for SA market with Skills Cloud kits

CAPE TOWN
Workday, a cloud-based HR solutions provider, has revealed plans to aggressively roll out its Skills Cloud in South Africa, as part of its efforts to nurture talent in the country. Skills Cloud is a Workday solution designed to assist businesses in developing a culture that discovers and organises the skills (and skills gaps) within their workforce. Kiv Moodley, MD, Workday South Africa, spoke with ITWeb Africa about the company's local aspirations.

nology that we have, we can establish that someone within an organisation - it could be a banker with a Java skill set or someone working in marketing with a specialisation in mergers and acquisitions by doing an MBA - and occasionally a corporation will be looking for such skills, but they will look elsewhere." He went on to say Skills Cloud can be used to run a skills audit, and to identify the skills within an organisation and where they exist. With that knowledge, it's then possible to identify the 'missing pieces of the puzzle that exist'. "We believe that there are 20,000 workday consultants globally, but there is a huge opportunity in South Africa. We're speaking to various role players from partners and customers, and receiving different ideas about how we may launch some kind of academy in the future to teach more Workday consultants."

Uzalo TV advertisement featuring a group of performers and the text 'MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM'.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE table listing various TV programs and their broadcast times across different days of the week.

Modi meets with UAE Vice President, other world leaders on COP28 Summit sidelines

DUBAI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with the UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and other world leaders yesterday on the sidelines of the 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC (COP28) Summit.

PM Modi praised the UAE Vice President for his "visionary leadership" on various issues. Taking to X, PM Modi stated, "It was a privilege to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. His visionary leadership on a wide range of issues is truly commendable."

He also met Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai. In a post shared on X, PM Modi stated, "Meaningful conversations with @president_uz Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rahmon on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai."

The Prime Minister also met Jordan King Abdullah II on the sidelines of the Summit. During the meeting, the two sides held "enriching and reflective" discussions of deep-rooted friendship between India and Jordan.

Taking to X, PM Modi stated, "Delighted to meet His Majesty @KingAbdullahII of Jordan at COP28. Our discussions were enriching and reflective of our nations' deep-rooted friendship. Looking forward to strengthening our ties further."

PM Modi also met with Netherlands counterpart Mark Rutte. The two lead-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on his arrival at the venue of the annual Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) Leadership Pavilion, in Dubai yesterday. ANI

ers warmly met each other and held talks.

In a post shared on X, PM Modi stated, "It's always refreshing to exchange ideas with my friend Mark Rutte of Netherlands."

PM Modi, along with other world leaders have gathered in Dubai for the COP28 World Climate Action Summit. Earlier in the day, world leaders were seen posing for the customary 'family photograph' at the Summit began on Friday.

Earlier today, PM Modi was received by UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the venue of the 28th edition of the climate change conference.

He interacted with various World leaders including Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and European Union Presi-

dent Ursula von der Leyen.

This morning PM Modi took to social media platform X to thank Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Antonio Guterres for their warm welcome.

"Glad to join the COP-28 Summit, a pivotal platform for global climate action. Looking forward to engaging in meaningful dialogues and collaborations for a sustainable future. I thank my brother HH @MohamedBinZayed and @UN Secretary General Mr. @antonioguterres for the warm welcome," PM Modi posted on X.

He warmly interacted with both leaders and they posed for a picture together. During his stay in Dubai, PM Modi will participate in two special initiatives on climate events.

PM Modi is scheduled to address the

opening session of the World Climate Summit Action Summit, which is a High-Level Segment of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He will attend the Presidency's session on Transforming Climate Finance, which is to be hosted by the Presidency of the COP28 - UAE. PM Modi will also attend a high-level event on the Green Credits Programme, which is being co-hosted by India and UAE.

Later he will also participate in the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) Event co-hosted by India and Sweden.

This is PM Modi's third appearance at the World Climate Action Summit after his visits to Paris in 2015 and Glasgow in 2021. On his arrival at Dubai airport on Thursday night, PM Modi was welcomed by UAE Deputy Prime Minister Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Members of the Indian diaspora, waiting outside a hotel, sang 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' and chanted slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', as well as 'Vande Mataram'.

Upon his arrival in UAE, PM Modi in a post on X stated, "Landed in Dubai to take part in the COP-28 Summit. Looking forward to the proceedings of the Summit, which are aimed at creating a better planet."

COP28 is being held from November 28-December 12 under the Presidency of the UAE. The Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC provides a unique opportunity to impart momentum for collective action towards combating the shared challenge of climate change.

ANI

'West determined to dismember Russia, eliminate its peoples'

MOSCOW

THE strategic aim of the Anglo-Saxons, for the sake of which they are imposing neo-Nazism on Europe, is to dismember Russia and eliminate the Russian world, the secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolay Patrushev believes.

"The West has entered a new phase of confrontation with Russia. The Anglo-Saxons unceremoniously impose neo-Nazi ideology on the Europeans in attempts to achieve their strategic aim - to dismember our country, to ruin the Russian world and to exterminate the peoples of Russia," he wrote in the preface to Alexander Shchipkov's book *Unfinished Nazism*. The presentation of the book took place in Moscow on Thursday.

Patrushev (pictured) pointed out that the ideas of the Nazis were picked up by the masterminds of color revolutions, who impose xenophobia for the violent displacement of legitimate governments and for creating chaos in once stable regions.

"For justifying global inequality and for perpetuating the unipolar world, the Atlanticists do not hesitate to use the ideas of racial, ethnic, cultural and economic superiority, depriving entire peoples of opportunities for independent socio-economic and cultural-civilizational development," he stated.

Eradication of Nazi ideas

According to Patrushev, by fueling interethnic discord, nurturing and fully supporting the proponents of extremism, chauvinism and all forms of radicalism, the West is creating a real threat to democratic and universal values, security, social stability and the unity of society.

"The approach being promoted by Russia is based on intolerance to any forms of discrimination and the prevention of attempts to excuse and exonerate the Nazis and whitewash their atrocities," he said.

As Patrushev noted, Shchipkov's book confirms the importance of continuing research aimed at "eradicating the ideas of neo-Nazism and at developing critical thinking that rejects any attempts to spread anti-human views and manipulate ethnic myths."

Alexander Shchipkov (1957, Leningrad) is the rector of the Russian Orthodox University, professor of the Department of Philosophy at the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Doctor of Political Science. Deputy Head of the World Russian People's Council.

Agencies

Palestine's Abbas advocates full Gaza ceasefire at meeting with Blinken

CAIRO

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas held a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in the city of Ramallah, during which he spoke in favor of strengthening the current truce and achieving a full ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, the Wafa news agency reported.

During the talks, the Palestinian leader "pointed to the need to strengthen the current truce in the Gaza Strip in order to achieve a complete ceasefire and end the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Abbas pointed to the importance of significantly increasing the supply of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian enclave, especially medicine, food, water and fuel, as well as "support for the reopening of hospitals in the Gaza Strip to treat thousands of wounded."

The Palestinian president expressed his rejection of Israeli policies and called on the US to intervene to "prevent the expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land."

The Palestinian leader also pointed to the impossibility of accepting any plans by the Israeli authorities "to separate the Gaza Strip [from the West Bank], which is an integral part of the Palestinian state."

Abbas advocated for the state of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations and to hold an international peace conference, stressing that "peace can only be achieved through the implementation of the decision to establish two independent states, including the Palestinian state."

Agencies

Black Mermaid: I was always the only black person on the boat

Lorna Hankin and Natalia Zuo

ZANDILE Ndhlovu grew up in Soweto, a black township in South Africa on the edge of Johannesburg, where no-one ever dreamed of travelling hundreds of miles to swim in the ocean. There wasn't even a swimming pool.

"And there was this narrative of, 'Black people don't swim, we don't do that stuff,'" she says.

So she wasn't prepared for her first snorkelling trip, in Bali, at the age of 28.

"The captain told everybody to kit up," she recalls.

"I didn't even know what 'kit up' means. I didn't even know what a snorkel did. When I jumped into the water, I started freaking out. I thought I was drowning."

But Ndhlovu says that once she became settled, she felt at peace.

"I told myself to calm down. I looked beneath the surface of the water and couldn't believe the overwhelming blue, the yellow fish, and the sun rays on the coral reef. It was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life."

The experience prompted her to take a diving course, and three years ago she became South Africa's first black female

freediving instructor.

It wasn't always an easy journey.

"I was always the only black person on the boat," she says.

"It was interesting because you go through various things, whether it's language, and everybody is speaking, Afrikaans... or whether it's your wetsuit not fitting, or someone asking: 'Are you gonna dive with all of that hair?'"

People in the black community also had questions, she says.

"My friends would say: 'Why do you do white-people things?'"

This increased her determination not to become another black person working in a dive shop once she had qualified, but to bring about change - to ensure that children of colour have access to the ocean.

And that is how the Black Mermaid Foundation was born, set up and part-funded by Ndhlovu from her base in Cape Town, on South Africa's south-west coast, where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet.

The foundation organises ocean exploration programmes for children and young people across the country, where they learn to swim, watch penguins play, and discover the African Sea Forest, a vast underwater ecosystem.

Leah, aged 13, is one of those



Zandile Ndhlovu became South Africa's first black female certified freediving instructor

young people.

"I love the ocean, but I was scared to go deep," she says.

"Zandi was very patient with me. She made me relaxed because I was panicking that I was going to drown."

"It's very inspiring to see how brave she is and how in love she is with the ocean. It makes me feel that whatever I love can become a part of me in life, just like how the ocean is something to her."

Ndhlovu has been named as one of the BBC's 100 Women of 2023.

She is now broadening the foundation's work to include what she calls "ocean hubs" across the country, which she

describes as "ocean-inspired spaces with books, and a place where kids can play and escape from the everyday".

The first is being set up in the township of Langa, just over 10km (six miles) from central Cape Town.

"Langa has many challenges, whether it is drugs, gender-based violence, wild poverty - there's so much that goes on. So, I thought what would happen if we had this hub where the kids could come to read and learn together?" Ndhlovu says.

She hopes this programme will create a diverse group of "ocean guardians" and will encourage black and brown African communities to be part of

the climate change conversation.

"As Africans, we cannot take the Western ideal of conservation, and use it in Africa in the way it has always existed," Zandile Ndhlovu warns.

"The Western narrative always says, 'water and marine life before people'. But you cannot protect the waters, when you don't know what your family is going to eat tonight."

She says elders in the black community can make a key contribution.

"We need to use the indigenous knowledge with the Western knowledge, not one above the other, as both are important. "Then we can begin to build something incredible."

Despite her busy life, Ndhlovu always swims or dives at least two to three times a week, even if it's "15 minutes in-between meetings".

"The sea is my sanctuary," she says.

"It's where I go to think, to release. I love the feeling of being held up by this large body of water."

"There is no expectation, it's just me in this space where I find my voice, my courage, my identity. From there, I'm able to show up in the world a little bit braver."

BRICS countries speak up for justice, peace on Palestinian-Israeli issue

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Nov. 21 attended the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestinian-Israeli issue and delivered an important speech.

Explaining China's position on the Palestinian-Israeli issue, he pointed out that it's urgent and imperative to end hostilities and achieve a ceasefire immediately, keep humanitarian corridors secure and unimpeded and prevent the conflict from spilling over. He stressed that the only viable way to break the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the two-state solution.

His remarks addressed both immediate and long-term priorities and identifies the direction of effectively solving the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

The virtual summit was the first summit since the enlargement of BRICS, and an important meeting convened by the BRICS countries at a critical moment of escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

The BRICS cooperation mechanism is an important platform for emerging markets and developing countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and safeguard common interests. It always focuses on promoting world peace and development and addresses major international issues based on their merits, making fair remarks and taking fair

actions, and bringing to the world more certainty, stability and positive energy.

As Xi pointed out, given the current circumstances, it is very timely and very important that BRICS countries meet and speak up for justice and for peace on the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

Xi noted that the parties to the conflict must end hostilities and achieve a ceasefire immediately, stop all violence and attacks against civilians, release civilians held captive, and act to prevent loss of more lives and spare people from more miseries.

He stressed that humanitarian corridors must be kept secure and unimpeded, and more humanitarian assistance should be provided to the population in Gaza. The collective punishment of people in Gaza in the form of forced transfer or water, electricity and fuel deprivation must stop.

Besides, the international community must act with practical measures to prevent the conflict from spilling over and endangering stability in the Middle East as a whole, he added.

These Chinese proposals are highly targeted and constructive, aligning with the common aspirations of the majority of countries and reflecting the unanimous call of peace-loving people world-



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech titled "Working Toward a Ceasefire and Realizing Lasting Peace and Sustainable Security" at the extraordinary joint meeting of BRICS leaders and leaders of invited BRICS members on the situation in the Middle East with particular reference to Gaza on Nov. 21, 2023. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

wide.

The Palestinian issue has always been at the core of the Middle East problem. Without a just resolution to the Palestinian issue, there would be no lasting peace and stability in the Middle East.

Xi has emphasized on many occasions that the only viable way to break the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli conflict lies in the two-state solution, in the restoration of the legitimate national rights of Palestine, and in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine.

The root cause of the Palestinian-Israeli situation is the fact that the right of the Pal-

estianian people to statehood, their right to existence, and their right of return have long been ignored. The historical injustices done to the Palestinian people should not be left unattended indefinitely. The legitimate rights and interests of a nation are not up for trade, and the demand to establish an independent state shall not be denied.

China calls for early convening of an international peace conference that is more authoritative to build international consensus for peace and work toward an early solution to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable.

Since the outbreak of the latest Palestinian-Israeli conflict, China has been working actively to promote peace talks and a ceasefire. The fact that the delegation of Arab-Islamic foreign ministers made China its first stop for international mediation reflected their trust in China and the tradition of mutual understanding and support between the two sides.

At the UN Security Council, China has acted in its capacity as president to facilitate the adoption of the resolution, which calls for extended humanitarian pauses and corridors, the protection of civilians, and the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The international community highly praised China for consistently upholding a fair position on the Palestinian issue and commended China's role as the rotating president of the UN Security Council in pushing for the adoption of the first resolution since the outbreak of the latest Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

China has provided humanitarian assistance to help ease the humanitarian plight in Gaza. This includes \$2 million of emergency humanitarian assistance provided through the Palestinian National Authority and UN agencies, and emergency humanitarian supplies worth 15 million yuan (\$2.11 million), such as food and medicine, to the Gaza Strip with the help of Egypt. China will provide more supplies and assistance according to the needs of the people in Gaza.

The BRICS virtual meeting to coordinate positions and actions on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict marked a good start for greater BRICS cooperation following its enlargement. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China will continue to maintain close communication with relevant parties, and make utmost efforts to protect civilians, ease tensions, restart negotiations, and strive for peace.

People's Daily



Extra Bongo Band's Director, Ally Choki.

Extra Bongo Band for launch in Dar

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM-based dance music troupe, Extra Bongo Band will be officially launched in the city today.

The once popular troupe has been slated to entertain revelers with its new hit titled 'Penalti ya Mwisho', and other old songs at the launch.

The launch, taking place after a two-week training camp, will be held at Sinza in Dar es Salaam.

The troupe will perform songs it had composed several years back apart from having the fans get a taste of new songs.

Extra Bongo Band Director, Ally Choki, said that they initially planned to release five new songs titled 'Penalti ya Mwisho', 'Kinyago Chang'u', 'Jicho la Tatu', 'Pambana na Hali Yako' and 'Tatiana Kumba', while the musicians were rehearsing in camp.

However, Choki said, due to reasons beyond the troupe's control, they have completed one song, 'Penalti ya Mwisho', and rehearsed the band's old songs.

"I believe that our fans will be entertained by the old songs composed by Extra Bongo Band, which is now known as 'Extra Bongo Baba Lao', because they love them," Choki disclosed.

The band was formed in the early 2000s, but it could not last long, and, thereafter, Choki revived it and worked until 2015 when it was disbanded.

Choki explained that, at the moment, the band will perform a few new songs and some old ones that are in store, maintaining that Extra Bongo Band supporters have asked for the move.

According to him, he had stayed for a long time without reviving his band because he was reviewing the views of various dance music stakeholders, many of whom have indicated that they want the band to return.

He said due to the views, he decided to try for the last time, while composing the 'Penalti ya Mwisho' track, which is in line with his strategy to bring the band back.

Tigo Tanzania rewards campaign winners

By Guardian Correspondent

THE first winners of a campaign, dubbed 'Magifti Dabo Dabo', conducted by telecommunication company Tigo Tanzania, were announced in Dar es Salaam yesterday and got their awards.

Head of TigoPesa Special Customers at Tigo Tanzania, Mary Rutta, said the winners are the first after the campaign was officially launched last week.

Mary said the winners were those who raked in cash prizes, a voucher for a trip to Dubai and Zanzibar as well as winners of household electrical appliances.

The official said all winners will choose their loved ones who will also receive the same gifts as the winners were presented with.

"As we said during the launch of this campaign last week, every person who wins any of the prizes will choose one of his/her loved ones to

receive the same prizes, this is why we called this campaign 'Magifti Dabo Dabo'," Mary noted.

She mentioned the customer who won the trip to Dubai as Meshack Justine from Dar es Salaam who has chosen to go on the trip with his wife.

Mary said the other winner of the Dubai trip is Victor Munisi, also from Dar es Salaam, who has chosen to travel with his close friend Johnson Julius.

"We also have a winner of a trip to Zanzibar, Aisha Kajilu, who has chosen to go with her husband, these winners' trips will be on December 11," the official noted.

"We continue to urge Tigo users to continue making financial transactions and buy various packages to win," Mary pointed out.

She further announced Omega Boniface as the winner of a set of domestic electrical appliances- a refrigerator, microwave, television, and a modern radio.

Tanzania, India vouch for cultural exchange

By Beatrice Philemon

INDIAN Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) president, Vinay Sahasrabudde, on Thursday, launched the Tanzania Alumni of India Association (TAI) to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The association will further seek to bring together Tanzanian students who have pursued education in India under the ICCR's scholarship and other students who are still studying in India under the scholarship for social services.

Robert Mwampembwa- TAI's Chairman- disclosed at the association's launching ceremony that took place at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam on Thursday evening.

The association, the Chairman said, was also established to share economic and cultural opportunities available in both countries and encourage Tanzanians to visit India to see the tourist attractions.

It aims to invite Indians to visit Tanzania to see the tourism potential in the country and share other issues relating to education, business, and investment.

The TAI was officially launched by Sahasrabudde, who was in Tanzania for a two-day working visit.

So far the association has been registered and has 184 members from various regions across the country.

Mwampembwa stated they have decided to set up the association, having identified that the Indian economy is set to emerge as the world's third-largest economy by 2027. He noted India moreover has huge opportunities.

The TAI Chairman disclosed: "TAI wants to encourage Tanzanians to go to India for further studies because India has a lot to offer in society, economy, culture, and education that can help them learn."

"For Tanzanian students willing to study in India, it is the cheapest country to study for them, the country provides the best education at affordable cost."

The TAI alumni appealed to



Tanzania Alumni of India Association (TAI)'s Chairman Robert Mwampembwa (R), Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) president Vinay Sahasrabudde (C), and India's High Commissioner to Tanzania Binaya Pradhan, showcase TAI certificates after the association's launching ceremony which took place in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

the Indian government to issue work visas for Tanzanians who will go to India for studies to enable them to improve their skills and gain experience in the career fields they are pursuing.

While in Tanzania, Sahasrabudde also met TAI's leaders and discussed what should be done to help ICCR be well-known for either what the institution carries out or do more to support cultural exchange.

"We advised him to also scale up the institution's activities in other regions across the country, organize Tanzania and India's cultural exhibitions comprising film production for both countries," Mwampembwa noted.

"(They ought to) conduct Tinga Tinga exhibition in India to allow Indians see what Tanzania has to offer in cultural areas, secure market for what they have and collaborate in other issues relating to culture," he said.

While in Tanzania, Sahasrabudde got a chance to speak about Indian Philosophy saying that India is not the only civilizational nation in the world, but the philosophical underpinnings of the idea of India are almost unique.

Sahasrabudde pointed out: "Indian movies, our dance and music, exotic dishes, and historical monuments continue to

be an attraction for the global community."

He revealed: "But all these, from yoga and spirituality to traditional knowledge systems such as ayurveda, are essentially manifestations of Indian philosophy."

He said: "India's culture is not just music and dance, and dish making- we have a lot that we are making in India. It is my first time to visit Africa and I have started with Tanzania," he said.

The SVCC Director, Soumya Chavan, lauded the Indian diaspora, Tanzanian and Indian students, artists, singers, and distinguished art enthusiasts in Tanzania for joining Sahasrabudde and SVCC's staff to mark Indian and Tanzanian cultural exchange friendship development.

During the event, Sahasrabudde also presented certificates to six leaders of different organizations representing a total of 56 Tanzanian tabla students.

The students jointly participated in the four-month program from May to August 2023 for the 'Introduction to the basics of Tabla', conducted by SVCC, and were officially inaugurated by India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan.

Soumya said six leaders who received certificates are Gabriel

Bakilana from Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMU-DATA), Jafary Nassoro from ASEDEVA, and Ramadhani Maneno Nyala from Safi Theatre Group.

Baraka Issabu from Action Music Academy, Hugo Wangoma from Dar Creators Group, and Sultan Kabuta from Jikingo Theater are the other leaders presented with certificates.

Sahasrabudde further had an opportunity to witness Tanzanian music students singing and dancing the Indian song titled 'Swagatam' (a welcome song).

The track is a fusion of Indian classical music and Bollywood song, titled 'Zindagi Ek Safar' (Life is a Journey), performed by Tanzanian music students under the guidance of Vishnu Mishra, music instructor at SVCC, tabla performance and yoga combined with acrobatic performance by SVCC's students.

The ICCR was founded on April 9, 1950, to promote and develop India's relations with other countries in culture.

Currently, there are 36 cultural centers all over the world working under the ICCR, India's Ministry of External Affairs in close association with the Indian Embassies and High Commissions. The ICCR also offers various scholarships for Tanzanian students to study in India.

Tennis legend McEnroe tours Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FORMER world tennis champion John McEnroe arrived in Tanzania yesterday and is expected to conduct various social and tennis activities.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) vice-president, Rajab Borry, said the legend will today visit Serengeti National Park and conduct several tennis and social activities.

He said McEnroe who has won, among other titles, 155 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) top honours, will be in action on Tuesday next week.

"Tennis legend, John McEnroe, and a company of more than 100 tourists are in the country and, from tomorrow (today), they will conduct several social and tennis activities and the climax will be on Tuesday next week when McEnroe and company will play tennis in Serengeti National Park, the games will involve local people, especially the Maasai," he said.

McEnroe, who won seven grand slam singles titles, including three at Wimbledon where he is now commenting, is reported to have said his project in Tanzania will bring the sport to disadvantaged youths in Africa and hopes new players will be made by watching the game in the bush.

He said the dress code for the first tennis match played in



American tennis legend, John McEnroe.

Serengeti National Park will be khaki, not white.

"A patch of Tanzania's famous vast plains, where wildebeests and zebras migrate in their millions, has been carved into a tennis court for one of the sport's biggest beasts, to be followed by lessons in a Masai village," the legend noted.

"Increasing interest in tennis in Africa has long been a goal, to me, it's always been a worldwide game. The win for me would be to make the game more accessible and affordable," he added.

In a previous interview, TTA president Francis Thomas said while in the country McEnroe who will be accompanied by his brother Patrick- will further support growth and awareness with other charitable initiatives.

"The coming of John McEn-

roe and his brother, Patrick, is a great opportunity to promote and growth of the game in the country," Thomas added.

"We thank Inside Expeditions which is behind of his arrival and the government of Tanzania for the trip done by the two and fellows, their arrival is part of the royal tour," he disclosed.

The tour of the tennis legend into the country was necessitated by Insider Expeditions which said the new partnership with John and Patrick to bring the tennis legends to Tanzania this month is part of a new goodwill, awareness, and sport initiative.

It further said in cooperation and support of the Tanzanian government, the McEnroe brothers will be accompanied by as many as 120 tennis aficionados during a special eight-day trip which will include the

dedication of a tennis court in the Serengeti National Park.

Insider Expeditions noted: "We are excited to welcome John and Patrick McEnroe and their guests to Tanzania for this special event in December, this is in response to Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who always says the country continues to grow through efforts like these, which expose the visitors and our people to new experiences from visitors around the world."

"A special element like tennis to this mix will also help us with another one of our key initiatives, which is to create more health and lifestyle opportunities for our young people," it disclosed.

"While many know John, their interests sometimes lie with sports like soccer, so, using a great individual sport like tennis to teach life skills from legends first-hand will make for an experience people will never have imagined," the company pointed out.

The Insider Expeditions quoted John McEnroe saying while in the country, they will also have the chance to introduce tennis to the Maasai youths, probably for the first time. John further thanked Insider Expeditions for creating the opportunity for them to learn about Tanzania, saying it is a beautiful country.

Barca's Felix starts firing just in time for Atletico reunion

BARCELONA

BARCELONA forward Joao Felix ended a long goal drought with a vital strike this week, ominous timing for his parent club Atletico Madrid, who visit the Catalan capital tomorrow in La Liga.

The Portuguese attacker struck the winner against Porto to help Barcelona reach the Champions League last 16 after two humiliating group stage exits, a goal which will give him confidence ahead of Atletico's arrival.

Felix started brilliantly after his late summer switch on loan from Atletico, but quickly faded out and had not scored for his club since mid-September -- a barren run of 12 matches.

Diego Simeone's dangerous Atletico, third, are ahead of Barcelona on goal difference and Felix will be aiming to make a statement after a tough time in the capital.

Atletico splashed 126 million euros (\$138 million) on the forward in 2019 from Benfica to replace Antoine Griezmann, who left for Barcelona.

The Frenchman failed to make an impact in the Catalan capital and returned to Atletico, where he is shining.

Felix's time at Atletico was frustrating, with moments of genius on occasion showing his quality, but consistency eluded him.

The forward never seemed to fit in with Simeone's desire for a team which works relentlessly all over the pitch.

Felix prefers to play at his own rhythm and impressed in the win over Porto with his well-taken strike and another drive he crashed off the crossbar.

While things are looking brighter for him at Barcelona, he and the team have both found themselves questioned over the past few weeks.

Barca lost the Clasico against Real Madrid, fell 1-0 away against Shakhtar Donetsk and have played poorly in La Liga in other matches, despite avoiding other defeats.

The Spanish champions start the weekend four points behind leaders Real Madrid and second-placed Girona, and while they are level with Atletico, Simeone's team have a game in hand.

Barca coach Xavi Hernandez hopes Felix's winner and reaching the next round of the Champions League can help the club turn their recent dip in performances around.

"I think we dominated in terms of play, dominated the game, the second half, I insist, is the path we have to follow -- I hope it can be a turning point," said Xavi.

"Felix was good, incisive, he scored the goal... and forwards are freer when they've scored."

Felix combined well with his compatriot Joao Cancelo, who set him up to score, with the pair both likely to start against Atletico.

Some of the worries around the club were eased by their comeback win over Porto and if they can take three more points at the weekend, the waters will be considerably calmer.

Real Madrid will be confident of staying top of the table with a win over 19th-placed strugglers Granada when they face off on Saturday afternoon, while Girona welcome Valencia earlier that day.

AFP

Leverkusen set to host Dortmund in clash of Bayern hunters

BERLIN

BAYER Leverkusen welcome Borussia Dortmund on Sunday with the hosts sitting clear atop the Bundesliga table, having dropped just two of a possible 36 points to start the season.

Although only two points ahead of a Harry Kane-powered Bayern Munich, Leverkusen are already a whopping ten points in front of Dortmund, with only 12 matches played.

While many have credited manager Xabi Alonso for giving Leverkusen's long-suffering fans hope of adding to a sparse trophy cabinet, a shrewd summer recruitment drive has also set them up for success.

Using the proceeds of Moussa Diaby's sale to Aston Villa, Leverkusen brought in striker Victor Boniface, winger Jonas Hofmann, midfielder Granit Xhaka, while Alex Grimaldo joined from Benfica on a free.

Alonso hailed the summer additions' "football intelligence", telling AFP and other media in an interview "we knew they were going to have an almost instant influence on our game".

"We have signed very strategic players to give us stability... to be more efficient and consistent. That gives you the possibility to be more regular in the Bundesliga."

Since the transfer window closed, German media has reported that each of the quartet were rejected by Dortmund in the summer -- other than Hofmann, who had two previous stints at Signal Iduna Park.

Criticism has grown, particularly with Dortmund's new additions Felix Nmecha, Marcel Sabitzer and Rami Bensebaini showing indifferent form and failing to fill the gap left by budding superstar Jude Bellingham.

AFP

Arsenal plot long stay at Premier League summit

LONDON

ARSENAL are back on top of the Premier League with ambitions to stay there as they host Wolves this weekend while champions Manchester City play faltering Tottenham.

Newcastle take on Manchester United in a clash of two teams with high ambitions of their own while Chelsea face Brighton, still searching for consistency.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of the action.

***Can Arsenal mix style with substance?**

Arsenal's last-gasp 1-0 win at Brentford last week, which took them back to the top of the table, was their fifth Premier League victory by a single goal this season.

The Gunners lack the fluidity they showed in the 2022/23 campaign and attacking numbers are down but former Manchester United defender Gary Neville believes they are now better equipped to win the league.

"Perfect, pretty football is unlikely to win the league unless it's combined with a doggedness and resilience," he said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Arsenal are better this year in these areas and the football will come in due course."

But former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher, a Sky Sports pundit alongside Nev-



Arsenal are top of the Premier League after nine wins in 13 matches. Agencies

ille, believes Mikel Arteta's team need to win games more convincingly.

"If Arsenal continue how they are, if this is the Arsenal we're going to see this season, I don't think they can win the league," he told Sky.

He added: "So many games are going to the wire and sometimes that can go against you.... Those games that finish 1-0 can easily go 1-0 the other way." Arsenal smashed Lens 6-0 in the Champions League in midweek in a reminder of what can happen when everything clicks.

***Tottenham face daunting Man City trip**

Early pacesetters Tottenham

desperately need to arrest their slide after three straight defeats but champions Manchester City are their next port of call.

Ange Postecoglou's team, unbeaten in their first 10 games, have developed the costly habit of letting leads slip -- losing to Chelsea, Wolves and Aston Villa despite scoring first each time.

Postecoglou is grappling with a lengthy list of absentees and suffered another blow with the loss of midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur, expected to be out until February after suffering a serious ankle injury against Villa.

City last week showed a

chink in their armour, failing to win at home in any competition for the first time this year when they were held 1-1 by Liverpool.

But Erling Haaland notched his 50th Premier League goal in just his 48th game at the Etihad -- obliterating Andy Cole's record -- and this week became the quickest player to 40 Champions League goals with his strike against RB Leipzig.

City will be confident normal order can be resumed at home.

***Newcastle bank on home form against Man Utd**

Newcastle v Manchester United pits a team with one of the best home records against

a side who have been picking up wins on the road.

Despite a long injury list, Newcastle have won six of their seven Premier League games at their St James' Park stronghold this season.

Erik ten Hag's Manchester United, despite their patchy form overall, have four victories out of six games away from home.

Both teams have ambitions of qualifying for season's Champions League and they each face a battle to qualify for the knockout phase of this year's competition after mid-week draws.

Newcastle, who recently hammered Manchester United 3-0 in the League Cup, will fancy their chances against a team who, while they have started to score more freely, remain vulnerable at the back.

United have conceded 33 goals in all competitions this season, the most in their opening 20 matches of any campaign since 1962/63.

Fixtures Today (1500 GMT unless stated)

Arsenal v Wolves, Brentford v Luton, Burnley v Sheffield United, Nottingham Forest v Everton (1730), Newcastle v Manchester United (2000)

Tomorrow (1400 unless stated)

Bournemouth v Aston Villa, Chelsea v Brighton, Liverpool v Fulham, West Ham v Crystal Palace, Manchester City v Tottenham (1630)

AFP

Andre Onana's fears over Man United place

By James Ducker

ANDRE Onana is increasingly concerned he could struggle to win back his place at Manchester United if he goes to the Africa Cup of Nations with Cameroon next year.

Onana's position is under fresh scrutiny after an error-strewn display in United's chaotic 3-3 draw against Galatasaray.

It was the latest in a series of blunders by Onana this season and the goalkeeper is thought to fear his situation at Old Trafford could be further complicated if his understudy Altay Bayindir takes full advantage of his potential absence for a month in January and February because of the African Nations in Ivory Coast.

Cameroon are due to kick off their tournament against Guinea on Jan 15 and Onana would stand to miss four Premier League matches and a potential FA Cup fourth-round tie were his country to reach the final on Feb 11.

Onana quit international football after a falling out with the Cameroon head coach, Rigobert Song, that saw him return home from the World Cup in Qatar early 12 months ago. He agreed to return for the final African Nations qualifier against Burundi in September amid pressure from the government and Cameroon FA and is expected to be named in the squad for the tournament.

However, Onana is thought to be reluctant to be away from United at a time when he is determined to come through his troubles and prove just why manager Erik ten Hag asked the club to invest £47 mil-



Andre Onana is thought to be reluctant to be away from United and is determined to prove himself to the club. Agencies

lion in the summer to sign the goalkeeper from Inter Milan.

Turkey goalkeeper Bayindir -- who has yet to make an appearance for the club since his £4.3million move from Fenerbahce on Sept 1 -- is desperate for a chance to show his worth and knows Onana's possible absence early next year could provide that opportunity assuming it does not come before then.

"It's time for ten Hag to drop Onana now

The simple truth is that, if an outfield player had committed the volume of individual errors that Onana has for Manchester United this season, he would have been dropped before now.

If Ten Hag has already considered giving his first-choice goalkeeper some time out of the team, then he has resisted the temptation to date.

After Onana's latest blunder show in Wednesday's chaotic 3-3 draw against Galatasaray in Istanbul, though, it has become harder for the United manager to tip toe around the issue any more.

Ten Hag's patience and support have been admirable but there are games to win and, with the December fixture list looking unforgiving, that is precisely what Ten

Hag needs to be with his goalkeeper. There are enough insecurities running through this team, and there has been enough turbulence in the back line owing to persistent injury problems, without players second guessing a goalkeeper who spreads unease.

While a number of Galatasaray players exchanged words with Onana at the final whistle, including his former Ajax team-mate, Hakim Ziyech, whose free-kicks the Cameroonian had failed so miserably to keep out, the only United player to console him was the man who would likely replace him between the posts should Ten Hag swing the axe.

Altay Bayindir had wandered on to the

pitch to offer Onana some comfort and deserves credit for doing so, just as it was sensible man-management from Ten Hag not to publicly single out his No 1 for blame in the aftermath of a bruising result.

Throwing players under the bus is no way to foster trust and unity, and Onana will need some love, but a period out of the spotlight may be the best thing for him at the moment.

Starting Bayindir, who has never played in the Premier League before and, like Onana, only arrived at the club in the summer, will bring its own risks. But are they any greater than keeping faith with Onana right now?

Galatasaray are not the first opponents to adopt a shoot-on-sight policy against United this season and it is hard to believe Newcastle, whom they face in a forbidding fixture at St James' Park on Saturday night, will resist a similar approach.

Thereafter, United have Chelsea, Bournemouth, Bayern Munich and Liverpool to play -- not the kind of run you want when your goalkeeper has a crisis of confidence.

Equally, with Onana

likely to be missing for part of January and perhaps February owing to the Africa Cup of Nations, Bayindir is probably going to have to come in at some point, so why not now?

But will Ten Hag get ruthless? Given the way he stuck rigidly behind David de Gea last season, even when the errors began to multiply and the Dutchman had resolved that he needed a new goalkeeper, it is not certain.

Having committed £47 million to sign Onana from Inter Milan in the summer, 12 months after he was available on a free transfer, Ten Hag doubtless feels a loyalty to the player and needs the signing to work out. Equally, he may be more inclined to focus on the three clean sheets Onana has kept in United's last three League outings than Wednesday's aberrations and his other mistakes.

He may also believe Onana requires a show of faith more than ever just now. It is a huge dilemma for the Dutchman.

But Ten Hag's other summer signings have paid a price for not delivering so it should not be any different with

Onana, whose gaffe against Bayern Munich in United's opening Champions League Group A match in September, for which he apologised, would set the tone for things to come.

Mason Mount was having to get used to life on the substitutes' bench before another injury put him out of contention altogether and Sofyan Amrabat's start against Galatasaray was a rare one.

It does not mean Ten Hag was wrong to bring in a new goalkeeper and the sudden revisionism over De Gea serves no purpose. United's rather botched handling of his departure was unfortunate and the Spaniard deserved better after such service.

But there was hardly an army of United fans arguing demonstrably against his exit and plenty who felt a change was required between the posts for Ten Hag to evolve the team's build-up play from the back.

At the same time, De Gea's departure necessitated the arrival of an upgrade and, while these are still early days for Onana, he has so far fallen well short of the standards required.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko





Al Ahly's left-back Ali Maaloul.

Al Ahly expects tough opposition from Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AL Ahly left fullback Ali Maaloul revealed they expect tough opposition from Yanga following the latter's results in the first match of 2023/24 CAF Champions League's Group D.

The two clubs will face each other in matchday two of the premier continental club showdown's Group D at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

Al Ahly arrived in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, ready with their full squad - some of whom were rested during the squad's midweek league game against Smouha that ended in a goalless draw.

Speaking after arriving at Julius Nyerere International Airport, Maaloul said they had made good preparations for today's game, and they know everything about their hosts heading into the tie.

The Tunisian left-back noted: "We followed their first game when they played against CR Belouizdad, we admit they have good players and they fought hard despite losing, after that, we made preparations as per their weaknesses and quality."

"With the good plan we came up with here, we believe we will fight to achieve good results we need to make our journey to the quarterfinals successful," Maaloul noted.

The fullback revealed: "We haven't had the best of starts in this year's CAF competitions, we lost the Super Cup, did not achieve the African Football League (AFL) and now we are out to defend the CAF Champions League."

"We have to win early games to stay in better positions," the Tunisian stated.

This will be Al Ahly's second outing in Tanzania this season following the Egyptian big guns' participation in the AFL opening tie against Simba SC in Dar es Salaam on October 20 that ended in a 2-2 draw.

Yanga head coach, Miguel Gamondi, spoke of Al Ahly and was adamant his squad is ready to fight to grab its first victory.

The Argentine coach noted they are well prepared to ensure that they win the game, which is eagerly awaited by football fans in the East and Central Africa region.

"My players realize the importance of the CAF Champions League matches and what is required is three points, so, they will fight to do well and give entertainment to the fans, after missing the result in the first game of this championship," he said.

Yanga lost 3-0 to Algeria's CR Belouizdad in the first-round tie of Group D at Stade du 5 Juillet, Algiers last week.

Big day for Yanga, takes on Al Ahly in CAF Champions League



Yanga's players are pictured warming up before facing Algeria's CR Belouizdad in the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D opening match at Stade du 5 Juillet in Algiers last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC welcomes Egypt's Al Ahly to Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the evening as both sides look to make their mark on 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group D.

Joining Algeria's CR Belouizdad and Ghana's Medeama in a tough Group D, Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, will be eager to pick up their first Group Stage win of the season on matchday 2.

Yanga opened their CAF Champions League Group Stage campaign with a 3-0 defeat to Algerian champions CR Belouizdad in Algeria last weekend.

The defeat continued Yanga's poor record in African football's elite competition, as they have now failed to win in seven games of the CAF Champions League.

Yanga's head coach Miguel Gamondi is pleased with the

preparations they had for this game, unlike the difficult situation they found themselves in the previous match last week.

"This week we can say we prepared well. We had enough time especially to rest players who were on national team duty last week," the Argentine revealed.

"As I said before, the first game was very difficult for us in preparation, but it is not the same now," he in-

sisted.

The tactician said: "I am very happy with the work put in by the players and we are ready for tomorrow's big game."

"We have worked very hard from the beginning of the season to be in this stage. One of the goals we agreed with the president is to be in the CAF Champions League Group Stage and put the name of Yanga on the big table before big clubs," the Argentine pointed out.

"For sure, the expectations of fans and others are very high. I repeat we are very happy and ready to play this game tomorrow," the tactician noted.

Having set a record by clinching the CAF Champions League title 11 times, Al Ahly dominated last season and will be eager to extend their reign.

They have made a strong start in the Egyptian Premier League, winning their first four matches of the

season before back-to-back draws with Gouna FC, just before the international break, and Smouha.

The Red Devils are currently second in the Egyptian Premier League. In the CAF Champions League, Al Ahly kicked off their Group Stage campaign with a 3-0 home hammering of competition debutants Medeama.

Speaking to reporters, right full-back, Mohamed Hany, talked about their experience in the competition and ability to triumph in difficult circumstances.

Hany said: "We are prepared for the game, fully concentrated on the game. We know how important the game is for us. We just arrived yesterday and we are going to train today."

"We are going to watch Yanga once, twice, and maybe three times. We speak with players how important the game is to us and three away points are very important in the group," the defender disclosed.

"We have played a lot of games in a short time and before that, it was the national team duty but we are professional players, we have great experience," the footballer revealed.

Hany noted: "We know how to deal with these intensive games. We know how to make a quick recovery, we have done this before. We have lived this situation before and that's why we are fully concentrated."

Simba SC searches for first CAF CL Group B point, faces Jwaneng Galaxy

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER cruising through the initial matches of the 2023/24 season, Simba SC faces a pivotal moment as the outfit locks horns with Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy.

The recent wobbles for the Tanzanian envoys in this season's CAF Champions League, combined with the Botswana side's unwavering resolve, make this an encounter soccer fanatics should not miss.

Fresh from a solid start, Simba SC has tasted the bitterness of a defeat and back-to-back draws in a three-match winless streak.

The 5-1 demolition to long-time rivals, Young Africans SC, was followed by an even more surprising 1-1 draw with Namungo FC.

To make matters worse, Simba SC was held to another 1-1 draw with ASEC Mimosas in their opening CAF Champions League Group Stage game in Dar



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group B tie against Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy, to be held at the Obed Itani Chilume Stadium in Francistown today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

es Salaam last weekend.

To reiterate, Simba SC, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', need to pull their socks up if dreams of the quarterfinals progression are to be kept alive.

There is no doubt Simba SC needs to tight-

en up defensively as the squad has failed to keep a clean sheet in any of the squad's last nine competitive matches this season.

Against ASEC Mimosas, it was a hugely disappointing performance from Simba SC

and, every time ASEC Mimosas went forward, they looked like a club that would have scored a goal, especially in the second half.

Newly-appointed Simba SC head coach Abdelhak Benchikha will have his work cut

out trying to lift the doom and gloom in his first match after either one or two training sessions with the squad.

Contrastingly, the mood in Gaborone is jubilant. After Jwaneng Galaxy's recent away victory against Wydad Casablanca last week, the former's first-ever victory in the Group Stage, morale is high in the miners' squad.

Jwaneng Galaxy are the reigning champions of the Botswana Premier League. Jwaneng Galaxy was founded in 2015 after two local clubs merged, the Jwaneng Comets and the Debswana Youngsters.

Under the guidance of South African head coach Morena Ramoreboli, Jwaneng Galaxy qualified for the Group Stage of the CAF Champions League for the first time in 2021-22, having edged out Simba SC 4-3.

This season, the Botswana side reached the CAF Champions League Group Stage after beating Vipers SC of Uganda

and South Africa's Orlando Pirates.

Thabang Sesinyi's 33rd-minute goal against Morocco's Wydad Casablanca last week placed Jwaneng Galaxy at the summit of Group B with three points.

In the press conference, coach Ramoreboli said he would resort to the same plan that they used to get victory over Wydad.

The South African gaffer noted: "We go into this edition to do better than the last time we played in this competition. I want to prepare my boys to execute the plan just like in the last game against Wydad."

Ramoreboli revealed: "Tomorrow we are playing against a very difficult team and the match is not easy to prepare for, we are at home."

"We are going to play with confidence, arrogance, and serious attack but giving all the respect to them as they have good players," Ramoreboli concluded.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

