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Oil firms protest EU's EACOP vote

Ministry: Lake Zone fish quite safe for human consumption

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government yesterday moved to allay fears over the safety of Lake Zone fish, denying the much circulated claim that chemicals to preserve fish cause cancers, affirming fish products in the country are safe for human consumption.

Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega made this assertion in the debating chamber when responding to a supplementary question from Cecilia Parusso (Special Seats-opposition), who demanded a government statement on information cited in mainstream and social media on extensive use of chemicals for preserving human corpses, used instead to preserve fish.

He said there was no cause for alarm, in the wake of investigations ordered by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango who was visiting Mwanza Region earlier this week.

He ordered authorities to investigate with a view to taking stern measures against people using chemicals for embalming corpses, noting that such preservatives were harmful to consumers' health.

They are associated with rising cancer cases in the Lake Zone, in which case regulatory bodies need to bring to an end those unacceptable practices, he declared.

He urged people who prolong fish shelf life using preservatives for embalming corpses to stop the practice as it is dangerous to health.

Current statistics show that cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world, he said, appealing for further research to get findings that will help the government in the fight against cancer by locating its environmental causes. He pledged that the government will provide 500m/- to support such studies.

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Local stakeholders protest as European Union votes to block parts of the project

By Guardian Reporter

OIL and gas stakeholders in the country have expressed shock and disappointment after the European Union (EU) parliament approved a resolution to block the Hoima-Tanga crude oil pipeline project.

EU lawmakers on Thursday voted by a majority of 334 to pass the resolution that seeks to compel Uganda, Tanzania and Total Energies Co, to delay work on the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) for at least one year.

The resolution argued that the project "is a major setback to socioeconomic progress of both Tanzania and Uganda," even as 199 EU legislators voted against the resolution, and 60 abstained.

The seven-point resolution also seeks to exert "maximum pressure" on Uganda and Tanzania to elevate standards and adopt international best practices during development of the project, including halting oil related activities in Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda's northwest zone.

Abdusamad Abdulrahim, the chairman of Association of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOGS) said in an interview yesterday that the EU vote is unfortunate as it will affect thousands of businesses lined up to grab project opportunities. Its blocking will have huge impacts on the economies of both countries, he said.

Observers noted that the resolution at most prejudices some of the financing arrangements as it brings key project movers to EU parliamentary firing line but the European Parliament's resolutions are not binding on member states.

In other words the resolution has an impact on what position the EU delegation in the country may be expected to do in environmental matters, but the delegation reports to the Council of the European Union (a sort of EU cabinet), which is similarly not bound by EU parliamentary resolutions.



William Kajagi (L), acting director overseeing the prevention of crude oil pipeline corrosion at the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project, makes remarks directed at Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation director general Dr James Mataragio (R) yesterday. The latter was on an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of the project's factory at Sojo village in Nzega District, Tabora Region. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

15trn/- third-phase water supply project taking off

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

WORK is set to start on the third phase of the country's water sector development programme priced at \$6.5bn (over 15trn/-).

Water minister Jumaa Aweso said when launching the programme here yesterday that WSDP III is

intended to ensure sustainable availability and distribution of water across the country.

The five year project, scheduled for 2022 to 2026 represents an increase of \$3.3bn to what was estimated during WSDP II which phased out last December, he said. Five major components are sketched out in the plan, namely water re-

source management and development, water quality, water supply, sanitation and hygiene plus programme coordination.

Budgetary allocation for this phase was raised to elevate water sector performance, where possible permanently solving all setbacks to reliable water supply and quality aspects, he stated.

He recalled that implementation of WSDP I was poor due to accountability gaps and commitment from companies contracted to do the job, thus discouraging the development partners to keep up with funds for the sector.

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It will be too long and a major setback to our countries, considering that investment decisions have been made and contractors are already on the ground

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TANESCO sets indefinite load shedding schedule

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MOST regions will be subjected to alternating daylong and nightlong power cuts, according to a 'new normal' announced by the power firm, the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO).

Martin Mwambene, acting director for customer services at TANESCO head offices, told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the partial load

shedding and rationing beckons for most regions following a decline in power generation at its hydropower plants on account of prolonged dry weather.

Water flows to Hale and Pangani dams in Tanga Region plus Nyumba ya Mungu in Kilimanjaro Region which feeds the northern zone have declined significantly, he said. On Thursday, the utility announced power rationing in



We now have to supply electricity to the northern zone from other power plant feeders, causing rationing in some parts of the country

some parts of the country from Thursday to Sunday, explaining the cut in power supply as tied to low water depth in Pangani and Kihansi hydropower plants and machine repairs.

Daylong power cuts will start from 8.00 hours to 18.00 hours, while night time load shedding is set for 18.00 hours to 22.00 hours. The day time cuts are slated for Arusha, Tanga, Mbeya, Manyara, Singida,

Ruvuma, Mara, Tabora, Iringa, Shinyanga, Coast Region, Geita, Mwanza, Morogoro and Njombe.

Night time cuts are expected for Arusha, Mbeya, Geita, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Singida, Morogoro, Ruvuma, Mara, Tabora, Iringa, Njombe and Shinyanga regions, he said. Unveiling future strategies open to the utility; he cited

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15trn/- third phase water supply project taking off

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WSDP I needed a total of \$1.4bn and 90 per cent of that amount was disbursed, while WSDP II budgetary estimation stood at \$3.4bn but just 27 per cent was disbursed, he said. The challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic led to poor disbursement of the required amount, reinforced by first phase poor results leading to low inclination for support, he said. The ministry has in the past year and half worked to improve performance, reinforcing discipline among ministerial staff, he stated, underlining that during WSDP III value of money in all projects being implemented will be assured. He cautioned unpatriotic water engineers to refrain from embezzlement of public funds, promising to take measures against experts of official against whom queries will be raised. Implementing the programme will see a major focus for an enabling environment to allow key dialogues among public and private sector actors as well as the development partners for viable interventions to improve execution of plans, he said. Remigius Kasilila, chairperson of water users' civil society organizations (CSOs), underscored the need for the government to mull over possible ways to engage private sector stakeholders to diminish donor dependency. Water initiatives largely rely on donor funds, which isn't reassuring for developing the sector, he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to Zanzibar Sheikh Saleh Omar Kabi (2nd-R) shortly after Friday prayers at a mosque at Mazizini in Unguja's West 'B' District yesterday. Left is Oman's Consul General to Zanzibar, Said Salim Hamed Al-Sinawi. Photo: State House

TANESCO sets indefinite load shedding schedule

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the use of alternative sources including wind and solar power to ensure sustainable production. Last year the company em-

barked on generating electricity using mixed sources, with the Ubungo III project for 112 megawatts fueled by natural gas now coming into use. Extension of Kinyerezi III

power plant will be adding 185MW to the national grid upon completion, while a solar power project in Kishapu area in Shinyanga region is slated for completion next

year, generating 50MW out of 150MW planned capacity. "We now have to supply electricity to the northern zone from other power plant feeders, causing rationing in some

parts of the country," he said. If alternative power generation plants had not been put to implementation, the situation would be worse at the moment, he added.

Veteran diplomat and civil servant Paul Rupia dies

By Guardian Reporter

VETERAN diplomat and retired civil servant Paul Rupia died yesterday at the age of 84.

Sources close to his family said Tanzania's fifth Chief Secretary and former permanent representative to the United Nations passed on in South Africa where he was undergoing treatment.

However, the sources did not reveal the nature of his illness or the cause of his death.

During his life, Rupia served in various positions, rose to the ranks and attained the highest position in civil service, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

He also served as chairman of the board of directors of the People's Bank of Dar es Salaam.

In diplomatic circles, he served as Tanzania's envoy to various countries including the United Kingdom in 1968-1970, Tanzanian representative in Council of Ministers and summit meetings of Organization of African Unity, Organisation of African Unity missions to Djibouti and Somalia in 1976.

Rupia was born on July 21, 1938 in Shinyanga Region. He was from a prominent family in the country, being the son of John Rupia, a wealthy businessman who contributed immensely towards Tanganyika's struggle for independence.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L, in glasses) has a word with the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), George Simbachawene (R), during a session of the legislative body in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Ministry: Lake Zone fish quite safe for human consumption

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The government has been investing in medical infrastructure taking services against cancer closer to the people, he said, noting that cancer is one of the leading causes of death, with upwards of 42,000 cases reported annually in Tanzania.

The government intends to disburse 3.1bn/- for procurement of cancer detection equipment to guarantee the timely provision of services in a new cancer ward at the Buganda Referral Hospital in the city.

Opposition MPs demanded during the question and answer session that the government substantiates the validity or otherwise of the much circulated information.

In her question, Paresso stated that she had learnt from the media that preservation of fish in some regions was being done using informally determined chemicals, causing alarm and apprehension among consumers.

"As I speak right now, I don't know what people should do to avoid fish preserved in that style. We are told that they are likely to cause cancer on consumers," she told the House.

The deputy minister underlined the government view that the fish catches were safe for human consumption, discounting such alarm as unfounded on the basis of what the government knows about the industry.

Oil firms protest EU's EACOP vote

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The resolutions are seen as recommendation that send a message to the respective governments, in which case the participating governments need not take up the one year's wait suggestion.

"It will be too long and a major setback to our countries, considering that investment decisions have been made and contractors are already on the ground," he said, describing the resolution as part of an economic war.

Abdurahim said delaying the project will increase the econom-

ic crisis in the two countries, at a time when the world is undergoing a major energy crisis.

Thousands of businesses like logistics firms, catering and farmers will be affected as they were already positioned to take up supply outlets as the project is implemented.

"Firms, mainly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which borrowed funds to position themselves in offering services during implementing the project will suffer and thousands of jobs will be affected," he elaborated.

He said the EU parliament decision has been taken by

the waves of misinformation and false allegations, which led into misinterpretation of the situation.

"We expected this project to stimulate the growth and create socio-economic transformation of two countries," he said, rejecting environment damage accusations.

The project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out by reputable global consulting firm so aware of acceptable standards, pointing out that European countries are pursuing exploration and development of fossil fuel projects to

mitigate the impact of the global energy crisis linked to the Russia/Ukraine war.

EACOP can't be censured while scores of similar projects are being approved around the world. Tanzania and Uganda are developing countries with unique development needs, he said, insisting that the project is consistent with the United Nations Charter on self-determination and sovereignty, to use its own natural resources for socio-economic transformation of the two countries.

Henry Okello-Ory, Ugandan minister for International

Relations, described the EU lawmakers' resolution as unfortunate and contemptible, rejecting the proposal that during the one year period Uganda and the French oil giant go back to the drawing board to study an alternative route with less environmental footprint. Mirjam Blaak, Uganda's ambassador to the EU, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg described as hubbub by EU lawmakers, underlying that it was "not informed by facts and was fuelled by self-seeking groups."



Work on a Bus rapid transit (BRT) station at the Mtoni Mtongani section of Dar es Salaam's Kilwa Road has reached an advanced stage, as confirmed yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt appeals for more investment in media to increase local content

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MINISTER for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Nape Nnauye yesterday appealed to media stakeholders to increase investment in the industry to enable outlets to produce more local content.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of media training institutions and content producers in Dar es Salaam, the minister said that the current situation whereby most of the content in media content in Tanzania is foreign threatens not only the culture but also the economy.

He said the community is fed foreign content that has a direct impact on Tanzanians cultures and norms adding that when culture is attacked the economy can easily be destroyed.

"There is an increase in foreign content aired or distributed to the Tanzanians media that go against our culture and norms. We need to produce local content that can reflect our culture and protect it," he said.

He said that they must produce quality local content that can compete with foreign content at the international levels to enable the country to earn revenues.

Nnauye said local producers must ensure customs and norms are neither destroyed or misinformed adding that they are the defenders of the cultures and norms.

He advised local producers to think of producing films that can truly show the

long walk to freedom that will be used for future generations.

"We have not produced a film showing our walk to freedom. If we don't do that, other people will come and do it but not in a precise way as we know," he said.

The minister directed the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) to introduce the best broadcast content award to inspire them.

Dr Jabir Kuwe, head of TCRA said the aim of the meeting was to emphasize production of local quality online contents to the public and international community.

He also said the digital economy was one of the agenda in their meeting to enable online connect producers and distributors to utilize it.

TCRA Content Regulation Committee Chairperson Habbi Gunze identified some of the weakness in the sector as lack of capital, 68 percent of dramas aired in local media are all about love and little is about tourism.

Other traditional dances are not played in local media and lack a national agenda to protect local content as a result the target of 60 has not been achieved.

Curriculums in colleges and higher learning institutions training journalism need to be reviewed, meeting "more investment is highly needed in training and skills to enable them to produce quality online content," he said.

EABC calls for full interoperability of mobile money networks in ECA

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for full interoperability of mobile money networks and cross-border transactions within the East African Community (EAC).

Speaking during the EABC-EAC EU AfricaRise Webinar on Harmonisation of Payment System in the EAC on Thursday, John Bosco Kalisa, EABC chief executive officer, called for full interoperability of mobile money networks and cross-border payments at the EAC level.

He urged governments of EAC partner states to pursue initiatives to reduce currency exchange fees during transactions as an interim solution in the absence of a single currency.

He expounded that Tanzania's mobile money market reached a value of USD 54.5 billion in 2021 and Rwanda recorded USD10 billion in mobile transactions in 2021. He stated that high transaction costs and currency exchange rate volatility set back the growth of intra-EAC trade.

According to the World Bank's Remittance Price Worldwide Q4/2020, it costs an average of 6.5 percent to send USD 200 globally, 4.88 percent to South Asia, 6.58 percent to the Middle East and North Africa, and 8.19 percent to sub-Saharan Africa.

Paul Baker from Africa RISE said, "Integrated payment systems are crucial for the realization of the East African Monetary

Union, as they facilitate the payments for goods and services, the cross-border flows of capital as well as remittances within the region." He expounded that the East Africa Single Digital Market (SDM) supports the region to "become a more deeply integrated and dynamic digital investment, innovation, and growth hub." Digital payments are one of the core elements for the single online market layer to enable East Africa to pay for domestic and international services.

Mukashema Adeline, Senior Principal Payment System Department in the National Bank of Rwanda, said Rwanda joined the East African Payment and Settlement System in 2014 which has enabled banks and telcos to

send money across the region and supports international Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards.

James Bukulu, Deputy Director - National Payment Systems Bank of Uganda said "Uganda is in the process of deploying a national switch and the EAC bloc should come up with a similar initiative to support mobile transactions at regional and international level."

Head of Payment Systems, Equity Bank -Tanzania, Ralph Ligalama, said banks are collaborating with FinTechs to facilitate payments and trade. He stated a single currency for the EAC ease of cross border transactions.

Sebabi Bosco Deputy CEO, Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) said PAPSS

- enables the efficient flow of money securely across African borders, minimising risk and contributing to financial integration across the regions.

The East African Payment and Settlement Systems (EAPS) allows processing and settlement of transactions in local currencies, there is low uptake of the system among the EAC Partner States due to low volumes of intra-regional trade and stiff competition from banks with established correspondent bank relationships.

Regional currencies should be freely convertible to enable transactions without having to convert national currencies into dollars to enhance regional trade

and lower transaction costs.

The Webinar on Harmonization of Payment System in the EAC convened over 100 Senior Government officials from Afrexim Bank, East African Community, Financial Services Providers and Experts as well as traders.

The challenges to harmonization of cross-border payments include Regulatory and infrastructure gaps such as payment settlement workarounds, high compliance costs, and low trade of certain currencies, requirements for pre-funding accounts, bloated payment value chain and taxation.

The players have urged EAC partner states to review and update laws and regulations

for payment systems including those related to data protection and e-payment, enhance "Know Your Customer Information"; payment data collection; and compilation to contribute to the transparency and integrity of the regional payment systems and strengthen inclusivity through financial and digital training programmes.

They are also calling for the partners to improve payment refund systems; data protection and cyber security; authentication seal for e-commerce platforms; establish central banks digital currencies and embark on use of block chain technology to secure supply chains and products from ports (air, sea, land) to markets and clients.



It's a road crash in Dar es Salaam, yet again - this time around involving a school bus, a car and a Bajaj at the Mbezi Shule section of Goba Road yesterday. There were however no immediate reports of casualties Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Diverting water from sources now punishable by law - govt

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday passed a law to facilitate among other things establishment of water quality laboratories across regions and impose a 2m/- fine for diverting water from a main source.

The Water Resources Management Amendment, Act 2022 aims at protecting water sources including imposing fines on conducting activities on water protected areas.

Speaking when tabling the bill in the National Assembly, Minister for Water Jumaa Aweso said the bill aims at establishing a law to amend the Water Resources Management Act, chapter 331 to address challenges which emerged during the implementation of the said law.

"A person who diverts dams, impounds, store, abstracts or uses water without water use permit commits an offence and shall, on conviction-(a) in case the offender is a natural person, be liable to a fine of not less than two million shillings but not exceeding ten million shillings or to imprisonment for a term of not less than three months," the bill reads in part.

According to the minister, the bill aims at increasing management capacity of water resources to facilitate supervision and align with changes recorded in the water sector.

The bill also introduces water impoundment and diversion permits to control the growing tendency of water diversion which threatens water resources sustainability.

The bill further amended by repealing and replacing section 44 of the Water Resources Management Act, 2009 for the purposes of separating the offence of using water contrary to permit and the offence of using water without a permit.

The Minister said while the absolute amounts of wa-

ter required for domestic water and sanitation are not great, ensuring water sources are sustainable, not polluted, and properly managed is critical. Tanzania's major cities, including Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Morogoro take their water from stressed rivers with inadequate source protection, while Dodoma - site of the country's political capital - relies almost entirely on groundwater.

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Business Licesing Act up for review, amendment

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) has brought together stakeholders to collect views on the review and amendment of the Business Licence Act, a move aimed to further improve the business environment in the country

Speaking during the meeting in Dar es Salaam this week, BRELA director of licensing, Andrew Mkaapa said that the three-day event aimed to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to air their opinions on what should be incorporated in the Act.

"The Act needs to change so as to accommodate the current business environment that keeps on evolving," Mkaapa noted.

"We have a great responsibility to represent our institution that in one way or the other may be affected by the changes that will be made in this law thus avoiding unnecessary legal conflicts from other sectors," he noted.

"Parties present here will agree with me that this Act, which has been used in issuing various business licenses in the country, was amended in 2018, but since the business environment keeps chang-

ing, it needs to be reviewed again to accommodate the needs," he said.

He said that as old as it is, and like many other laws of our country, there have been various amendments in order to meet the current environment business needs," he said.

Business officer from the Ministry of investment, industry and Trade Denisi Mzamilu hinted on the note that the amendment of the Act will be beneficial to both businessmen and government as it will help stimulate trade and other economic initiatives in the country.



A person who diverts dams, impounds, store, abstracts or uses water without water use permit commits an offence and shall, on conviction-(a) in case the offender is a natural person, be liable to a fine of not less than two million shillings

Z'bar hotel investor pays 1.4bn/- to workers after project termination

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

PENNYROYAL Zanzibar Limited, a hotel firm in Zanzibar says it was forced to spend over 1.4bn/- to pay its contractors and workers after the Zanzibar government's revocation of land lease for the construction of the five-star Blue Amber Resort Hotel.

The hotel's proprietor, Brian Thomson said not less than 150 workers including labourers have already been paid their salaries for three months including five-year gratuity following employment termination.

"The firm's debts stood at USD 498,000/- equivalent to 1.14bn/- owed by workers and contractors of the project," Thomson said.

However, he said they do not expect other creditors to emerge following the decision to pay off the workers a short time after government revocation of the land title deed, despite a High Court Order calling them to continue with the project.

"Pennyroyal Zanzibar Limited had received a High Court Order to continue with construction work of the hotel," he added.

He added that his firm was established in 2012 and given land title deed for the 411-hectare of land in 2014 after satisfying all investment conditions including the project's feasibility studies and in 2018 it was granted an

investment permit after the project was endorsed by the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

Briefing reporters at Matemwe Mbuyutende village in Pemba North Region, some workers praised the step by Pennyroyal Zanzibar to promptly pay their salary arrears and five-year gratuity following termination of employment.

They have called on the government to sit together with the firm to find a solution of the hotel project to rescue the project for the interest of the nation.



The firm's debts stood at USD 498,000/- equivalent to 1.14bn/- owed by workers and contractors of the project



Ntezimanu Chanyela (2nd-R), an engineer with Dodoma city's recently completed Machinga Complex open market, briefs Dodoma regional commissioner Rosemary Senyamule (to his right) yesterday. She was on an inspection tour of the facility. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Women and girls rights activists hail govt on amending of Marriage Act

By Getrude Mbago

THE Movement of Women and Girls Rights (TAPO) has commended the recent government's statement that it is set to commence the review for the amendment of the Marriage Act, 1971.

The movement has hailed the move saying that by amending the law, it will greatly help to fight child marriage, which has been affecting and thwarting a number of young girls from achieving their dreams.

Tanzania's Marriage Act of 1971 sets the minimum marriage age for girls at 15 with parental consent and 18 for boys.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam Rebecca Gyumi, executive direc-

tor of Msichana Initiative, who are part of the movement, said in a bid to end child marriage in the country, the law should be amended specifically sections 13 and 17 which provides for girls to be married before the age of 18.

"We have received and recognized the statement issued by Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups which she issued in the Parliament on September 13 that Parliamentary Committees on Social Services and Community Development as well as that of Constitutional and Legal affairs are next week expected to sit to discuss the amendment of the Marriage Act, 1971," she noted.

Gyumi said by continuing to remain

num on the laws, a number of young girls also fall into the traps which kill their dreams with others taking difficult decisions of killing themselves.

"We thank the government for this move, we, as stakeholders who have for years been decrying on this law, we take this statement heavily and we are ready to make closer follow-up on it on implementation, child marriage poses several health risks to the girls. Statistics show that three out of five girls are married before 18 years," she said.

Wawi Zahor, one of the movement's members, said it was high time now for the Members of Parliament to push for the bill to come in the House for amendment.

She commended minister Gwajima

for the statement which has brought new hope for stakeholders and young girls who need to be supported to achieve their dreams.

She noted when young girls are forced to marry; they face potentially lifelong harmful consequences. They are essentially subject to state-sanctioned rape and are at risk of increased domestic violence, forced pregnancy and negative health consequences, while being denied education and economic opportunity.

In a landmark 2016 decision, the High court ruled these provisions unconstitutional, and directed the government to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys.

This ruling followed a legal challenge

by the Msichana Initiative, an organisation advocating for girls' right to education in Tanzania.

Their petition argued that the Marriage Act violated girls' fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and access to education, and contravened Tanzania's Law of the Child Act.

The government appealed against the High Court decision, but the Court of Appeal upheld the 2016 High Court ruling.

With two out of five girls being married off before their 18th birthday, Tanzania has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, according to UN estimates.

According to Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) data from

2015-2016, Shinyanga region leads by 59 per cent of the total challenge followed by Tabora 58 percent, Mara 55 per cent, and Dodoma region which has 51 per cent and Lindi region 48 per cent from the big five leading regions.

TAPO is made up of several organisations including Msichana Initiative, Tanzania Women Cross-Party Platform (T-WCP-ULINGO), Tanzania Feminist Initiative, Her Ability Foundation, WAJIKI, TAWIA, WILDAF, Hope for Young Girls, He Initiative, Soma, Open Young Organisation, TAMWA, Men Engage, C-SEMA, ICCAO, JIDA, Mwanamke na Uongozi, Binti Makini Foundation, TECMN, Women Fund Trust-Tanzania, Binti Salha Foundation and the Legal and Human Right Centre (LHRC).



Students of Madrast Ta'lim at Tarbiyah Secondary School in Kibaha District plant vegetables in the school's garden on Thursday after attending horticultural training conducted by an agricultural expert from a local entrepreneurship firm. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

20 villages in Longido allot 186 ha for pastures

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TWENTY out of 49 villages in Longido District, Arusha Region have set aside 186,794 hectares for pastures to deal with the effects of climate change.

In the district, 95 percent of the residents are pastoralists who own 918,248 livestock according to the 2012 census, but in recent years they're in high demand for pastures and water due to climate change.

Longido District's livestock and fisheries officer, Nestory Daqarro revealed this here yesterday when speaking to environmental journalists through the environmental conservation project using indigenous knowledge, which is funded by the United Nations Development Organisation (UNDP) through the small projects programme.

The project is being executed by Media Aid for Indigenous and Pastoralists Community (MAIPAC) in collaboration with Civic and Legal Aid Organisation (CILAO) and coordinated by the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF).

The official said that Longido District had greatly been affected by climate change, which led to the scarcity of pastures and water.

As a result, Daqarro said that some of the herdsmen have now moved to areas outside the district in search of pasture and water.

"That's why we set aside areas of pastures where they will plant leaves fit for livestock and dig dams for water," he said. He added: "The government recognises the challenges of the district because for the second year now there is no enough rain, so the villages have set aside areas of grazing land that will be approved by the central government to save their livestock."

Kilel Olenyokie Mollel, Kimokowa village chairman said they have decided to set aside areas of the pastures to maintain them for breeding.

Govt issues 1.8bn/- to support Dodoma project for girls, young women

By Guardian Reporter, Kondo

A total of 3,287 girls and young women in Dodoma Region have benefited from the 1.8bn/- given to them by the government so as to support various economic projects to improve income and livelihoods.

Coordinator of Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) in Dodoma Region, Eriko Kawanga said this on Wednesday when HIV/AIDS commission visited Kondo District in Dodoma Region to inspect the progress of the "Timiza Malengo" project.

Implemented by TACAIDS, the projects involve also training the groups on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), entrepreneurship and HIV/AIDS so as to help them make informed decisions regarding their lives.

He said Dodoma is estimated to have 52,842 people living with HIV/AIDS with Dodoma city and Kongwa District having high infections.

He said a total of 4,370 samples taken from various people showed that 2,114 were returned and 15 showed to have been in-

fectured with the virus.

Mother to child HIV infection showed that in the 356 centres working, 130,200 pregnant women were tested, while 1,035 were found to have been infected.

Commission's Chairman, Dr Hedwig Swai said the project has greatly assisted children from primary and secondary schools as well as those not in schools who come from difficult environments to know their statuses.

He called on people living with HIV to join up and grab opportunities for the

"Timiza Malengo" projects as these can help them in their economic well-being.

She further noted provision of sexual and reproductive health education help to equipping young people with self-awareness as they grow older enabling them to conduct better decisions throughout their life.

"Lack of accurate and adequate information about sexual and reproductive health leads young people to engage in risky behaviors and thus expose themselves to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, teenage pregnancy and other problems," she added.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule said there is still a big task in educating the youth in the region as statistics show that child pregnancies were on the rise.

"If girls get pregnant, it means they do not take precautions at all, so this project helps them to know how they can protect themselves from various diseases," she lamented.

Hawa Salum, one of the "Timiza Malengo" project beneficiaries said in 2018 she acquired various skills through the project and when she was financed, she expanded her businesses.

Plastic surgeons from UK to hone local experts' skills

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SIX plastic surgeons from the United Kingdom (UK) are in the country to strengthen partnership and help local experts improve skills in performing plastic surgery procedures.

Since they arrived last week, the specialists have already conducted eight plastic surgeries to patients who were in need of the service.

The group of surgeons are Dr Naveen Cavale from Kings College Hospital, Dr Foiz Ahmed from Lister Stevanage Hospital and Dr Asmat Din from St Thomas Hospital London.

Others who are plastic surgeons trainees are Dr Mezika Moghim, from Royal Free Hospital in London, Terouz Pasha from St Thomas and Emma Murray from Alder Hey Childrens Hospital Liverpool.

Speaking at a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, leader of the delegation, Dr Naveen Cavale, who works with Kings College Hospital in the UK, said they have been coming to the country twice a year to conduct such surgery when need arises.

According to him, arrived in the country last week and has been conducting the surgery to patients at Tumbi Hospital in Coast Region and the operation went successful.

He said they have been also con-

ducting some regular specialty training to Tanzania medical doctors in collaboration with local experts.

"We operate burn injuries and sometimes conditions that children are born with and we have visited Muhimbili to see how we can establish link so that we can have teaching programmes and collaboration that will enable us to come regularly," he said.

He said apart from Muhimbili they are in conversations with other zonal hospitals to establish collaboration so that they can conduct comprehensive plastic surgeries.

"We have conducted all these eight operations at Tumbi hospital but next time we hope to do that at Muhimbili and other hospitals in Arusha and other regions wherever we are told that there is need we will be ready to go and help," said Dr Cavale.

He said they expect to come again in Tanzania to conduct such services after every six months but when they will be established and get more specialists they will be able to come after three or two months.

Speaking on how they can help to train local personnel to conduct such kinds of surgeries, Dr Cavale said the teaching programme for plastic surgeries takes a very long

time but they will collaborate with the Sub Saharan Organisation Africa like COSECSA.

"Training of plastic surgery take long time in UK is six years programme and in Tanzania it is four years but we will rely on collaborations with other bodies like COSECSA which is the largest surgical training in Sub-Saharan Africa and others to conduct such trainings," he said.

Dr Cavale said: "Through COSECSA we hope to establish a similar programme here in Tanzania like that we have in the UK and by doing that we hope after a few years we will be able to produce many plastic surgeons all around the country here."

Foiz Ahmed from Lister Hospital-North London said the common problem they attended was burn injuries to children whereby they fixed their fingers and many complicated issues were born," he said.

He said they are in Tanzania under the umbrella of a charity organisation called British Foundation for International Reconstructive Surgical Training.

"The idea of coming here is to train local surgeons to conduct such kind of surgeries effectively because our team can attend to a few people but if we train them they can operate on hundreds of patients.



UK-based plastic surgeon Naveen Cavale (in glasses) briefs journalists at the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday on why he and six colleagues of his are currently in Tanzania. He says they were attending to patients lined up for the specialised treatment at Tumbi Regional Referral Hospital in Coast Region. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Liwale MP appeals for a national land evaluation operation

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

LIWALE Member of Parliament (CCM) Zeberi Kuchauka has called upon the government to carry out a national land evaluation exercise so as to address the ongoing conflicts.

The legislator said most of the land conflicts in the country emanated from what he termed as the 'non inclusive' 1970 land valuation.

In his question during the question and answer session yesterday in the House, Kuchauka Kichauka gave an example of the Mkurungu land conflict where those who were carrying beacons and stones during the Ujamaa operation left the beacons in areas which were not marked.

"There are conflicts in Kilwa and Liwale at Nanjilinj which is the same as that of Mkurungu which means the people of the two districts were not consulted during the valuation exercise," he said.

In response, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development Ridhiwan Kikwete confirmed the availability of the conflicts in the areas.

The deputy minister said what happened in 1970 was not valuation but was a special operation to establish Ujamaa villages in the country.

He said Lindi has 401 villages which have been evaluated out of the 523 which have been bounded.

"I know there are such challenges since the programmes in the year 2000 when the programme started being implemented, therefore there is need for a review of the programme," he added.

The minister said in the last five years 2022/23 to 2016/27 the ministry was planning to review the valuation of 250 villages which have land conflicts.

Z'bar allots 7bn/- for road construction in Micheweni

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has set aside a total of 7bn/- for the construction of a 13.5km road leading to Micheweni Free Economic Zone in Pemba.

This was revealed here Wednesday in the House of Representatives by the Works, Communications and Transport Minister, Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed while elaborating on the government strategy to open up Pemba Island to investments.

Mohamed said the construction of the Micheweni to the Free Economic Zone is among government priorities in beefing up road infrastructure.

He mentioned other strategies as including taking power and safe and clean water infrastructures to the 547-hectare area.

The minister said these priorities were essential as they are part of the Zanzibar government strategies to open up the island of Pemba for investments.

He further said the project is being implemented in collaboration with the President's Office (Labour, Economy and Investments) in order to make sure the free economic investment zone in Pemba get investors.

"I would like to inform the House Members that the government is well committee and mobilised to improve the free economic investment areas at Micheweni to woo in investors, and in that we shall beef up the road infrastructure," he told the House.

He said the government is also set to construct a 22-km road network that will join the two Pemba regions as part of the government to open up Pemba to investors.

Earlier, some MPs from North Pemba Region, led by the Special Seats MP Bihindi Hamad Khamis had called for elaboration from the government on its strategies to beef up the Micheweni free Economic Zone area to woo investors and pointed out that road, power, and water infrastructures were still in poor state.

VACANCY



ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of Northwestern Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's Southeast of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position	: Senior Manager Sustainability
Contract type & Duration	: Unspecified time contract
Department	: Sustainability
Reporting to	: Vice President - Sustainability, Ghana & Tanzania Business Unit
Number of Positions	: One (01)

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE :

To provide managerial leadership in the Sustainability Department for the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of the effectiveness of the sustainability discipline at Geita Gold Mine in line with the AngloGold Ashanti Corporate and Business Unit sustainability systems with the aim of building effective relationships and social partnerships to secure and maintain the social license for the mine. This should be consistent with delivering maximum sustainable value of the asset.

The role is critical in enabling a culture of respect and working closely with stakeholders to build and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship that will ensure communities around the mine are sustained and key stakeholders are constructively engaged.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Postgraduate degree in Development Studies, Sustainable Development, Social Sciences or related fields.
- **GGML is an equal opportunity employer: Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply**

EXPERIENCE:

- A minimum of 10 years' experience in Social Performance Management or Sustainability function in mining or related industry of which at least 5 years was at a senior management level.
- Experience of different stages of mining life cycle and the associated sustainability issues

MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Establish and maintain processes to provide a safe workplace to all employees and external service providers undertaking work within area of accountability whilst ensuring compliance with mine wide Health, Safety and Environment KPIs
- Develop and implement Emergence and Safety awareness and management plan for communities
- Build and sustain a team of subordinates capable of producing required outputs and model the team's work behaviors consistent with the company values.
- Plan and deploy resources assigned to you within the approved frameworks to ensure the delivery of all strategic initiatives within budget and time frame agreed.
- Ensure that the mine's activities foster full respect for and preserve the dignity, human rights, aspirations, cultures, , and livelihood activities of local peoples as well as the long-term sustainability of the natural resources located within traditional or customary lands.
- Develop and implement a forward-looking engagement covering all identified stakeholders including communities; civic and community-based organizations; NGOs; regional and local government, traditional authorities; and the media in line with the company's policy to "communicate and consult on our activities throughout the lifecycle of our operations" with the aim of building successful and mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders.
- Develop and implement a locally and culturally appropriate mechanism to provide local communities a means to raise complaints and grievances against the mine and for the mine to respond and resolve those issues where reasonable and feasible, ensuring that opportunities for complaints and grievances to escalate into incidents are reduced.
- Develop and implement strategies and mechanisms to access land for mining and other use and management of land related lawful co-existence by the mine in conjunction with other departments (Mining, Geology, Legal etc.) on the mine.
- Carefully and systematically plan and implement access and resettlement in accordance with Tanzanian policies and regulations, AngloGold Ashanti's Integrated Environment and Community Policy; the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability; ESG, SDGs and AngloGold Ashanti's values, with the informed participation of displaced persons and other relevant stakeholders in order to minimize and address negative impacts and maximize benefits for the displaced people.
- Develop and implement sustainable social and economic development programs and projects driven by the needs of host communities and in line with government plans and AngloGold Ashanti's Community Investment Guidelines to contribute to sustainable futures of host communities.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce the negative impacts of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining on the mine's operation and ensure co-existence where appropriate and possible in support of Government initiatives to formalize legal ASM in the Country.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- In-depth knowledge of modern sustainability systems of multinational business operations
- Proven competence in participatory and grassroots development methodologies
- An experienced people-manager with proven leadership skills
- Excellent communications and negotiations skills
- Fluent in English
- Ability to speak the local language
- A good knowledge of the local government system and their functions
- A good knowledge of the local culture and traditions

MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please apply through our recruitment portal by following the link below. Please click the link or type the URL address on a website browser to access the application portal.
- On the portal you will be required to upload your detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees. Please do not attach certificates that are not related to the qualifications stated above.
- You will also be required to upload a cover / application letter addressed to "Senior Manager Human Resources", Geita Gold Mining Ltd". Subject should be "Senior Manager Sustainability".

Application Link:

<https://career5.successfactors.eu/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobld=19906&company=AGAprod>

- If you struggle to apply via the link provided, please head over to our website <https://www.geitamine.com/en/people/> for a step-by-step guide on how to apply for jobs on our recruitment portal (SuccessFactors).
- You will be required to present original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
- Internal Applicants (those currently employed by AngloGold Ashanti) must have their application letter endorsed by their Head of Department (HOD) or Manager once Removed (MoR).

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications should reach the above on or before 30th September 2022 at 5:30 Pm
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

NOTE ON COVID-19 PREVENTION:

- Please note when you are invited for interviews, you will be required to present proof of vaccination against COVID-19 (Covid-19 vaccination certificate) or if you are not vaccinated, please go for a Covid-19 test and obtain a 96 - hour valid PCR Covid-19 negative certificate.
- You are also advised to adhere to all recommended prevention measures including proper wearing of face masks and washing or sanitizing your hands before you are allowed through Geita Gold Mine entry points.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com

Government says buildings for 555 dispensaries done by 85 pc

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government yesterday said construction of buildings meant to house 555 dispensaries in various districts and municipal councils across the country in the financial year 2021/22 have reached 85 per cent.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office Regional and Local Government Dr Festo Dugange told the National Assembly during a question and answer session in Dodoma.

Dugange was responding to a question by Meatu legislator (CCM) Leah Komanya who asked when will the Government Issue directives on the use of funds meant for the construction of dispensary buildings.

"It is two years now since the government released money for construction of such buildings, is the government ready to carry out an audit on the funds," the legislator further queried.

In response, Dr Dugange said every building received about 50m/- and currently the buildings are about 85percent complete ready for registration.

The deputy minister said the government has already issued directives on how the money should be used for the completion of the buildings.

"One of the proposals for the funds was that every building which received

50m/- should at least reach the roofing stage and not otherwise, the idea was that a building at that stage can at least begin offering services," he said.

In her preliminary question, the MP questioned the government's plan to finalize the construction of buildings meant to accommodate dispensaries in villages of Lata, Ikigijo, Lukale, Malwilo, Bulyanaga, Shushuni, Nata, Usulize and Igushilu.

In his response the deputy minister said the government set aside 200m/- for Meatu district to finalise construction of four dispensaries.

Dr Dugange said in the year 2022/23 set aside 200m/- from the central government and 100m/- from internal revenues for the completion of Mwandikisa, Masanga, Mwanyahima, Mwabagashi and Ikigijo dispensaries.

"In the year 2023/24 100m/- was set aside from internal sources for the construction of Igushilu and Nata dispensaries," he added.



It is two years now since the government released money for construction of such buildings, is the government ready to carry out



Small traders go about their routine activities yesterday in an area at Kimara Mwisho in Dar es Salaam while a Ubungo municipality billboard banning the conducting of any form of business stands right there. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NHC's Samia Housing Scheme set to take off later this month

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE implementation of the first phase of the eagerly-awaited Samia Housing Scheme (SHC) Project is expected to commence later this month, the National Housing Corporation (NHC) top official has said.

The envisaged mega-project to gobble up to USD200million upon its completion is focusing to construct a total of 5000 modern residential apartments in different regions within the county, the robust initiative which aims to place the common Tanzanians in access to comfortable but affordable residences.

Giving an exclusive interview to the publication, NHC's Public Affairs and

Information Manager, Muungano Saguya, expressed that the project will be implemented in two major phases, detailing that the first phase will see the construction of at least 500 houses in Kawe area in Dar es Salaam, as well as more than 200 apartments in Medeli area in Dodoma Capital City.

He noted that the project is expected to offer employment opportunities to about 26,400 Tanzanians with 17,600 people employed directly, while another 8,800 people will grab indirect employment.

"Already, we have finalized all fundamental preparations and relevant procedures, and we're expecting that construction works for the project's initial phase will start anytime soon, before the end of this month of Sep-

tember," he informed.

Saguya further informed that Kawe's 500 apartments will be built in terms of at least 10 group flats, saying those to be raised in Dodoma will also base on the same design.

According to the project's implementation schedule, out of the targeted 5,000 apartments, 50 percent will be constructed in Dar es Salaam, 30 percent in Dodoma capital city and the remaining in other regions.

"We have seen the need to give first priority to Dar es Salaam and Dodoma regions due to increasingly high demand for residential apartments within the two areas, but generally our prime vision is to serve all Tanzanians from across the country," he said.

After completing the first phase, Saguya said, the state-owned company will thereafter decide on other regions to necessary install the apartments.

And he assured that NHC was well prepared to implement the project in a framed time and needed standards, saying the houses will be sold at patriotic prices in order to allow even common Tanzania to afford to purchase.

He said NHC was working tooth and nail to help the government to heighten the extent of availability of residential houses within the country.

According to Minister for Land, Housing and Settlement Development, Dr Angelina Mabula, Tanzania

is grappling with a shortage of three million quality residential houses while the pace of supplying new units is on the lower side.

The minister observed that the discouraging pace was 'arm-twisting' the government to challenge the private sector to chip in and tap the potential since banks are ready to provide loans.

Statistics show that in the past 12 years, only 13,837 houses were built which is an average of 1,153 new buildings every year. However, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Land, Housing and Settlement Development, Dr Allan Kijazi, recently unveiled that the parent ministry intends to make policy to ensure that they meet the needs intended by the

real estate sector in the country in a bid to eliminate rising challenges in the sector.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament Cap. 117. The primary mandate of NHC is to play a role in the implementation of the Government's Housing Policies and Programmes.

The Corporation Board of Directors consists of the Principal Secretary State Department for Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works; Principal Secretary, The National Treasury and others appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Land, Housing and Urban Development.



Kilindi district commissioner Abel Busalama (L) pictured at Mswaki village Msanja ward on Thursday assisting Sofia Madeni in placing a bucket of water on the head shortly after he had received a 14m/- shallow well handed over by Ahlu Bayt Islamic Centre. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Use communication services for economic benefits, public told

By Guardian Correspondent, Makambako

RESIDENTS in Makambako town in Njombe Region have been advised to effectively use communication services to strengthen themselves economically.

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)'s southern highlands manager, Eng Asajile John made the call when speaking at the weekly open market event in Makambako town during the education campaign that carries the slogan "Ascend Digitally."

He said that communication has made it easier to access various opportunities, including economic ones, noting that there are various types of social networks, which have many opportunities to make people develop themselves commercially.

"Getting any kind of good education that a person wants, a good way of using networks instead of using these networks for evil acts such as crime, defamation or humiliating others," he said.

Eng. John said that in today's world, a lot of information on the improvement of services, business,

marketing and agriculture is available online, urging people of Makambako to use those opportunities.

He cited reports on the improvement of agriculture, the availability of markets for agricultural and forestry products as well as promoting agro products in the local and international markets as being available online.

Eng John urged people in the area instead of using the internet to do unprofitable things to focus on those basic areas, stating that the big difference in using social networks was that those who use it well end up benefiting economically and educationally while those who misuse the networks get ending up badly by getting various punishments including jail terms.

The official asked members of the public to make follow-ups on the education provided through the campaign by the TCRA so that they could have a better understanding of the good uses of social networks so as to avoid unexpected punishments.

TCRA is implementing a campaign to educate the public on the effective and safe use of communication services across the country.

MWAUWASA told to have comprehensive land plan for Butimba water treatment plant

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MINISTER for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Dr Angeline Mabula has called on the Mwanza Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) to have a comprehensive land plan for the Butimba Water Treatment Plant in Mwanza Region.

Dr Mabula made the call on Wednesday this week during the laying of the foundation stone for the Butimba Water Treatment Plant officiated by the Vice President, Dr Philip Mpango.

She thanked MWAUWASA for fencing off the area around the project saying if the area remained open, people could invade it and create unnecessary land conflicts.

However, she said in addition to the fencing of the area, a better plan for its land use is important to identify the needs for various services.

"We can see the area for the water treatment plant, but if MWAUWASA comes up with plans for land use in the fenced off area we can know about the housing shortage for

workers that can be incorporated in the area whose residents can be part of security guards for the area," she said.

On environmental conservation, the minister said as of now her ministry has directed every time a title deed is issued, it has to be accompanied with conditions regarding planting of trees for environmental protection.

In his speech after laying the foundation stone for the water treatment plant at Butimba, Mwanza, the Vice President Dr Philip Mpango directed that the project is completed early December this year so as to act as a Christmas present for the residents in Mwanza who are decrying on shortage of the precious liquid.

Kenya issues early drought warning bulletin for Kwale County Thursday

KENYA

THE government of Kenya on Thursday released an early warning bulletin for Kwale County which shows that in August the district received normal rainfall.

However, the government noted the vegetation condition for August was below average but on an improving trend.

"The state of water sources was declining and below normal for August, and harvesting was on-going in most parts of the mixed farming livelihood zone."

However, insignificant harvests were realized in the livestock farming livelihood zone. Maize and legumes were in good condition in the mixed farming livelihood zone but poor in the livestock farming livelihood zone.

The statement added: "Milk production was above seasonal ranges in August. Terms of trade (casual labour to maize) were below average implying decreased household purchasing power."

"Milk consumption was above average for August. Return distances to water sources for domestic use were above normal for August."

The government added that Kwale County's food consumption score was 36.8 in August having remained stable in comparison with 34.6 recorded in July.

The reduced coping strategy index was 14.1 in August having remained stable compared with 13.7 in July.

The state of water sources was declining and below normal for August, and harvesting was on-going in most parts of the mixed farming livelihood zone



Wendi Brenda, an officer with the Health Integrated Multisectoral Development Project, briefs journalists on a tour of the agency's offices in Arusha city on Thursday on the various forms of female genital mutilation carried out in pastoral communities that still practise it. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

WHO kicks off meningitis vaccination campaigns in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners have launched a roadmap to stop by 2030, bacterial meningitis outbreaks on the continent.

In a race against time, African countries are being urged to rapidly implement the plan before the start of the meningitis season in January, which runs until June.

"More than 400 million Africans are still at risk of seasonal meningitis outbreaks, but the disease has remained off the radar for too long," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Meningitis is caused by inflamma-

tion of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Acute bacterial meningitis can cause death within 24 hours and leaves one in five survivors with lifelong disability.

Historically, type A was the highest meningitis outbreak in Africa. However, in 2010 the effective MenAfriVac vaccine was developed and deployed throughout the continent.

With WHO and partners' support, more than 350 million people in 24 high-risk African countries have to date, received the MenAfriVac vaccine.

While meningitis type A accounted for 90 per cent of cases and

deaths before 2010, no new cases have been reported since 2017. Controlling that lethal form of meningitis has led to less meningitis type A deaths and while half of meningitis-affected people died in 2004, in 2021, 95 per cent of cases survived.

"The defeat of meningitis type A is of one of Africa's biggest success stories in health, but the fall-out from COVID-19 hampers our drive to eliminate this bacterial infection as a public health threat once and for all, and could lead to catastrophic resurgences," said Dr Moeti.

The pandemic severely disrupted meningitis prevention and control services, with disease surveillance,

laboratory confirmation of cases and outbreak investigations all steeply declining.

Based on country reports, WHO found that meningitis control activities were reduced by 50 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019, with a slight improvement in last year.

While no meningitis type A case has been reported in Africa over the past five years, outbreaks still occur and are caused by other types of meningococcal bacteria.

In 2019, 140,552 Africans died from all types of meningitis, with major outbreaks of meningitis type C recorded in seven so-called "meningitis belt countries" since

2013.

And last year, a four-month outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo claimed 205 lives.

Moreover, Africa is the only region to still experience outbreaks and accounts for the highest number of new meningitis cases globally - reporting 100 cases per 100,000 people.

"Aside from the toll on human life, outbreaks negatively impact health systems, our fragile economies, and impoverish entire populations forced to contend with multiple health and socio-economic challenges," lamented Dr Moeti.

In an ambitious bid to defeat bacterial meningitis in Africa by 2030, the new regional strategy sets out a

roadmap for countries to shore up diagnosis, surveillance, care, advocacy and vaccination to eliminate outbreaks, curb deaths by 70 per cent and halve infections.

WHO estimates that \$1.5 billion will be required between now and 2030 to implement the plan, which if fully adopted will save more than 140,000 lives every year in the region and significantly reduce disability.

"In prioritizing the response to COVID-19, we must not lose our focus on other health problems," underscored the senior WHO official, urging countries to "ramp up implementation of the new WHO regional roadmap now."



Muheza District urban planning officer Happiness Namponja (R) pictured at a meeting on Thursday presenting a progress report on the issuance of land title deeds to Majengo ward residents. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Helium One, Baker Hughes partner ahead of phase II drilling in Rukwa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

HELIUM One Global Ltd has announced a milestone partnership ahead of phase II drilling at its project in Rukwa Region in the country.

The company said it has signed a letter of intent with international oil and gas consultants Baker Hughes (BH), which will provide integrated services ahead of the 'spudding' of an evaluation well in January or February next year.

Specifically, BH will ensure the company has the best equipment on site.

"Mobilising equipment currently in operation in Southern Africa allows us to deliver a cost-effective solution to overcoming the scarcity of downhole tools experienced globally," said David Minchin, Helium One's chief executive in a statement.

At the same time, rig audit work has been a key in identifying component wear issues that are being rectified in the crucial preparatory period in the run-up to the evaluation well's spud date.

In a comprehensive update, Helium One said it is in the process of renewing the licences for the Rukwa project area. However, it has committed to surrendering certain areas that aren't prospective for helium, saving \$309,600 a year in the process.

Located in southwestern Tanzania, Rukwa is estimated to be host to an 'unrisked' prospective recoverable helium resource of 138bn cubic feet of the inert gas, making this the largest known primary helium resource in the world. Helium One has identified 21 prospects and four leads.

Global demand for helium, which is used in MRI machines and other medical equipment, continues to grow exponentially.

In particular, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has prevented any additional new supply from being developed from the Amur facility in Siberia as Linde, Air Products and Air Liquid have officially suspended all activities in Russia.

Immigration nab 13 illegal immigrants from Burundi

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Immigration Department in Shinyanga Region in collaboration with the Police Force has arrested 13 Burundi nationals (children) for allegedly entering the country illegally.

The migrants, all below 18 years of age were arrested in various areas in Kahama Municipality and Segese Town in Kahama and Msalala Districts respectively as they were on their way to Kaliua District, Tabora

Region to work as herders and in tobacco farms.

Briefing reporters here on Wednesday, Shinyanga Regional Immigration Officer, Petro Malima said soon after they were informed of the presence of the children, they acted and arrested them and already arrangements have been made to repatriate them back to Burundi.

He named those arrested as Ndikumana Jambotiste, Nzeimana Mussa, Beitaga Karode, Ndaikungurikiye Jamal, Ndikumana

Elioze, Erick Paschal and Hakizimana Pasiki.

Others are Edson Miburo, Miburo Ezekiel, Senginyumva Jonas, Sadick Juma, David Ndaikeze and Sarimbona Deo.

Malima said during interrogation, the children revealed that they were wooed to come to Tanzania by their fellows who similarly worked in Tanzania and returned home displaying their economic wellbeing.

He also said after interrogation it was found out all of them were below 18 years of

age and that they entered Tanzania through unauthorized routes after encouragement from their associates who had been in Tanzania.

He also called on the country's security firms to stop employing people from Burundi since they were greatly underpaying them.

Kahama District Immigration Officer, Salumu Rashidi, has warned farmers and livestock keepers to stop bringing into the country illegal immigrants.

He called on the community to continue cooperating with the force by providing information whenever they suspect the presence of people entering or living illegally in the country.

Sakumu Bakari, an Igomelo resident here said in order to stamp out cross border movement of illegal migrants, EAC Member States should put in place strict laws for illegal immigrants who return to their home states after being repatriated by other member states.

18 years into global Ozone Day, climate crisis quite different now

BACK in 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16th of September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. It was seven years from the signing in 1987 of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which it thus sought to commemorate. This accord was in sum noted as the Montreal Protocol; UN chroniclers noting that implementation of that accord progressed well in developed and developing countries.

Trying to recall the media hype of that period, it is possible to remember the term 'chloro-flouro-carbons,' a range of spraying chemicals which don't decompose in being released into the air. Higher up in other layers of the earth's atmosphere, the chemical reagents eat into the ozone layer, a protective sheet of inert gas that repels ultraviolet rays from the sun and absorbs part of the heat emitted into upper layers of atmosphere. Climate debates became earnest at that time, as progressives saw this protective layer being depleted; conservatives said nature heals itself, as a rule.

The UN chronicler noted that in those early Ozone Day activities, attention focused initially on chemicals with higher ozone-depletion potentials including CFCs and halons. The phase-out schedule for 'hydrochloro-flouro-carbons' was relaxed due to their lower ozone-depletion potential, and as transitional substitutes for CFCs, with fewer of the noxious chemicals. All this is now history, and its intensity at the time can be compared with the plastic carrier bags issue in the past decade and the danger it posed to cattle, wildlife and

marine organisms, leading to a global ban.

Looking at the issue from current perspectives, most of what was being feared at that time is patent reality, like huge floods from torrential intermittent rains and vast droughts, with climate patterns at best unpredictable or totally unreliable. Even with the parties to the Montreal Protocol deciding to accelerate the HCFC phase-out schedule for both developed and developing countries in 2007, reaching the vital universal ratification agreement on 16th September 2009, the diplomatic progress attained was well behind the ferocity of the burgeoning climate crisis.

Even greater progress was achieved in the Kigali Amendment on 15 October 2016 in the Rwandese capital of Kigali to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). By this time the debate had substantially shifted to hydrocarbon fuels.

They are more intensive expression of the threat, not the particular sprays for refrigeration, etc.

In a sense, reflecting on how the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as a diplomatic feat shows how little it is possible to live on the laurels of international diplomacy on climate change (the ozone layer issue being largely eclipsed).

As in other climate related disputes that are more in the vogue at present, all replacement of traditional climate-impacting substances requires financing new technology and mass production of such materials, the way the northern hemisphere is changing to electric cars at the moment.

School meals coalition implementation plans crucial for mass of young learners

YOUNG people in schools stand to get a new deal in the wake of Tanzania signing to the global school meals coalition, set up during the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. With the government and the World Food Programme (WFP) signing that accord at midweek, school meals programmes will get a new impetus.

The pact is a five-year country strategic plan which officials said it started two months ago, but the WFP country director said she hopes it starts by the year's end.

School meals have never been a new idea, as those of us who attended early primary schooling in the first years of independence recall efforts of that sort being made, greatly supplementing household abilities to ensure that children have the energy to stay in class for most of the day. But these basic social welfare programmes tend to be the last to be added when priorities have been catered for, and often the first to be axed when coffers dry up. Without an independent and donor-backed programme, simply projecting it as policy is mostly unworkable.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the WFP country director applauded the government for joining the coalition, noting WFP support for school feeding programmes for years. Activist organisations have in the past few years worked to ensure that every child has an opportunity to grow, learn and thrive, by school meals. Bringing a group of WFP member states and partners to form the coalition eased it - as voluntary.

On the terms of the coalition, the government has adopted the national guidelines on school feeding and nutrition services to basic education level pupils, requiring that fairly nutritious food be made available to all

school children everywhere by 2030. That date is easy to sign up to as a declaration of intent, but the proof of the pudding is what shall be done right now, within the few months to December, and onward until 2025, then laying the framework for intensified action reaching 2030.

As with most other UN-backed programmes, their code of conduct is to collaborate with government agencies to attain such aims, while in reality the UN doesn't have enough inspectors, or the diplomatic clout, to actually ask how things are being done. That is why many donor agencies work with parallel networks of key local experts turned into stakeholders, having some transparency shenanigans as well but is more accountable for how the cash is used. Taking meals to little children looks like it is tailored for such voluntary groups, to avoid diversions at all levels, etc.

As if giving testimony to anticipations and apprehensions, the WFP country director made explicit note that conducting such a programme requires anchoring it in each local context and 'sharing best practices.' Too often administrators learn by constraint rather than seminars, and 'best practices' could also imply having parallel agencies where some of the critical steps in the project value chain are subcontracted to accountable agencies. The mix could produce better results and ease the contracted intention of attaining universal school meals cover by 2030.

WFP research indicates that school feeding contributes to increased diet diversity and reduces anemia among girls by about 20 percent when meals are consistent, having appropriate ingredients. It is a proposition that ought not to fail. Simply so.

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TILL WHEN... THIS MENACE?!?

Nationalism and development the Ghanaian case

By Special Correspondent

THAT strong spirit of nationalism and for that matter, patriotism is the driving force which propels gifted individuals to sacrifice selflessly and to lay down their lives for the liberation of their countries from exploitation of foreign powers and to lay a strong foundation for the building of their nations cannot be disputed by any sincere authoritative and knowledgeable political scientist or cultural expert or critic.

George Washington and other founding nationalists laid down their lives for the liberation of America from British rule and exploitation. And finally, America as a country gained her political independence from British rule and exploitation on 4th July, 1776.

African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana (formerly Gold Coast) won their political independence through strong nationalism and patriotism from gifted individuals who sacrificed and laid down their lives for the liberation and the building of their countries from dependence and exploitation by foreign powers.

In Nigeria, we have individual gifted nationalist individuals such as Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Dr Nnamdi Azikwe, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa etc. who identified themselves with strong nationalism and patriotism which led to Nigeria becoming politically independent on 1st October, 1960.

Kenya as a country also won her political independence from British rule and exploitation from individual gifted nationalist and patriots such as Jomo Kenyatta Dedan Kimati et al through the Mau Mau nationalist movement which eventually led to Kenya's liberation from British rule and exploitation in 1960.

As the star of Africa, the Ghanaian case is very unique and significant as far as nationalism and patriotism are concerned.

The Ghanaian case had its genesis in the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's when Ghana was known as Gold Coast. She had gifted nationalist freedom fighters such as Paa Grant, Casely Hayford, Dr. J.B Danquah etc.

These nationalists and patriots' individuals formed a political nationalist movement called The United Gold Coast Convention (U.G.C.C).

As these Ghanaian nationalist began their fight for the liberation of the Gold Coast from British colonial rule and exploitation, they were later joined by a radical person known as Kwame Nkrumah, who later broke away from his compatriots and found his own political movement or party for that matter called The Convention People's Party (C.P.P) in 1949.

Nkrumah's unique radicalism and focus for the liberation of the Gold Coast from colonial rule and exploitation led to the political independence of the Gold Coast (now Ghana) on 6th March, 1957.

As this article is focused on Ghanaian nationalism nationalist freedom fighters and their achievements, it will be appropriately and safely said that the building of the nation Ghana, began immediately after Ghana's achievement of political independence from British rule and exploitation.

The building of Ghana was laid firmly by Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of blessed memory. He began the building of the country soon

after his C.P.P political organisation or party helped to win independence for the country.

Nkrumah as a strong patriot and nationalist freedom fighter feverishly began to chart Ghana's building structure by laying the infrastructure such as the construction of Akosombo Hydro Electric Dam, The Tema Harbour, The Tema Motorway, The Atomic Energy at Kwaabena - Accra, The Kade Matches Factory, The Tema Manufacturing Industries and Oil Refinery and Township etc.

Nkrumah had unique foresight of building Ghana to the highest level possible, but alas, his dream of this noble ideal was shattered on 24th February 1966, when a group of army officers led by Colonel Emmanuel Kwashi Kotoka overthrew his C.P.P government in a military coup d'état.

Nkrumah's unique vision for the development of the country was unparalleled on the continent of Africa during his reign as president of Ghana in the 1960's. In fact Nkrumah's vision for the development of the country extended to the development of the African Continent, which was hardly underdeveloped amidst ignorance, misery and poverty at that period of time.

Nkrumah indeed selflessly sacrificed and dedicated his entire life for the building of Ghana and his vision of bringing the entire African countries under one government to be known as the United States of Africa.

It must be noted that the momentum for the building and development of Ghana and the rest of the other African countries had waned considerably since the attainment of political independence from foreign colonial powers and their exploitation of the African continent.

The spirit of nationalism or patriotism for that matter in the Africa situation is very low as compared to the United States of America. America's strong spirit of nationalism and patriotism is consistently and continually dynamic up to the present moment. Hence, America is continually advancing and developing as a great and powerful nation on earth today.

After the founding fathers of African nations one can see that African countries derailed on their tracks of national aspiration for nation building and development and unfortunately, up to the present time, the situation has not changed for any better.

Ghana and the rest of Africa lacks strong nationalism and patriotism that are required for the building and development of nations in the

world today, such as the United States of America, China, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Japan, India etc.

The above-mentioned countries were founded and built on strong nationalism and patriotism and these virtues and values have been sustained and improved upon with the passage of time up to the present moment!

Ghanaian nationalism and patriotism need to be improved upon and changed for the better now in order to build Ghana as a great and powerful nation for the rest of Africa to follow suit.

Myriad forms of corruption subtle and overt had been the order of the day in Ghana's political situation after attaining independence from British colonial rule and exploitation.

Lack of integrity, dishonesty, greed, avarice, ethnicism, and inordinate ambitions of some self-seeking individuals had been the bane of Ghanaians trying to build Ghana to experience realistic and meaningful development as a nation. These vices and immoralities must be eradicated in the Ghanaian political situation to enable Ghana to move forward on the path of development and prosperity as one of the fastest developing countries in the world today.

If these vices and immoralities are completely eradicated from Ghana's political situation Ghana will easily sail to the haven of development and prosperity within the shortest foreseeable future from now.

The present ongoing developmental aspiration of Ghana, Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda will have great impetus and bring it to great success if Ghanaians are able to eschew these vices and immoralities that had become deeply entrenched in the Ghanaian society of today.

Besides nationalism and patriotism for that matter, the building of Ghana as a nation to bring about development prosperity, Ghanaian must realize that, development does not mean only physical structures such as broad motor highways, streets, overpasses, high storey buildings, super markets, shopping malls, technological devices, digital business transactions, mobile money, health delivery system, first class hospitals and clinics etc. but development must be seen in moral and spiritual values that are prerogative and conditional for any level of material of physical development and prosperity.

The advanced and highly developed countries mentioned in this

article are much aware and conscious of these moral and spiritual values, hence, their amazing and stupendous levels of physical development and prosperity at the present time.

This does not mean that saints and angels are inhabitants of these countries, but however, the nationals of these countries are highly conscious of moralities and spirituality as the fountain from which realistic and meaningful physical development and prosperity can spring from; hence, they attune themselves to these highly essential and priceless values.

I state categorically, that great, powerful nations are built on true, sound and healthy morals and spirituality; and when these values degenerate or deteriorate nations begin to decline or fall eventually as recorded in the annals of countries in recorded history of mankind.

Ghana is a great nation by virtue of her destiny in the comity of other nations in the world today, and she must realise her great destiny by eschewing all forms of immoralities and vices so that this great destiny should manifest, so that Ghana will become precedent and show way to the rest of Africa as far as nationalism and patriotism are concerned.

In conclusion, I am highly optimistic and have a firm belief that Ghana can soar higher into the skies of development and prosperity; but this will solely depend on the guarantee that Ghana is completely devoid of immoralities and vices that had been mentioned in this article.

Indeed lack of strong nationalism and patriotism is the bane and hindrance to Ghana's continued developmental aspirations since attaining political independence from British colonial rule and exploitation; and this uncomplimentary and unpleasant situation must be reversed now in the interests of Ghana.



Myriad forms of corruption subtle and overt had been the order of the day in Ghana's political situation after attaining independence from British colonial rule and exploitation

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we briefly looked at the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2021, which measures the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country legal practitioners as well as experts worldwide.

We said although the overall rankings showed Tanzania ranked 100th out of the 139 surveyed countries and jurisdictions worldwide (or the 39th position from the end), there was no reason to frown because the report just showed we could still do better as a country if we worked on the factors we scored low. We concluded that the WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 should serve as a stepping stone through which we could make the rule of law correspond better to the rule of justice in our country.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the presumption of innocence not only as a constitutional right, but also as a human right provided for in Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): "Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he [or she] has had all the guarantees necessary for his [or her] defence."

Black's Law Dictionary (Eight Edition) defines the presumption of innocence as "The fundamental principle that a person may not be convicted of a crime unless the government proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, without any burden placed on the accused to prove innocence."

Thus, it is an established legal principle in criminal justice, which protects all persons against arbitrary judgement and condemnation. Outside criminal justice, think of this. Imagine a person sees you and thinks you are a suspected criminal they were chasing the other day and instead of investigating to find out the truth, they condemn you based on their suspicion and you are punished for something you didn't do or even they were not sure you were the offender!

Imagine what kind of world it would have been if mere suspicion or accusation amounted to condem-

Presumption of innocence as important legal principle in criminal justice

The Law and You



nation and punishment! Who would have survived then for almost all of us might have been suspected or accused of doing something or even of resembling another person or thought of being the person people say we resemble?

Imagine also this scenario! A person is suspected of committing a serious criminal offence. He or she is arraigned and because the criminal offence he or she is suspected of is not yet established, he or she is sent to remand prison for several years, pending investigation. Then, after a length of time he or she is released for lack of evidence. Think of that person: about his or

her family and the dreams he or she had! Think of the time he or she spent in remand prison which he or she could have spent on a productive activity!

This reminds me also of what President Samia Suluhu Hassan said while she was at Tanzania Police School (TPS) in Moshi Kilimanjaro recently. She directed Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Ramadhan Kingai to ensure there was investigation and cogent evidence before a person was incarcerated.

She said 1,840 criminal cases had been dismissed and the accused persons set free for lack of evidence. She explained that the incarceration of those accused persons had cost the government and their families. In other words, those persons did not deserve incarceration.

Presumption of innocence is a key principle in criminal justice, which prevents an innocent person from being incriminated and a guilty person from being exonerated from criminal liability.

Article 13(6)(a) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977) provides that "no person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence."

This is a legal principle that every person accused of any crime is considered innocent until proved guilty by a competent court. The legal burden of proof is on the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused truly committed the offence he or she is charged with and there is cogent evidence, which leaves no trace of doubt to incriminate him or her.

As Angelo Rumisha, then magistrate and PhD student at St Augustine University of Tanzania, in Commonwealth Law Review Journal (Vol 6) says the presumption of innocence "gives a person who is under investigation and criminal trial the benefit of the doubt, that, he [or she] is presumed to be innocent until the contrary is proved by his [or her] accuser." According to him, the presumption of innocence protects the accused against arbitrary con-

viction (wrongful conviction) and prevents misuse of state powers.

"With the resources at its disposal and powers that it wields, unless the state is tied to some principles, it is likely to abuse its powers. The presumption of innocence, therefore, informs the state that despite its powers, the criminal justice fact finding process should be approached on the conception of the innocence of the accused person."

He says an increased number of unailable offences that the new criminal justice regime embraces, notwithstanding any intentions to their legislation, has impacts on the right to be presumed innocent. He particularly cites Section 148(5)(b)-(e) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1985 (R.E. 2019) and the Economic and Organised Crimes Control Act (Cap 200, R.E. 2019) as making bail cumbersome to secure.

Section 148(b)(a) restricts the grant of bail to an accused person on certain criminal offences such as murder, treason, armed robbery, defilement, illicit trafficking in drugs, terrorism, money laundering and trafficking in persons. In this case, the presumption of innocence principle hits a snag.

As some critics have suggested the judiciary shouldn't have been restricted on who accused person should be granted or denied bail. As it is provided for in Article 107A(1) of the Constitution: "The Judiciary shall be the authority with final decision in the dispensation of justice in the United Republic of Tanzania."

Furthermore, Article 107B states that: "In exercising the powers of dispensing justice, all courts shall have freedom and shall be required only to observe the provisions of the Constitution and those of the laws of the land."

Today's proverb: "Curses like chickens come home to roost."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Book lovers spoilt for choice as Dar hosts biggest reading promotion

By Guardian Reporter

THE renowned Ghanaian diplomat late Kofi Annan famously remarked that literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. And the celebrated American author Garrison Keillor said that a book is a gift you can open again and again.

Experts say that reading is good because it improves focus, memory, empathy and communication skills. It can reduce stress, improve mental health and help people live longer. Reading also allows learning new things that help readers succeed in work and relationships.

Unfortunately, not everyone loves reading. Most people do it as a necessity in schools and after that it's goodbye books. In fact, people make up a lot of excuses not to read, chief among them being 'I have no time.' This is not true in most cases because you'll find the same people with no time travelling on a bus or plane for hours without any reading material!

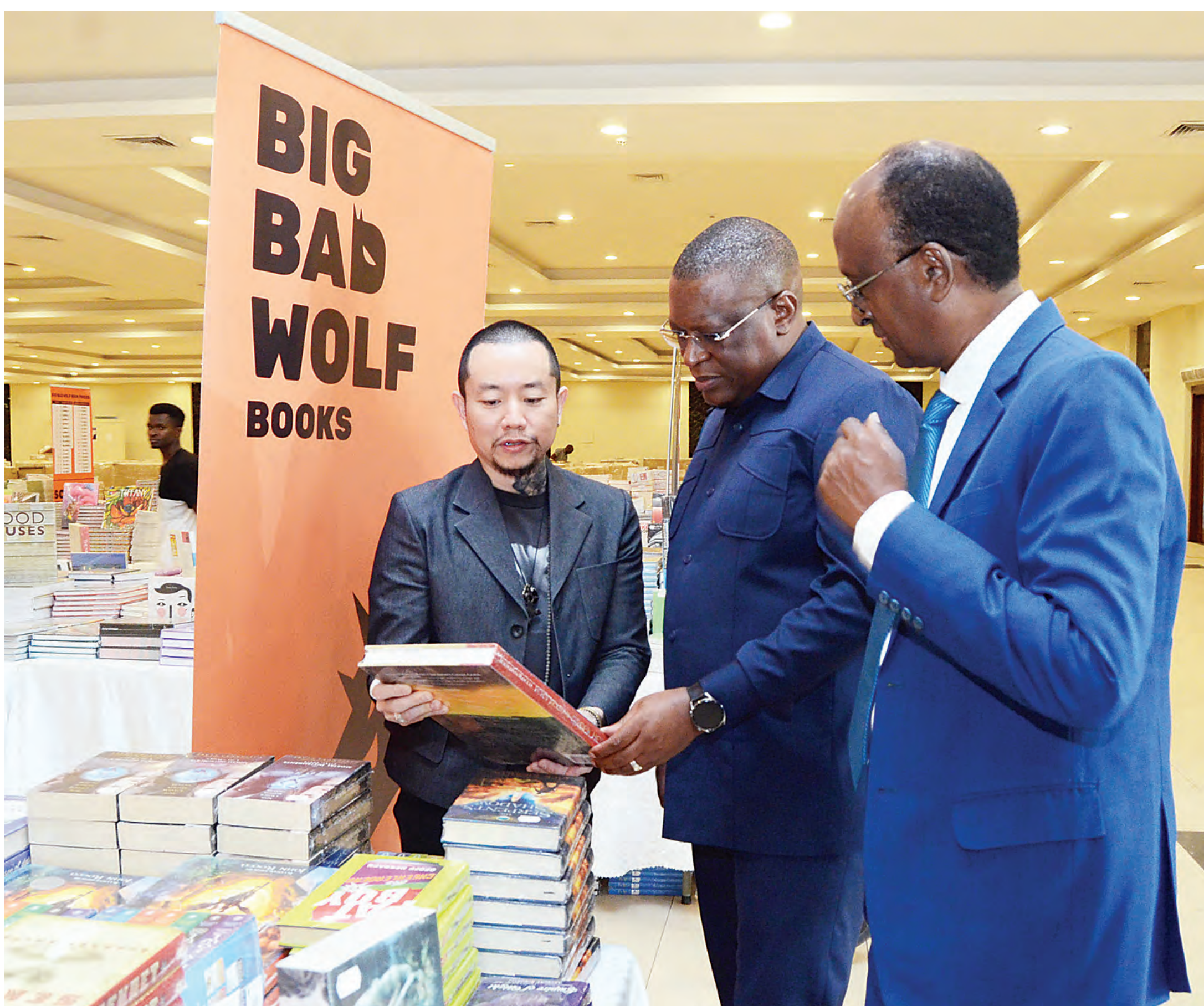
The true reason why people don't read is because they lack reading culture from childhood. Scholars suggest that readers who go on to develop a life-long love of literature not only decode, segment and blend with ease, they have a genuine adoration for the power of prose. And in order to stimulate a lasting love of reading, it's crucial to build a strong reading culture at home and in schools.

Once that culture sticks, it remains part of one's life. That is why some people cannot travel without a book in hand and cannot return without another one. In the homes of such fellows, you find one treasure—a shelf full of books. And as the rest struggle to instill culture of reading in their children, these book lovers find it easy because children simply imitate.

Reading books is becoming more difficult in this era of hand-held mobile devices and the internet. With exception of students who are compelled to read lest they drop out, the rest are tempted to scroll on the mobile devices for information. But experts argue that popular short video clips and texts or soap operas that glue people on TV can't offer useful education; the real answer and secret to success is hidden in books.

To promote reading in Tanzania, Malaysian book fair Big Bad Wolf is staging an 11-day reading advocacy at Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam, offering books with discounts of up to 80 per cent. The book sale and reading promotion drive which comes to an end tomorrow, makes Tanzania the first country to host the event in Africa where over 500,000 books of different genres are up for grabs.

Big Bad Wolf Book Sale first started in Malaysia in 2000 at Dataran Hamodal, as the brainchild of BookXcess' co-founders, Andrew Yap and Jacqueline Ng. Apart from book sale, the event is the world's biggest known global reading advocacy effort.



Andrew Yap (left), a co-founder and chief executive officer of Big Bad Wolf, shows a book to Nape Nnauye, Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology at a book fair in Dar es Salaam. Right is Mohamed Noor, Big Bad Wolf official. Photo courtesy of Big Bad Wolf

Since its inception, the sale has evolved, going global and touring 34 cities in 13 countries including Malaysia, such as Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

According to organizers, the event's mission is to cultivate reading habits worldwide and build a new generation of readers by making books more affordable and accessible to everyone.

"The Big Bad Wolf Book Sale has always been on the mission to create a love for reading by making reading affordable as books can inspire people to chase their dreams and empower them with knowledge. Books allow a person to see things from completely different

perspective," said Yap, Big Bad Wolf co-founder and Chief Executive Officer.

He said the low prices encourage customers to take a chance on new authors and genres they might never have read before. The more knowledge gained, the better-equipped a person is to tackle any challenge they will ever face.

The platform offers a wide variety of genres such as

science-fiction, thriller, literature, young adult, business, cookbooks, art and design, children's books and many other sought-after books to suit and serve everyone's taste buds to spread the joy of reading.

science-fiction, thriller, literature, young adult, business, cookbooks, art and design, children's books and many other sought-after books to suit and serve everyone's taste buds to spread the joy of reading.

Biden and Ramaphosa for meeting to find some common ground amid frictions at home, abroad

By John Stremmler

US president Joe Biden's invitation to South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa to meet at the White House, and the latter's acceptance, are positive signs of renewed cooperation. But they do not suggest a return to the 1990s era of heady optimism between the two countries.

These two diverse democracies are currently too divided domestically, amid new and escalating tensions globally that affect Africa. These negatives, however, add weight to the importance of the Biden-Ramaphosa meeting in Washington this week.

There are four reasons for the political significance. Two speak to the two countries having a common agenda: both presidents are committed democrats operating in hostile environments. They are also committed to forging mutually beneficial ties.

Prominent divisive issues

But there are two prominent issues that could be divisive, and about which the two heads of state may well seek clarity. These have to do with the changing relations among the major powers of concern to South Africa and the rest of Africa. Two specific topics uppermost for Biden and Ramaphosa will be the consequences for Africa of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's expanding role on the continent.

Biden and Ramaphosa represent progressive democratic factions after very narrow electoral victories.

Ramaphosa won by only 167 votes to head the ruling African National Congress (ANC) in 2017 and become its candidate for national president. The ANC has held power for the 28 years since the end of apartheid.

For his part, Biden defeated Donald Trump in 2020 by barely winning the necessary electoral college votes in three swing states. Trump and his supporters still dominate the Republican Party in a two party federal system in which Biden's Democrats now have a slim majority.

Both leaders won large national votes. Yet they both continue to struggle to sustain liberal democracy after the assaults on core democratic institutions by predecessor regimes.

The similarity in their political challenges is not their only source of empathy. Biden was a prominent opponent of apartheid as a US senator in the 1980s. An American of Irish heritage, he surely values Ramaphosa's critical role in 2000, monitoring a fragile Irish peace.

A second reason to find common ground relates to what both governments have announced as their "official" agenda. Listed topics are: trade



US President Joe Biden with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the G7 summit in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, UK on 12 June 2021. File photo

and investment; infrastructure; climate and energy; and health.

Practical progress in these areas is vital in gaining popular support for democracy in the two troubled nations. They, in turn, could share lessons and resources with other African nations trying to overcome poverty and domestic divisions.

Tension triggers

But there are areas of tension between the two countries.

They have divergent views about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. National and international media typically give this issue top billing.

But American and South African officials have downplayed their differences. And it's likely they will be able to productively discuss several urgent dimensions of that crisis. These include food scarcity hardships in Africa, economic effects of inflation of essential goods, and supply chain disruptions constraining global trade.

Fresh announcements of joint mitigation efforts would be welcomed in South Africa as well as the hardest hit parts of Africa.

Two other Russia-related topics could be usefully discussed. They are politically sensitive because facts and salience are uncertain. One would be

the actual battlefield conditions in Ukraine. South Africa has repeatedly called for an end to hostilities, but neither side in the conflict has shown a willingness to compromise. An effort to clarify conditions in Ukraine would help planners in both countries.

Russian bankrolling

The other subject is vital to the future of South Africa and American liberal democracy. There has been speculation in South Africa's independent media about Russian president Vladimir Putin's political and financial interests, along with his oligarch allies, in bankrolling the governing ANC and in the expensive and allegedly corrupt nuclear power deal. Ramaphosa suspended the contract after becoming president, but concerns remain about the ANC's ties with Moscow.

This has not been as well documented as Russian support for Trump in his 2016 presidential campaign, or in the extensive reports in US media of Russian financial help to Trump's businesses. Exchanging views on Russia's alleged partisan efforts in both democracies deserves discussion, if only informally.

A related public topic is the "Malign Russian Activities in Africa Act", pending in the US Senate. The act would require the secretary of state to report to Congress on issues such as the role of Russian mercenaries, military assistance, and the dissemination of politically consequential disinformation.

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South Africa and other African governments oppose the legislation. The reason given is that its real aim is to punish African states that declined to support the US position in United Nations resolutions condemning Russia.

Ramaphosa and Biden might well find a formula whereby US intelligence could be quietly shared with African governments on Russian activities in Africa, especially those deemed detrimental to democratic sustainability.

China's African relations

Another subject that will require careful handling is the issue of China's relations with the continent.

Tensions between the US and China have intensified in recent years, discouraging hopes for Africa-China-US cooperation. Yet Africa is one region where the two major powers might experiment with restrained competition responsive to Africa's agreed priorities.

South Africa has excellent relations with both China and the Biden administration. Perhaps Ramaphosa and Biden could revisit what was once known as a "win-win-win" formula for parallel and even joint actions.

Managing China-US competition in response to African priorities could be good for peace and development.

Will the two men be able to cement a resilient, productive partnership between two diverse liberal democracies?

This depends on the degree of trust between them, despite occasional foreign policy differences, such as how to respond to the war in Ukraine.

Tensions between sovereign countries are inevitable, whether they are allies or adversaries. The US and South Africa are neither firm adversaries nor firm allies. They have a complex and sometimes troubled relationship.

A positive rapport between their leaders at a time of deep domestic divisions and rapid global change could help advance and sustain democracy in both nations. If they make progress in overcoming their domestic divisions, this should allow them to play more active and constructive roles in Africa, a region that is the most important for South Africa, and of growing importance for the US. **DM**

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

UNICEF appoints climate activist Nakate as 'Goodwill Ambassador'

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A 25-year-old Ugandan climate activist, Vanessa Nakate has been appointed as the newest Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), affirming her collaboration with the organization and recognising her outstanding global advocacy for climate justice.

Nakate travelled last week with UNICEF to Turkana County in north-western Kenya to see firsthand the impacts of water and food insecurity caused by the worst drought in the Horn of Africa in 40 years. In her first trip with UNICEF, she met with communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis, including mothers and babies receiving lifesaving treatment for severe acute malnutrition and families benefiting from solar-powered water supply systems.

"As a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, it will be my first responsibility to bring the voices of children and marginalized people into conversations where they were previously excluded. This role with UNICEF will provide me with more opportunities to meet children and young people in the places most affected by climate change and an expanded platform to advocate on their behalf," Nakate said. "In Kenya, the people I met told me about the impact of climate change and drought on their lives, with four consecutive failed rainy seasons depriving children of their most basic rights. One community had not received any rainfall for over two years. This is more than a food and nutrition crisis, it is yet another dimension of our worsening climate crisis."

UNICEF's appeal to improve families' long-term resilience in the Horn of Africa region - and therefore help stop drought devastating lives for years to come - is currently just 3 per cent funded.

Nakate began her activism in January 2019 with a protest with her siblings and cousins on the streets of Kampala, inspired by Greta Thunberg. She continued to protest every week, becoming a well-known face in a movement of young people "striking" for the climate around the world. In 2020 she came to further global prominence when she



UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) executive director Catherine Russell (R) and Vanessa Nakate at a press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday this week.

was cropped out of a news photo she appeared in alongside Thunberg and other white climate activists. Nakate's response to the incident, in which she said the news outlet "didn't just erase a photo, you erased a continent", made international headlines.

"As a young African woman, I have

had to fight to be heard by the media and decision makers. While I am fortunate to have a platform now, I intend to continue fighting for others. The children on the frontlines of the climate crisis, like those I just met in Turkana, Kenya, are the people for whom I will fight in my new role with UNICEF," said

Nakate.

Nakate has since used her platform to advocate for climate justice to include every community, especially those from the most affected places. She founded Rise Up Movement, a platform to elevate the voices of African climate activists, as well as a project to install

solar panels in rural Ugandan schools. She has addressed world leaders at the COP25 and COP26 climate summits and appeared on the cover of TIME magazine.

"I am excited to welcome Vanessa Nakate to the UNICEF family as our newest Global Goodwill Ambassador," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Vanessa's work to drive climate action that benefits the communities most affected by the climate crisis aligns directly with UNICEF's mission to drive change for every child. We hope her appointment as a UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador will help ensure that the voices of children and young people are never cut out of the conversation on climate change - and always included in decisions that affect their lives."

Globally, approximately 1 billion children - nearly half the world's 2.2 billion children - live in one of the 33 countries classified by UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Index as at "extremely high-risk" of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education, and protection, and exposing them to deadly diseases. The top ten countries are all in Africa.

Nakate joins the ranks of other recent high-profile supporters such as actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas, recording artists Katy Perry and Angélique Kidjo, Syrian refugee and education activist Muzoon Almellehan and, most recently, UNICEF's youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador actress Millie Bobby Brown.

IITA develops useful 'sustainable agriculture intensification' handbook

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has developed a useful handbook to be used as a yardstick by agricultural practitioners and extension officers so as to help promote productivity in the agriculture sector.

Dubbed "Sustainable Agriculture Intensification" the timely publication provides an insight into the methodology of facilitating the application of best-fit agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers.

Introducing the handbook here recently, Dr Leena Tripathi, the IITA East Africa Hub

Director, said the topics covered include the introduction of resilient and nutrient-dense crops, better arrangement of crops in the field to amplify intercrop benefits, and the management of soils to improve soil fertility and minimize physical soil and nutrient loss.

"Among others, the book focuses on imparting the agricultural pundits with vibrant and best-latest agronomic practices so that they may stand a professional side to assist the farmers on how to overcome diverse agro-climatic challenges currently haunting the sector," Dr Tripathi explained.

Together with that, she added:

"The publication also features technologies for post harvest loss reduction, livestock feeding, food processing, and in the later chapters, important expositions on how multiple technologies can be creatively integrated in a farming system and how key products of research can be taken to scale."

Receiving the handbook on behalf of agriculture minister Hussein Bashe, Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), Rosemary Senyamule, challenged the parent ministry to assure it reaches to all potential figures in order to give fresh impetus to help the country's agricultural sector to carve a new successive

niche.

"The sixth phase government is working fast to develop all spheres of the country's agriculture sector in order to stimulate economic growth, and therefore, this book has been introduced at a right time, and it would be prudent if all responsible sides will use it accordingly," she urged.

Moreover, giving more details pertaining to the recently released handbook, Prof Mateete Bekunda, Africa RISING East and Southern Africa Project Chief Scientist, observed that the publication's first chapter and throughout the handbook, the importance of taking gender

dynamics into account to ensure technologies produce equitable outcomes is emphasized.

"The book, among others, provides evidence-based descriptions of sustainable agricultural intensification technologies that have been validated iteratively with smallholder farmers; a convenient, easy-to-read, and science-based 'how-to' guide for successful deployment of improved agricultural technologies that will ensure readers from development/scaling agencies save time and resources for research trials and instead focus on technology deployment; gives evidence of how building research and de-

velopment partnerships can be a critical element for successful delivery and scaling up of agricultural technologies," he highlighted.

He led the government and local agricultural institutes as well as agricultural universities from both private and public sector to make effective use of the book in order to assist the farmers to yield bumper harvest amid the on-going challenge of effects of climate change, the situation which thwarts productivity among most farmers within the continent.

"The book is aimed primarily at development practitioners who seek new competences

in taking new technologies to scale. However, the breadth of topics covered makes this book an essential resource for agricultural scientists as well as university and college students aspiring to apply systems thinking in future agricultural research and development work," he added.

The authors of the handbook include Mateete Bekunda (PhD in Soil Fertility from the Australian National University), Jonathan Odhong (Master of Arts in Communication Studies from The University of Nairobi), Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon (PhD in General Agricultural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim, Germany).

'Africa's food imports bill likely to double by 2030'

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

The cost of Africa's annual food imports could go from US\$50 billion to US\$110 billion by 2030 if urgent actions to increase food production are not implemented, food experts have said.

Launching the 2022 Africa Agriculture Status Report at the Africa Green Revolution Forum summit in Rwanda last week (6-9 September), experts urged governments, the private sector and development partners to work together to accelerate transformation of agrifood systems which they said were out of step with goals to eliminate hunger and poverty by 2030.

According to the report, Africa needs about US\$40 - US\$70 billion investment from the public sector and another US\$80 billion from the private sector annually to sustain food production on the continent.

"There is good consensus on where Africa should go to meet food security targets," said Edward Mabaya, a research professor at the US-based Cornell University and a technical editor of the report.

"We need accountability from players to unlock the potential of agriculture in Africa.

He said: "There is a lot happening to improve agricultural productivity in Africa. However, this is not happening fast enough to meet the agrifood system transformation needed on the continent."

According to the report, published by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African governments need to invest in generating data and

evidence to inform their response to the external shocks affecting food production in Africa.

The report adds that the success of the continent's food systems transformation efforts is anchored in effective coordination, accountability and financing, designed at a local level.

It explains that rapid population growth is fueling the demand for food. Between 2017 and 2050, the populations of 26 African countries are predicted to at least double in size, while the rural population of Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to rise by 53 per cent.

"Africa faces a dilemma: if it is not able to raise yields sufficiently to satisfy this burgeoning demand from existing farmland, it will need to convert much of its remaining forests and natural grasslands into farmland ... and/or become much more dependent on the global market for its food supplies," says the report.

AGRA president Agnes Kalibata said that African food production was increasing, citing the example of maize in southern Africa. But she said the challenge was transporting food to where it is needed.

"The food crisis happening is majorly because of the discrepancies in our food systems," said Kalibata.

She believes that the continent has the capacity to produce sufficient food but that this is being underutilised. Wheat production at two to five tonnes per hectare instead of four to seven tonnes per hectare in most African countries means food demands are going unmet, she said.

She urged African countries to ensure



regional and continental trade to enhance access to markets; a factor she said accelerates production along with access to farm inputs.

"We need accountability from players to unlock the potential of agriculture in Africa," Mabaya told SciDev.Net, adding that African governments should be held to account for commitments such as allocating ten per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture, as envisaged in the Malabo Declaration.

Malabo Declaration is a commitment made by African heads of state in 2014 to provide effective leadership for specific goals by the year 2025, including ending hunger, tripling intra-African trade in agricultural goods and services, and enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and production systems. He advocated for increased support to smallholder farmers in Africa to access high quality seeds and fertilisers, saying that less than 30 per cent are using improved seeds.

Gerardine Mukeshimana, Rwanda's minister for agriculture

and animal resources, said: "Africa remains poor because we don't invest in the right sectors, [including] education and agriculture."

She called for better transport infrastructure and food storage facilities to enhance access to markets and reduce post-harvest losses.

BY LIU RONG.

China-SCO demonstration area in Qingdao builds a new platform for Belt and Road cooperation

THE morning breeze in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province has turned a bit chilly in early autumn. However, sweats were seen on the forehead of Yue Chonglong, leader of the dispatching group at the multimodal transportation center of the China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area.

The man kept working for three hours nonstop since 5:00 am, running between the dispatching room and cargo fields, and finally released an international freight train from the multimodal transportation center to Mannheim, Germany.

In June 2018, China proposed at the Qingdao Summit of the SCO to establish a demonstration area in Qingdao for local economic and trade cooperation between China and the SCO.

Over the past years, the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area has built itself into a high-caliber center of international logistics, modern trade, two-way investment cooperation, and commercial, tourism and cultural exchanges.

It now serves as a new platform for Belt and Road cooperation. More and more products from Belt and Road countries are shipped to their destinations through the demonstration area.

"This is a new international freight route opened this year, and it has started regular operation," said Yue, the senior dispatcher with 11 years of work experience. According to him,



Photo taken on July 17, 2022 shows a fully loaded cargo train in a logistics park in the Qingdao Area of China (Shandong) Pilot Free Trade Zone. (Photo by Xue Bing/People's Daily Online)

tons of dairy products worth more than \$1.1 million, according to Victor.

"I want to visit China with my family one day, to have a taste of Chinese food and see how popular our products are in the country," Victor told People's Daily.

Introducing foreign trade entities, establishing trade cooperation platforms and launching trade facilitation policies are major approaches adopted by the demonstration area to advance local economic and trade cooperation.

At present, the demonstration area is home to over 1,800 foreign trade companies engaged in mechanical and electrical products, farm produce, textile and other industries.

It has nurtured 10 trade platforms that offer one-stop cross-border e-commerce services. Besides, the demonstration area has delivered over 40 innovative outcomes with SCO characteristics, significantly improving the level of trade and investment facilitation for SCO and Belt and Road countries.

The cross-border e-commerce transactions in the demonstration area in the first seven months of this year are expected to reach \$1.15 billion yuan (\$166.15 million), and the total imports and exports may surge 38.3 percent to 21 billion yuan. In particular, the trade volume with SCO states is expected to increase 86.2 percent to 4.3 billion yuan.

People's Daily

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 369 00--

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

3 letters RAT, EAT, BYE
4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN, HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL, AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
5 letters BUCKET, PLENIARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
6 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
7 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
8 letters CALAMITY

CLUES: Across
1 the sixth day of the week
6 bring about or perform
7 Country of a thousand hills
10 tala
11 quite, gentle and submissive
13 Togo's Capital
15 fever marked by severe internal bleeding
17 ethnic group in Chamba district
19 move towards the land
20 hinnie
21 a light meal
23 a narrow passage of water connecting two seas
24 a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley and rye

Down:
1 a public meeting place and market square
2 angry
3 an illicit drinking place in India
4 man's wide brimmed hat
5 cannabis
8 without clothes
9 let someone do something
12 remove from a place of danger to a safer place
14 alkene
16 legal prohibitions
18 Russia's Capital
21 energy, style and enthusiasm
22 a pigsty

By Maged - 0755429240 folkmagazine@gmail.com

he "sees off" three to four trains every day, and the number of freight trains departing from the demonstration area for SCO states and Belt and Road countries this year is much higher than before.

Situated near the Qingdao port, the multimodal transportation center, and the Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport, the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area enjoy "natural" advantages as a transport hub.

As Qingdao is seeing closer economic and trade ties with SCO states, more and more cargos engaged in trade with these countries are being handled in the Chinese coastal city.

"We have opened 17 international routes that reach 51 cities in 22 SCO and Belt and Road countries," said Li Gang, an official with the management committee of the demonstration area.

"Many of our products are sold to Chinese customers and we are receiving more orders. It has not only created economic benefits for our company, but also increased the income of our employees," said a man surnamed Victor, head of Minsk Milk Plant No. 1 in Belarus.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the milk plants had been troubled with overstocking of its milk and skim milk powder products, which were on high demand before.

The table was turned after a trade company in the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area contacted the milk plant and helped the latter find clients in China. In just two months, the Belarusian dairy producer sold over 1,100

Many of our products are sold to Chinese customers and we are receiving more orders. It has not only created economic benefits for our company, but also increased the income of our employees

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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BUSINESS



General view of the Fos-Lavera oil hub near Marseille

Oil on track for weekly loss on recession fears

SINGAPORE

Oil prices edged higher on Friday but were on track for a weekly decline amid fears of sharp interest rate hikes that would slam global growth and hit fuel demand.

Brent crude futures were up 56 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$91.40 a barrel as at 0610 GMT, but were down 1.5 percent for the week so far.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 42 cents, or 0.5 percent, to \$85.52 a barrel, but were down 1.4 percent on a weekly basis.

"Today's morning rebound for oil prices can only be described as a short-term correction, as the Fed will raise interest rates by 75bp or 100bp next week," said Leon Li, an analyst at CMC Markets.

"Although the probability of a 100 bp rate hike is relatively small, it would bring uncertainty to market sentiment. So there is still a risk that oil prices could drop lower next week."

Both benchmarks are headed for a third consecutive weekly loss, hurt partly by a strong U.S. dollar, which makes oil more expensive for buyers using other currencies. The dollar index ticked down on Friday but held near last week's high above 110.

Investors are bracing for a US rate hike next week after data showed underlying inflation broadening out, and

amid growing concerns of a global recession.

The market was also rattled by the International Energy Agency's outlook for almost zero growth in oil demand in the fourth quarter due to a weaker demand outlook for China.

"Oil fundamentals are still mostly bearish as China's demand outlook remains a big question mark and as the inflation fighting Fed seems poised to weaken the U.S. economy," OANDA analyst Edward Moya said in a note.

Analysts said sentiment suffered from comments by the US Department of Energy that it was unlikely to seek to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until after fiscal 2023.

On the supply side, the market has found some support on dwindling expectations of a return of Iranian crude, as Western officials played down prospects of reviving a nuclear accord with Tehran.

Commonwealth Bank analyst Vivek Dhar said that supported the bank's view that oil markets will tighten by the end of the year and Brent will return to \$100 a barrel in the fourth quarter.

Oil prices may also be supported in the fourth quarter as OPEC+ members are likely to discuss production cuts at its October meeting, and as Europe would face an energy crisis amid uncertainty on oil and gas supply from Russia, added CMC's Li.

Women chamber urges govt to support female farmers

By Beatrice Philemon

Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) has called on the government to empower women to grab opportunities in agriculture sector.

This comes after the government announced recently that it intends to increase the number of large-scale farms from 110 in 2020 to 10,000 in 2030 with focus on commercializing palms and sunflowers farming.

Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC's) Chief Executive Officer, Mwijuma Hamza told The Guardian that the government must ensure that women participation on the move is enhanced.

She said women should be empowered in form of financing, capacity building and technology to increase their involvements in commercial farming, particularly targeted palm oil and sunflower.

"We advise the government to empower women clusters engaged in sunflower and palm farming to tap into

the planned farming opportunities, to assist them improve their livelihood and contributes to social and economic development," she said.

She said TWCC has 21 women clusters at national level that comprise women engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, food processing sub-sector, horticulture, textile and handcraft industry, tourism, micro finance, health, cosmetics, accessories and livestock keepers sub sector.

Tanzania is facing sunflower shortage of 1.4 million tones to effectively meet the gap for edible oil.

Due to this impediment, the government is targeting to increase small scale irrigation scheme to 8.5 million hectares, to partly boost edible oil crop production in the country.

"As TWCC we also need government intervention on this to help women entrepreneurs in Singida, Morogoro, Kigoma, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Songwe, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam Regions to tap into this massive business opportunity," she said.

Africa intra-regional trade volume is under-computed, says US think tank



By Guardian Reporter

Most of the studies that fail to account for informal cross-border trades undervalue Intra-regional trade in Africa.

The overall contribution of intraregional trades to Africa's exports is far higher than estimates because of "econometric and methodological errors," U. think tank Brookings indicates in a recent working paper.

According to the paper, intraregional trade accounts for 22 to 25 percent of the continent's overall exports, well above the 16 percent announced by several studies.

In the working paper titled "The economic significance of intra-African trade: Getting the narrative right," Brookings notably considered the usually high informal cross-border trades on the continent.

"While informal cross-border trade is a global phenomenon, studies tend to concur that it is much more widespread

on the African continent than in other regions. Koroma et al (2017) note that "informal cross border trade generates nearly \$18 billion annually and accounts for over two-thirds of the trade flows in some African countries," the working paper explains.

The high prevalence of informal cross-border trade -which is by definition intra-regional since it concerns exclusively goods traded by neighboring countries- is mainly noticeable in small landlocked countries and some sub-regions of the continent.

In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), informal cross-border trade accounts for 30-40 percent of total trade.

This inevitably leads to an underestimation of intra-regional trade in studies that do not take into account these high levels of informal trade on the continent.

In a scenario whereby informal

cross-border trades represent 30 percent of overall trades, intra-African trade would have represented 22 percent in the base year (2019) chosen by Brookings.

Once the volume of informal cross-border trades is increased to represent 50 percent of overall trades, the weight of intra-regional trades in the continent exports rises to 25 percent.

The working paper however points out that the adjusted percentages hide strong disparities depending on economic structure and geographic location. For instance, in landlocked countries, intra-regional trades represent 28 percent of overall exports if informal cross-border trades are unaccounted for.

That percentage rises to 36 percent in a scenario whereby informal cross-border trade represents 30 percent of overall trades.

The percentage rises further to 42 percent in the scenario whereby informal cross-border trades is 50 percent of overall trades.

"If we exclude the oil-producing countries, whose exports are mainly directed to Europe and Asia, the weight of intra-regional trade is 22pct, excluding informal cross-border trade," the report says.

"If informal cross-border trade is taken into account, this rate rises to 28pct when 30pct is taken as the percentage of informal cross-border trades compared to overall trades and to 33pct with a 50pct informal cross-border trades."

Brookings also estimates that the real contribution of intra-African trade is distorted by the low dependence of three major African economies on regional markets.

These include Egypt, Nigeria, and, to a lesser extent, South Africa. Egypt has historically favored the Middle East and European markets for its exports while Nigeria exports most of its crude oil to Europe and Asia.

As for South Africa, due to historical reasons (the apartheid notably), it is less dependent on neighboring markets.

NICOL net profit increases by 59pct in H1, 2022



NICOL shareholders register for the 2021 annual general meeting. FILE PHOTO

By Guardian Reporter

National Investments Plc (NICOL) profit after taxation increased by 59 percent during the first half of this year to 5.72bn/- from 3.59bn/- recorded during similar half of last year.

Unaudited financial results shows total income grew by 61 percent to 6.95bn/- from 4.33bn/- respectively due to sharp growth of interest income, dividend income and other income.

Interest income grew by

12,553 percent to 1.67bn/- during the first half of this year from 13.2mn/- recorded during similar half last year while dividend income increased by 22 percent to 5.28bn/- from 4.31bn/- respectively.

The growth of total income also pushed up total operating income by 57 percent to 5.98bn/- from 3.80bn/- respectively, despite increased employees' benefits, administrative expenses and other administrative expenses. Board expenses slowed during the reported period.

According to the results, administrative expenses recorded sharp growth of 256 percent to 526mn/- from 147mn/- respectively while board expenses slowed by 14 percent to 120.1mn/- from 139.6mn/- respectively.

The company tax bill increased by 22 percent to 263.6mn/- from 215.8mn/- respectively.

Total assets increased to 111.35bn/- from 75.2bn/- respectively due to increase in cash and cash equivalents, equity investment, government

bonds, property, plant and equipment amid slowed right of use asset.

Cash and cash equivalent more than tripled to 1.9bn/- from 636.8mn/- respectively.

Equity investment went up to 87.79bn/- during the first half of this year from 57.12bn/- during the first half of last year while investment in government bonds slightly gained to 19.5bn/- from 15.4bn/- respectively.

The company statement of cash flows shows cash flow from operating activities in-

creased to 4.08bn/- during the first half of this year from 2.61bn/- recorded during the second half of last year due to profit after tax adjustment to 5.98bn/- from 4.09bn/- respectively, decrease of interest from fixed deposits and increased tax payment.

Net cash used in investing activities slowed to 4.2bn/- during H1, 2022 from 14.4bn/- during H2, 2021 due to dramatic decrease of cash paid for purchase of government bonds to 3.8bn/- from 13.6bn/- respectively.

New joint venture to explore coal assets in Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

African Energy Metals announced recently that will enter into a joint venture with Black Hole Aurum to acquire coal assets in Tanzania.

African Energy Metals is a natural resource company with a focus on the acquisition, exploration, development and operation of copper, cobalt, and lithium energy metals projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Black Hole Aurum is a private Tanzanian company pursuing the acquisition of controlling interests in coal projects in Tanzania.

The two companies said are currently negotiating agreements on their first two targets and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on one of the projects.

Stephen Barley, African Energy Metals Executive Chairman, said their relationships in Africa extend beyond the DRC, into many neighbouring countries.

"With the renewed interest in coal-generated power in Europe, we were approached by Black Hole Aurum to participate with them in this exciting opportunity. The focus will be on projects that can sustain or increase coal production for export in the near term. The Company will continue with the current lithium, tin, tantalum and rare earth projects in the DRC," explained Barley.

Africa Energy Metals intends to invest directly into BHA through a non-brokered



Global coal consumption is forecast to rise by 0.7 percent in 2022 to 8 billion tonnes.

private placement. This investment is for exploration expenses on sampling programmes on the two highly prospective lithium, tin, tantalum, rare earth projects in Manono, DRC; for due diligence related to coal projects in Tanzania;

and for general working capital.

Despite a slowing global economy, soaring natural gas prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine are propping up the world's use of coal this year.

The world's consumption of coal

is set to rise slightly in 2022, taking it back to the record level it reached nearly a decade ago, according to an IEA report published recently.

The Coal Market Update notes that significant uncertainty hangs over the outlook for coal as a result

of slowing economic growth and energy market turbulence

Based on current economic and market trends, global coal consumption is forecast to rise by 0.7% in 2022 to 8 billion tonnes, assuming the Chinese economy recovers as expected in the second half of the year, the IEA's July 2022 Coal Market Update says.

This global total would match the annual record set in 2013 and coal demand is likely to increase further next year to a new all-time high.

The new report highlights the significant turmoil in coal markets in recent months, which has important implications for many countries where coal remains a key fuel for electricity generation and a range of industrial processes.

At the same time, the world's continued burning of large amounts of coal is heightening climate concerns, as coal is the largest single source of energy-related CO2 emissions.

Demand for coal in India has been strong since the start of 2022 and is expected to rise by 7% for the full year as the country's economy grows and the use of electricity expands.

In China, coal demand is estimated to have declined by 3% in the first half of 2022 as renewed COVID-19 lockdowns in some cities slowed economic growth, but an expected increase in the second half of the year is likely to bring coal consumption for the full year back to the same levels as last year.

Kenyan tea farmers now out seeking stimulus fund

NAIROBI

Tea farmers in Vihiga and Kakamega counties are asking for a stimulus package introduced in the region to serve as a top-up on the regular bonus payouts they receive from the KTDA-run Mudete tea factory.

Through their co-operative, growers want the county governments of the two devolved units to set up the fund that they believe would help address falling production of the beverage, which has been blamed on rising input costs. Mudete Tea Factory Chairman, Mr Abung'ana Khasiani, said the injection will also shield farmers from the rising cost of living. Mudete is currently operating below its annual processing capacity of 20 million kilograms every year, having processed 18 million kilograms of green leaf in the 2020/2021 season and 11 million kilograms in 2021/2022 season.

This decline, Mr Khasiani said, was a result of some farmers uprooting their tea due to low earnings, while others have opted to stop supplying the produce to the Mudete and instead shifted to multinationals in the neighbouring Nandi county.

"We are asking for a stimulus package because it will reinvigorate our production and protect this factory from losing famers to multinationals. Bonus payout in the tea sector has been dwindling over the years," said Mr Khasiani.

The official added that the proposals will help safeguard the region's economy by protecting the local factory, which on top of allowing farmers a say in their tea affairs, also provides jobs for residents.

When he toured the factory mid-last year, Agriculture CS Mr Peter Munya assured farmers that bonus payment would improve citing the ongoing sector reforms. He said changes include setting minimum reserve price at the Mombasa auction so as to tame perennial reduction of market prices, cutting down on KTDA operational costs from 2.5 percent to 1.5 percent and slashing earnings of tea brokers from 1.25 percent to 0.75 percent.

Kenya saves Sh9.4 billion from scrapped fuel subsidy

NAIROBI

Kenyan Treasury will save an estimated Sh9.49 billion from the partial withdrawal of fuel subsidies that sent diesel and petrol prices to a historic high.

The energy regulator scrapped the subsidy on petrol a day after the new President, William Ruto, said subsidies were unsustainable, in a move that could add to upward pressure on inflation.

It for the first time in a year fully withdrew a Sh20.5 a litre subsidy on petrol and halved the reliefs on kerosene and diesel to Sh26.25 and Sh20.82 respectively.

This has reduced the burden of the subsidy from Sh14.5 billion to Sh5 billion as the new administration works on withdrawing State-backed discounts on petroleum products.

Dr Ruto said in a speech after being sworn in on Tuesday that subsidies had been costly and prone to abuse, including causing artificial shortages of the very products being subsidised.

Late on Wednesday, the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority set new, higher fuel prices for petrol, diesel and kerosene, which is commonly used for cooking by many poor households.

Petrol rose 13 percent to Sh179.30 in Nairobi, diesel 18 percent to Sh165 and kerosene 16 percent to Sh147.94 from a month earlier.



Fuel prices at a petrol station in Kenya's Nyeri town on September 15, 2022 hours after the Kenya Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority reviewed the rates. PHOTO/ NMG

"Although the subsidy for super petrol has been removed, a subsidy of Sh20.82 and Sh20.25 has been retained respectively for diesel and kerosene in order to cushion consumers from the otherwise high prices," Epra Director-General Daniel Kiptoo said.

Consumption data from Epra shows Kenya spent an average of Sh11.86 billion monthly to keep fuel prices low for six months to June.

While Kenya collects Sh5.40 a litre from motorists for the subsidy fund, the sharp rally in crude oil prices has

forced the government to dip into taxes to defuse public outrage over the high cost of living.

The World Bank says the monthly expenditure on the programme that started in April last year continues to hurt the budget and planning, signal-

ling its intention to push for the scrapping of the subsidy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set a fresh loan condition requiring Kenya to drop the fuel subsidy programme by October, exposing motorists to the sharp rise in pump prices.

Policymakers also warned that the subsidy measures could empty the country's coffers.

In June, the Treasury said Kenya could run out of funds to subsidise fuel costs if prices kept rising, pushing public debt to unsustainable levels.

President Ruto said the Treasury had so far spent Sh144 billion subsidising fuel, which has helped stabilise prices at the pump but failed to keep inflation within the government's preferred band.

Analysts said it was likely the new hikes would push inflation even higher, from a five-year high of 8.5 percent in August.

Like in other parts of the world, Kenyan inflation has accelerated, mainly due to the knock-on effects of a jump in crude oil prices. It stood at around 5.0 percent at the start of 2022.

The costs of energy and transport have a significant weighting in the basket of goods and services, which measures inflation in the country.

Producers of services such as electricity and manufactured goods are also expected to factor in the higher cost of petroleum.

World Bank sees rising risk of global recession

WASHINGTON

The world may be edging toward a global recession as central banks across the world simultaneously hike interest rates to combat persistent inflation, the World Bank has said.

The world's three largest economies - the United States, China, and the euro area - have been slowing sharply, and even a "moderate hit to the global economy over the next year could tip it into recession," the bank said in a new study.

It said the global economy was now in its steepest slowdown following a post-recession recovery since 1970, and consumer confidence had already dropped more sharply than in the run-up to previous global recessions.

"Global growth is slowing sharply, with further slowing likely as more countries fall into recession," World Bank President David Malpass (pictured) said, adding his worry that these trends would persist, with devastating consequences for emerging market and developing economies.

Synchronized interest rate hikes under way globally and related policy actions were likely to continue well into next year, but might not be sufficient to bring inflation back down to levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank said.

Unless supply disruptions and labor-market pressures subsided, the global core inflation rate, excluding energy, could stay at about 5% in 2023, nearly double the five-year average before the pandemic.

To drive inflation lower, central banks may need to raise interest rates by an additional 2 percentage points, on top of the 2-percentage point increase already seen over the 2021 average, it said.

But an increase of that size, along with financial-market stress, would slow global gross domestic product growth to 0.5% in 2023, or a 0.4% contraction in per-capita terms, which would meet the technical definition of a global recession, it added.

Malpass said policymakers should shift their focus from reducing con-

sumption to boosting production, including efforts to generate additional investment and productivity gains.

Previous recessions showed the risk of allowing inflation to stay elevated for long while growth is weak, the bank said, noting that the 1982 recession triggered more than 40 debt crises and ushered in a decade of lost growth in many developing economies.

World Bank vice president Ayhan Kose said a recent tightening of monetary and fiscal policies would help cut inflation, but the highly synchronous nature of the measures could compound the situation and steepen the global growth slowdown.

The study suggested that central banks could combat inflation without touching off a global recession by communicating their policy decisions clearly, while policymakers should put in place credible medium-term fiscal plans and continue to provide targeted relief to vulnerable households.



WORLD

King Charles to host world leaders ahead of queen's funeral

LONDON

PRESIDENTS, prime ministers and monarchs from around the world will travel to London over the weekend to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth and attend a reception at Buckingham Palace to be hosted by King Charles the day before her funeral.

US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron are among the most high-profile guests from overseas who have confirmed they will be attending.

Heads of state and other senior foreign dignitaries will be asked to gather at the Royal Hospital, a retirement and nursing home for veteran soldiers in

west London, and will "travel under collective arrangements to Westminster Abbey", a senior Buckingham Palace official said.

The funeral will be one of the biggest policing events in Britain's history as world leaders, kings and queens and huge crowds from home and abroad descend upon London for the event.

King Charles and Camilla, the Queen Consort, will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace on Sunday, the official state event before the funeral.

Foreign dignitaries who do come to Britain will also be invited to visit the Queen's Lying in State inside parliament's Westminster Hall ahead of the funeral.



Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort greet the crowd upon their arrival at Buckingham Palace in London, on Sept 9, 2022, a day after Queen Elizabeth II died at the age of 96. AFP

"Her Majesty's passing has left many people, across many continents, with a profound sense of loss," said the Earl Marshal, Edward Fitzalan-Howard, the Duke of Norfolk, England's most senior peer who is in charge of state occasions.

"It is our aim and belief that the state funeral and events of the next few days will unite people across the globe."

Immediately after the funeral on Monday, Britain's foreign minister James Cleverly will host a reception for guests at nearby Church House, as members of the royal family head to Windsor for the queen's burial.

Britain's government will not provide a guest list of all the foreign leaders who will attend, partly for security reasons.

The transport arrangements are being finalized, as is the final seating plan, a government official said.

Members of the royal families of several European countries, including Belgium and the Netherlands, have said that they will travel to pay their respects.

Among the politicians who will also attend are European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

Agencies

President Xi Jinping meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan

ON the afternoon of 15 September local time, President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Forumlar Majmuasi Complex in Samarkand to exchange views on China-Russia relations and international and regional issues of shared interest.

President Xi noted that since the beginning of this year, China and Russia have maintained effective strategic communication.

Bilateral cooperation in the various fields has moved forward steadily, with activities of the Year of Sports Exchange well underway, and a robust momentum in sub-national cooperation and people-to-people exchange.

The two countries have maintained close coordination on the international stage to uphold basic norms of international relations.

In the face of changes of the world, of our times and of history, China will work with Russia to fulfill their responsibilities as major countries and play a leading role in injecting stability into a world of change and disorder.

President Xi emphasized that China

will work with Russia to extend strong mutual support on issues concerning each other's core interests, and deepen practical cooperation in trade, agriculture, connectivity and other areas.

The two sides need to enhance coordination and cooperation under multilateral frameworks including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the BRICS to promote solidarity and mutual trust among the various parties, expand practical cooperation, and safeguard the security interests of the region as well as the common interests of the developing countries and emerging markets.

President Putin wished the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) a full success and believed that under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China will keep making new achievements in economic and social development.

President Putin noted that the world is undergoing multiple changes, yet the only thing that remains unchanged is the friendship and mutual trust between Russia and China.

The Russia-China comprehensive stra-



On the afternoon of 15 September local time, President Xi Jinping held a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at Forumlar Majmuasi Complex in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. (Photo/Xinhua)

tegic partnership of coordination is as stable as mountains. Both Russia and China stand for a more equitable and reasonable international order, setting a fine example in international relations.

The Russian side is firmly committed to the one-China principle and condemns the provocative moves by individual countries on issues concerning China's core interests. Russia will consolidate and deepen bilateral and multilateral communication and collaboration with China and expand cooperation in key areas such as trade and energy.

Russia will work with China to promote continued, deeper coopera-

tion among the SCO member states based on the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, so as to build an authoritative platform for upholding regional security and stability.

President Xi appreciated Russia's adherence to the one-China principle, stressing that Taiwan is part of China, the Chinese side firmly opposes the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces and external interference, and no country is entitled to act as a judge on the Taiwan question.

Ding Xuexiang, Yang Jiechi, Wang Yi, He Lifeng and other officials attended the meeting.

Xinhua

UN official calls for peaceful settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

UNITED NATIONS

UN assistant secretary-general for Europe, Central Asia and Americas, Miroslav Jenca, on Thursday stressed the need for a peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

The international community must remain fully committed to a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and spare no effort to de-escalate the current tensions, bring the parties back to the negotiating table and help them achieve peace and stability in the region, said Jenca.

In the immediate term, the parties must abide by their obligations to fully implement the November 2020 cease-fire brokered by Russia, he told the Security Council in a briefing.

"We urge them to return to the negotiating table and take steps

toward the signing of a lasting peace treaty. It will be important that a similar unified message come from the Security Council for the parties to focus on a diplomatic solution," he said.

On Monday evening, the authorities in Armenia and Azerbaijan reported heavy fighting on their international border. According to reports, heavy artillery, drones and large-caliber weapons were used. The exchange of fire reportedly continued through Tuesday and Wednesday, said Jenca.

On Wednesday evening, it was announced that a cease-fire had been agreed, he said.

Earlier this week, the Armenian Defense Ministry stated that the Azerbaijani side was targeting Armenian military positions, as well as civilian infrastructure, in the Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions of the coun-



try. Armenia reported 105 of its servicemen killed and six civilians wounded as of Wednesday night, noted Jenca.

While Armenia called the events a deliberate attack, Azerbaijan countered that they were "retaliatory measures" made in response to provocations from Armenia. Azerbaijan, for its part, reported 71 servicemen killed and two civilians wounded, he said.

The United Nations is not in a

position to verify or confirm the specifics of these reports, said Jenca. "We remain deeply concerned, however, over this dangerous escalation, including its possible impact on civilians, and have urged the sides to take immediate and concrete steps to de-escalate tensions."

The fighting this week was the latest and the largest in a series of incidents since 2020. It highlights the fact that the process

of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues to encounter serious obstacles. This escalation also underscores the urgent need for the parties to move forward in the ongoing process of delimitation and demarcation within the framework of mutual recognition of their territorial integrity and sovereignty. The United Nations urges the parties to take advantage of this important mechanism as an essential step toward alleviating tensions at the border, said Jenca.

This week's events are also a stark reminder that tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan also have the potential to destabilize the region. They highlight the need for all actors, in the region and beyond, to act constructively and to press the sides to work for a peaceful settlement, he said.

Taliban condemn US move to form trust for Afghan central bank funds

KABUL

THE Taliban's foreign affairs ministry on Thursday condemned the United States' decision to transfer Afghan central bank reserves into a Swiss-based trust, saying it was against international norms.

On Wednesday, Washington announced it would transfer US\$3.5 billion in previously frozen Afghan central bank assets into a new trust fund that it said would be shielded from the Taliban and used to help stabilize Afghanistan's collapsed economy.

The foreign affairs ministry deemed the US decision "to transfer a part of the reserves of the Central Bank of Afghanistan to Switzerland and use it for targeted disbursement without any input by Afghanistan as unacceptable and a violation of international norms," spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi said in a statement.

"If the reserves are disbursed without taking into consideration legitimate demands of the Afghans, the Islamic Emirate will be forced to impose fines against, and ban activities of, all individuals, institutions and companies that facilitate this illegal venture and seek to misuse central bank reserves for humanitarian and other purposes," he said.

The US has said the Afghan fund, managed by a board of trustees, could pay for critical imports like electricity, cover debt payments to international financial institutions, protecting Afghanistan's eligibility for development aid, and fund the printing of new currency.

Though US officials have had talks for months with Taliban and Afghan central bank officials, Washington has said no money would go to the bank until it is "free of political interference" - diplomatic parlance for replacing the bank's top Taliban officials, two of whom are under US and UN sanctions - and anti-money laundering safeguards are instituted.

Balkhi said that in talks with US officials the Taliban had made clear its willingness to open the central bank to third party monitoring of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing programs and that it had proven the central bank was independent.

Agencies



Afghan kids beg on a side walk in Kabul, Afghanistan. File photo

World Bank warns of rising global recession risk amid simultaneous rate hikes

WASHINGTON

AS central banks across the world simultaneously hike interest rates in response to inflation, the world may be edging toward a global recession in 2023, the World Bank warned on Thursday.

Central banks around the world have been raising interest rates this year with a degree of synchronicity not seen over the past five decades - a trend that is likely to continue well into next year, the World Bank said in a new study.

Yet the currently expected trajectory of interest rate increases and other policy actions may not be sufficient to bring global inflation back down to levels seen before the pandemic, the study noted. Investors expect central banks to raise global monetary policy rates to almost 4 percent through 2023 - an increase of more than 2 percentage points over their 2021 average, according to the study.

"If this were accompanied by financial-market stress, global GDP (gross domestic product) growth would slow to 0.5 percent in 2023 - a 0.4 percent contraction in per-capita terms that would meet the technical definition of a global recession," the study noted.

Ayhan Kose, the World Bank's acting vice president for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, noted that because the rate hikes are highly synchronous across countries, they could be "mutually compounding" in tightening financial conditions and steepening the global growth slowdown.

"Policymakers in emerging market and developing economies need to stand ready to manage the potential spillovers from globally synchronous tightening of policies," said Kose.

A string of financial crises in emerging market and developing economies that would do them lasting harm, according to the study. "My deep concern is that these trends will persist, with long-lasting consequences that are devastating for people in emerging market and developing economies," said World Bank President David Malpass.

"To achieve low inflation rates, currency stability and faster growth, policymakers could shift their focus from reducing consumption to boosting production," said Malpass.

Xinhua

By Rashid Alimov

Shanghai Spirit of more significance under current international circumstances

THE 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) began yesterday in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan, is of special significance as the international relations system is going through profound restructuring. The meeting has aroused huge attention from the international community.

The eight member states of the SCO are home to nearly half of the world's population and contribute over 20 percent to world GDP. Today, the SCO stands as a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest area and population in the

world.

In the past some 20 years since the organization's establishment, the SCO has created a new model based on partnership and dialogue, rather than alliance or confrontation. It is always committed to safeguarding regional security and promoting common development.

It is obvious that, under the joint efforts of all SCO member states, they have constantly made new steps in their cooperation and consolidated regional stability.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the SCO Charter

and the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the SCO Member States.

Since the founding of the organization, it has been closely obeying the above two documents and following the Shanghai Spirit of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development. The SCO upholds openness and inclusiveness in its cooperation, properly deals with regional issues and actively joins international affairs.

SCO member states' commitment to

the Shanghai Spirit is of more significance under the current international circumstances, and sheds light on the building of a new type of international relations.

The SCO has set a great example of mutually beneficial cooperation for the international community and constantly expanded its global influence. More and more countries and international organizations are hoping to enhance their cooperation with the SCO and more countries are expecting to become a part of the SCO family.

At the 2017 SCO Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, India and Pakistan joined

the SCO as full members. Last year, the SCO launched procedures to admit Iran as a full member state and granted dialogue partner status to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar.

One of the important reasons for the SCO's enhanced attractiveness is that it serves as a platform for equal dialogue for both small and major countries.

SCO countries, regardless of their sizes, can seek cooperation and development as equals. They listen to each other's views and suggestions and jointly find solutions to their common problems.

Under the guidance of the Shanghai Spirit, the SCO makes decisions based on its member states' consensus, and the decisions conform to the interests of each member state and the region at large.

Currently, the complicated and serious international situation is creating challenges for the development of the SCO. However, I believe that as long as SCO member states continue upholding the Shanghai Spirit and enhancing dialogues, no dispute is able to hinder SCO cooperation or prevent the organization from playing a constructive role in regional issues.

(Rashid Alimov is the former

Judge rules for Trump, blocks review of seized classified records

WASHINGTON

A US judge on Thursday refused to let the Justice Department immediately resume reviewing classified records seized by the FBI from Donald Trump's Florida estate in an ongoing criminal investigation, siding with the former president.

Federal Judge Aileen Cannon also appointed Senior District Judge Raymond Dearie as a third party to review records seized by the FBI for materials that could be privileged and kept from federal investigators.

The Justice Department has promised to take the case to an appeals court if Cannon ruled against their request. They had also sought to block the independent arbiter, Dearie, from vetting the roughly 100 classified documents included among the 11,000 records gathered in the court-approved Aug 8 search.

to accept the government's conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion," Cannon wrote Thursday.

A Justice Department spokesperson and Trump's attorneys did not immediately return requests for comment.

Cannon's ruling further complicates the Justice Department's investigation. The special master's review could wall

off documents from prosecutors as they weigh the possibility of criminal charges.

Cannon on Thursday said she would instruct Dearie to prioritize reviewing the classified records first. She also directed him to complete his review of all the seized materials by Nov 30.

The Justice Department is investigating Trump for retaining government records - some marked as highly classified, including "top secret" - at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach after leaving office in January 2021.

The department also is looking into possible obstruction of the probe after it found evidence that records may have been removed or concealed from the FBI when it sent agents to Mar-a-Lago in June to try to recover all classified documents through a grand jury subpoena.

The documents inquiry is one of several federal and state investigations that Trump is facing as he considers another run for the presidency in 2024.

The Justice Department on Sept 8 asked the judge to partially lift her prior restriction banning its investigators from reviewing all of the documents seized last month at Mar-a-Lago so they could at least continue scrutinizing the ones marked as classified.

They also asked the judge to exclude those classified records from the scope of the special master's review, vowing



Former US president Donald Trump speaks at a rally on Aug 5, 2022, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. File photo

to appeal to the Atlanta-based 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals if she did not.

Trump's attorneys opposed both re-

quests, telling the judge in a Monday filing they dispute the government's claim that all the records are classified, and that a special

master is needed to help keep prosecutors in check.

Trump's lawyers on Monday's filing disputed the department's claim that the roughly 100 documents at issue are in fact classified, and they reminded Cannon that a president generally has broad powers to declassify records. They stopped short of suggesting that Trump had declassified the documents, a claim he has made on social media but not in court filings.

About two weeks after the search, Trump's attorneys sought the appointment of a special master to review the seized records for materials that could be covered by attorney-client privilege or executive privilege - a legal doctrine that can shield some presidential records from disclosure.

In ruling on Sept 5 in favor of Trump's request, Cannon rejected Justice Department arguments that the records belong to the government and that because Trump is no longer president he cannot claim executive privilege. Cannon was appointed to the bench by Trump in 2020.

Kiev's 'filtration measures' imply killings of people

MOSCOW



KIEV'S "filtration measures" on the territories vacated by the allied forces in fact imply killings of civilians and absolute lawlessness from the standpoint of international law, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said.

"Particularly alarming are the numerous reports of filtration measures being carried out by the Ukrainian special services and neo-Nazi armed groups on the territories from which the allied forces were withdrawn for regrouping," Zakharova told a news briefing on Thursday.

"It is scary to imagine what the Ukrainian military is doing to thousands of people now. It does everything. First of all, these people get killed," Zakharova stated.

"This is not a matter of doing some kind of justice. It's absolute lawlessness, which in principle, does not fit in with any norms of any humanitarian law. I emphasize once again that thousands of people, peaceful civilians, are forced through these filtration measures," Zakharova said.

Earlier, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov slammed the Ukrainian forces' punitive operations against civilians in the Kharkov Region as outrageous.

Agencies

African experts urge for research-driven action on antimicrobial resistance

NAIROBI

SUB-SAHARAN African countries should leverage investments in research, surveillance and public awareness to contain antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which has become a public health crisis in the continent, experts said on Thursday.

The experts said as Africa becomes an epicenter of drug-resistant pathogens that are claiming lives in large numbers, governments should increase funding for research, diagnostic facilities, training and awareness campaigns.

AMR Program Coordinator Yewande Alimi at the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said that evidence-based research could revitalize interventions

aimed at tackling the growing resistance of drugs to pathogens like viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites.

Alimi noted that the dearth of data combined with weak diagnostic and surveillance systems had escalated the antimicrobial resistance crisis in Africa, to the detriment of the continent's public health security.

Hence, collecting and connecting laboratory, pharmacy and clinical data will be essential to provide a baseline and a reference for public health actions," Alimi said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

A 2019 study published by the Lancet, a prestigious medical journal, found that 27.3 out of 100,000 deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa were attributed to anti-



microbial resistance, the highest in the world.

The Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership led by Africa CDC and the African Society for Laboratory Medicine in a study

released Thursday said that all the 14 countries surveyed had drug resistance crises that had exceeded the global benchmark of 25 percent.

According to the study, misuse of antibiotics in human,

animal health and food production systems had evolved into a public health crisis in Africa, leading to fatalities and taking a heavy toll on economies.

Nqobile Ndlovu, the chief executive officer of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, said that qualitative research, dissemination of timely data and training of health care providers should inform policy responses to the crisis of antimicrobial resistance in the continent.

Ndlovu suggested that African countries should harmonize guidelines for treating infectious diseases, discourage the use of antibiotics in agriculture and crack down on counterfeit and sub-standard medicine in order to reduce the threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Pascale Ondo, the director of Science and New Initiatives of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, said that collaborative research combined with political goodwill, improved regulations and awareness will be key to eradicating antimicrobial resistance in the continent.

A 2019 study published by the Lancet, a prestigious medical journal, found that 27.3 out of 100,000 deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa

Rwanda scraps fees in public pre-primary, primary schools

KIGALI

THE Rwandan government announced on Wednesday it had scrapped school fees for children in government-aided pre-primary and primary schools as part of efforts to ensure equitable access to quality education.

"Effective with the 2022-23 academic year, parents will only be required to pay 975 Rwandan francs (less than a dollar) towards the school feeding program," a statement issued by the Ministry of Education said. In the sweeping changes that repeal previous education guidelines, the ministry also announced harmonization of school fees in public secondary and technical and vocational schools.

Xinhua

US railroad strike averted by late-night deal

NEW YORK

THE White House on Thursday announced a tentative agreement to avert a strike that would have shut down rail lines nationwide and crippled the economy.

Negotiators had until early Friday to reach a deal. The deal with unions representing more than 50,000 engineers and conductors was announced just after 5 am Eastern Time in a statement from the White House.

Biden, who has been a long-time advocate for unions, said in a statement that rail workers "will get better pay, improved working conditions, and peace of mind around their health-care costs: all hard-earned," and rail companies "will be able to retain and recruit more workers for an industry that will continue to be part of the backbone of the American economy for decades to come".

Biden was personally in touch with railroad companies and union representatives this week to try to avoid a shutdown.

The agreement came hours after a phone call from Biden to negotiators at approximately 9 pm Eastern Time, according to CNN.

Rail executives and labor leaders were meeting at the Labor Department in Washington with Secretary Marty Walsh when Biden made the call to them and stressed that catastrophic harm could come to families, businesses and communities if the rail system shut down, CNN reported.

As he pressed for a deal, Biden became personally "animated" about the lack of leave for workers, and he brought up repeatedly that he didn't under-



Amtrak trains travel through Washington, DC, on Thursday. AFP

stand why workers couldn't be granted more flexible schedules, according to The Washington Post.

The deal includes new leave policies, a significant concession by train carriers to workers who had demanded greater flexibility to be able to miss work for medical emergencies without being fired or punished, The Associated Press reported.

The Association of American Railroads, which represents the nation's freight railroads, said the tentative agreement provided rail employees a 24

percent wage increase during the five-year period from 2020 through 2024, including an immediate payout on average of US\$11,000 upon ratification.

The tentative agreement will go to union members for a vote after a post-ratification cooling off period of several weeks.

During that time, which could take several weeks, union members agree not to strike.

America's railroads are crucial to the economy. Freight railroads carry 30 percent of the nation's long-haul freight, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. and

a work stoppage could jeopardize those shipments.

A strike could have stopped the transportation of food and other goods and disrupted commuter trains all over the country and put new pressure on prices when inflation is near a 40-year high.

If the talks had broken down and led to a strike, Congress could have intervened to delay or stop a strike. But the White House was reluctant to have Congress step in to extend the deadline for the negotiations or force a resolution to the dispute.

Agencies

El Salvador president plans for re-election despite legal ban

SAN SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR President Nayib Bukele said Thursday he would run for re-election, despite the country's constitution prohibiting presidents from having consecutive terms.

"I'm announcing to the Salvadoran people that I've decided to run as a candidate for president of the republic," Bukele said in an Independence Day speech live-streamed on public television and social media.

Bukele's current term is set to end in 2024.

"Developed countries have re-election," Bukele said on Thursday. "And thanks to the new configuration of the democratic institution of our country, now El Salvador will too."

Although the constitution forbids a president from being re-elected immediately after a term in office, the Supreme Court, composed of judges appointed by lawmakers of Bukele's party, ruled in 2021 that a second consecutive term was permissible.

That move was slammed by the United States and drew fears of a return to authoritarianism in El Salvador.

Shortly after the ruling, the US State Department said it marked a decline in democratic governance that damaged its relationship with the Central American country.

Bukele has enjoyed high approval ratings since he took office in 2019. According to a poll carried out last month by CID Gallup, 85% approve of his presidency and 95% of his governance in security matters.

The 41-year-old, who has adopted bitcoin as legal tender, has in recent months led a crackdown against gangs, using emergency powers that the Congress on Wednesday extended for a sixth time.

Critics say many innocent people have been arrested without cause. In May, police sources told Reuters they had been forced to meet daily arrest quotas.

"Some in the international community ... they criticize the capture of gang members, as if they wanted us to be doing badly again," Bukele said Thursday. "This is the only way for El Salvador. We already proved it; this is not a campaign promise."



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele participates in the closing ceremony of a congress for cryptocurrency investors in Santa Maria Mizata, El Salvador on Nov 20, 2021. File photo

Coastal Union seeks to torment Namungo FC in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA's Coastal Union will today be away to Namungo FC in 2022/23 NBC Premier League's fourth round game to be held at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruangwa District, Lindi.

Coastal Union is under the tutelage of Kenyan Yusuf Chipu recently announced by the squad to replace Juma Mgunda.

The Kenyan gaffer has spent four days at Coastal Union, and the club's fanatics expect that the tactician is set to make full use of his knowledge.

Chipu had in the past

coached Coastal Union's U-20 youngsters who lifted the U-20 Premier League then dubbed 'Uhai Cup'.

The gaffer's records are keeping him in a good position heading into the Saturday tie, and he will improve them should Coastal Union cruise to victory over Namungo FC.

An interesting aspect is most footballers making Coastal Union were earlier turning out for the side's U-20 squad, which was coached by Chipu.

The footballers include Mtenje Albano, Hamad Majimengi, Juma Mahadhi, and others thus, according to soccer analysts, Chipu will easily coach them.

The Coastal Union foot-

ballers further constitute the performers that turned the side into a resolute contender during the previous season's closing stages.

In an interview with The Guardian in Tanga, Coastal Union's Members and Motivation Committee's chairman Salim Bawazir explained that decision by the club's management to appoint Chipu as head coach was reached because of the gaffer's good performance at the side and other clubs he used to coach.

He said that it is obvious this season NBC Premier League clubs' coaches are aware of Chipu's performance.

The official stated: "I want to allay our supporters' fear that despite our newly appointed head coach Yusuf Chipu having spent four days before our fourth round match, the fanatics ought to expect success because he knows what is he doing, I'm sure he will do wonders."

In this season's NBC Premier League table, Namungo FC is sitting fourth after three matches, having notched a victory in two ties and a draw in one to collect seven points.

Defending champions Yanga is leading with 10 points, as is the case with age-old rival Simba SC now sitting second because of having an inferior goal ag-

gregate. Coastal Union is sitting ninth with four points after three games, registering a win in one, losing one, and notching a draw in one.

Mgunda had led Coastal Union in two ties in this season's NBC Premier League, notching a 1-0 win over Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, and suffering a 2-0 loss to Yanga, the clashes took place at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

In the Tanga club's third-round match against Polisi Tanzania, which culminated in a draw, the club was under the tutelage of assistant coach Joseph Lazaro.



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's tennis player, Msafiri Ali, hits a forehand to his opponent during a practice at the outfit's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Yanga head coach counsels players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

NASREDDINE Nabi, Yanga's head coach, has encouraged his players to be ready for the return leg of 2022/23 CAF Champions League's first preliminary round against South Sudan champions Zalan FC slated for today in Dar es Salaam.

Mainland Tanzania champion, Yanga, will be at home at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium after notching a resounding 4-0 victory over Zalan FC in the first leg game played at the stadium last weekend.

Nabi noted he has asked his players to assess their quality because of the competition in front of them in this season's NBC Premier League and the premier continental club tournament they are participating in.

The Tunisian gaffer said the return leg will not be easy, so he reminds Yanga to work on all instructions he gives them in training because the game will not be easy due to their opponents getting used to the environment.

The coach added despite the 4-0 victory they got in the first leg, he is not happy with the way his players are wasting scoring opportunities.

He said that the victory they got in the

first leg is not a criterion for them to win today's match, his players need to fight and concentrate on exploiting the opportunities they will get.

"It's not because we won in the first game that this rematch will be easy, we need to increase our attention, including psychologically building the players and believing that it will be a tougher game than the previous one," Nabi revealed.

He added that the players should enter the pitch carefully to ensure that they win the tie, which is important so that they can achieve their goals.

The tactician said: "This is a competition where you have to use the chances you create. I know you can't score on every chance."

"I know we are in a team that is under pressure to get good results, but a player must be calm when he is in the opponent's goal. While wearing Yanga jersey, one must play with intelligence and self-evaluation," Nabi stated.

The overall winners of the clash between Yanga and Zalan FC will meet the winners of the round's game between Ethiopia's St. George FC and Al Hilal of Sudan.

Tanzania's athletes scoop overall winners' honour in 2022 SARPCCO Games



Some of the armed forces runners from various African countries battle it out in men's 400m in this year's Southern Africa Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) Games at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's athletes emerged overall winners of the ongoing Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) Games which are held in Dar es Salaam.

This year's edition of the games ends today and local athletes have collected 18 gold medals, 12 silver medals, and nine bronze medals, Zimbabwe is sitting second with 15 gold medals, 23 silver, and 11 bronze medals.

Namibia is positioned third having collected four gold medals, 12 silver, and 13 bronze medals.

Tanzania's athletics side's head coach Rogath Stephen expressed his happiness and attributed the win to hard work by his athletes and full support and cooperation from the Police force.

He said the win proves that the country has talented athletes who, if given a chance, can efficiently compete in any event.

Stephen noted: "I am very delighted, they have done the country proud, let me thank the athletes for performing well."

"They showed spirited performance, and special mention should go to Inspector General of Police, Camilius Wambura, for his full sup-

port," he said.

The games attracted 11 countries and in a cross-country showdown, Tanzania was represented by male athletes Fabian Nelson, Bazil John, Josephat Gisemo, Emmanuel Gidaye, Jumanne Ndege, and Kassim Shaaban.

The hosts' female athletes for the race are Grace Jackson, Monica Mathias, Abigail John, Transfora Mussa, and Himida Nassoro.

In the field events, Tanzania was represented by Grace Jackson, Simon Msojo, Fabian Nelson, Bazil John, Mohammed Mohammed, and Samir Mbaraka won medals for the country.

Athletes Joseph Panga, Emmanuel Gidaye, Josephat Mwita, Samson Kahama, Transfora, Himida Nassoro, Grace Charles, Mayseline Mbua, and Asha Salum competed in the 21km race.

SARPCCO Games were formed in 1995 in Zimbabwe, firmly establishing themselves as a benchmark for international police cooperation.

The games are meant to create a platform for police officers from the region to engage in fruitful interaction, sharing ideas on policing traditions, fostering regional friendships, understanding, and cooperation through sports.

Chaneta says ready to present reviewed rules to World Netball

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Netball Association (Chaneta) is, at the end of this month, expected to submit its suggested proposals on rules of the sport to World Netball (WN).

Launched in 2021, the WN review welcomes member associations and World Netball technical panel to submit proposals for change to the rules of the game.

The world netball governing body says the review will be led by the Rules Advisory Panel (RAP) who will consult with Coaching Advisory Panel, officials advisory panel, and voices of athletes working group.

Closing date for WN members to submit suggested rule changes is September 30.

Rose Mkisi stated in an inter-

view that Chaneta executive committee members will meet soon to propose changes.

She stopped short of disclosing the date the committee will meet but said it would not take long as most of the current rules of netball are in tandem with the country's needs.

"Closing date for members of World Netball to submit their change proposals is the end of this month, we have been soliciting views from our stakeholders and soon we will meet, we are not in a hurry as most of the current rules are good for our country," she said.

World Netball says the process of the rules review will involve consultations and trials and will take 12 months with the final proposal to be presented to the WN congress next year in South Africa during the World

Netball Cup.

Meanwhile, Chaneta says it will put much effort into player identification and transition, gearing towards ensuring the national netball side 'Taifa Queens' excels in Africa Netball Championships slated for next year in Uganda.

Rose disclosed: "After Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers which took place in Cape Town, Uganda will host Africa Netball Championships, we want to start early preparations for the Africa event as we aim to perform well."

"We will not have many excuses as many issues in Uganda are similar to those in Tanzania," she said.

At the just-ended Africa Netball World Cup Qualifiers, Taifa Queens performed poorly as the side lost all of its games.



Netballers feature in one of the sports tournaments which were organized to vouch for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in Arusha recently.

Vinicius Jr. is a star for Real Madrid, but how will he handle being a target?

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

YOU may not remember all of them, but let me assure you that Spanish football has been witness to some of the great retaliation extravaganzas of all time.

Diego Maradona, when he was at Barcelona, Kung Fu-kicking Athletic Club's Miguel De Andres at the end of the 1984 Copa del Rey final. Real Madrid's legendary winger Juanito stamping on the back, and then the head, of Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthaus in the 1987 European Cup semifinal. Brazilian magician Djalminha snapping and headbutting his own Deportivo La Coruna coach, Javier Irureta, in the midst of receiving a huge rollicking during training. Diego Costa and Sergio Ramos spitting on one another during a Madrid Derby. Madrid defender Pepe swinging a wild boot at a prone Javi Casquero, then raking his studs down the Getafe player's back when Madrid looked like they were going to drop points at home in 2009. The list goes on.

At one time these hot-tempered bursts of retribution leading to sendings off were so "in fashion" in Spain that Pablo Alfaro, Sevilla's infamous defender -- second only to Sergio Ramos in LaLiga red cards -- once said: "Admittedly

I'm not a Saint! But it feels like media coverage of me being sent off has become a national sport!"

Vinicius Junior's name is not currently on that list of high-profile, perpetually-targeted footballers who succumb to provocation, frustration, red mist, or who simply have a bit of mala leche (badness) running through their veins. The 22-year-old Brazilian is so far opting for the Lionel Messi/Cristiano Ronaldo school of "don't make me angry because I won't punch or kick you in retaliation ... I'll just score, or create, more goals against you."

Messi played nearly 800 matches for Barcelona so if he'd been fouled, on average, an extremely conservative six times per 90 minutes that would mean he was kicked, barged, obstructed, tripped, knocked over, hacked down nearly 5,000 times. Wouldn't you react? Most of us would.

Only twice did Messi properly teeter on the verge of complete red mist on club duty. In the 2009 UEFA Super Cup final against Shakhtar Donetsk when he moved his forehead perilously close to Darijo Srna's nose, no action was taken from the ref. And then in the 2021 Spanish Super Cup defeat to Athletic Club when, having been bodychecked all night, he swung a petulant right hook at the back of Asier Villalibre's neck and was, correctly, red-



Vinicius' playing style and personality on the pitch makes him a target for defenders. (Agencies)

carded for the only time in his long Barcelona career.

Ronaldo's four red cards for Madrid, mostly expulsions for momentary losses of temper and some kind of lashing out, exclude him from being branded "Mary Poppins-exemplary." But given the treatment he, too, was handed out while inspiring Madrid to vast achievements domestically and internationally, his self-restraint, and ability to re-divert anger towards scoring and winning, were definitely to be admired.

The context for this is that Vinicius is approaching a crossroads. He is increasingly going to be forced to choose how he channels and uses the anger and heated feelings of injustice which are

heading his way. Can he harness them as fuel to scorch the opposition? Or will he seek out the kind of natural, but punishable, personal retribution which brings media opprobrium, bookings, red cards and suspensions?

Even though he's only 22, the ultra-talented Brazilian is fast becoming someone who can genuinely be considered as one of the world's top five or six footballers. Pound-for-pound at least.

LaLiga title-winner, winning goal scorer in a Champions League final, partner with Karim Benzema in a 111 goal/assist production line last season alone, and now he has hit the net in the last five Madrid matches for the first time in his

career. Two of which, importantly enough, coming while Benzema was absent injured.

It's a natural, if unfortunate by-product that opponents are targeting him. Coaches plan it, their players, usually from lesser talented teams, carry out the provocation, bullying and intimidation.

It happened again, not by coincidence, against Mallorca at the weekend -- to the extent that teammate Toni Kroos had to go and persuade Vinicius to end his tirade at opposition coach Javier Aguirre and Carlo Ancelotti was asked to defend his winger following Madrid's impressive 4-1 win. It wasn't a coincidence because there were clear traces of bad blood

and vendetta (held over from the last time these two played each other) during the Spanish champions' comeback win over the Islanders. Pablo Maffeo went after Vinicius -- kicks, trips, barges, confrontations. It was deliberate, it was a strategy and it was a small sample of the dark arts which will now pursue this rare talent for the rest of his career.

The reason for the extra heat in this confrontation was that, back in March at the Visit Mallorca Stadium, Maffeo scythed through Vinicius taking right leg, and left knee, with a ridiculous challenge which referee Sanchez Martinez didn't even book. A lamentable mistake. Maffeo, with the eager help of Martin Valjent as henchman, went for Round Two of his intimidation mission.

Frankly, Vinicius' reactions were absolutely spot on. He's already the third most-fouled player in LaLiga this season, he was violently bodychecked by Maffeo before a quarter of an hour had passed, and manhandled to the ground twice in the second half with the game balanced at 2-1 -- but he used his fury at the referee's laissez-faire attitude to good purpose.

With time running out, Vinicius was brave enough to take the ball, over and over again, then drag possession into the corner of the pitch where Maffeo lunged, missed and then Valjent

smashed him down -- earning a booking, giving away a free kick and wasting valuable time which Mallorca needed if they were to have any remote chance of getting an equaliser.

Vinicius picked himself up, gave a clarion call for an already outraged crowd to raise their decibel levels on a sleepy Sunday afternoon and let his two opponents know, pointing to his badge, that if they wanted to come after him again he was ready. With the smell of battle in his nostrils he pressed Valjent, blocked a clearance and howled in triumph (despite it being the merest of positives for his team which were by then winning 3-1, but the hero of this story was still burning fury as fuel.)

For so long as it stays that way, fine.

What sparked some minor controversy, and caused Ancelotti to be grilled postmatch, was when Maffeo had one, last, despairing attempt to chip away at Vinicius' ankle and Mallorca's coach, Aguirre, vocally praised his full-back. The Brazilian stormed over to admonish the bullish Mexican 63-year-old manager -- at which point things threatened to spill over. But, crucially, they didn't.

Madrid coach Ancelotti argued afterward: "Vinicius is special for how he plays. Opponents can get angry because of him dribbling past them and they're angrier than ever when they're losing. But that's

football. Vinicius has huge quality and talent and he shouldn't ever change. I think he shows respect for referee and rivals and if ever he didn't I'd remind him to do so."

Across my career I've pretty much seen it all in terms of provocation and retaliation while reporting at matches: Zidane head-butting Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup final, Dennis Wise reaching into Nicky Butt's shorts, when Chelsea defeated Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in 1999, plucking at a leg hair and the United midfielder reacting with violent anger before being red-carded during a 5-0 defeat. Even calm, placid Andres Iniesta admitting that he kicked out in frustration at teammate Mark van Bommel during the 2010 World Cup final, when Spain were being consistently booed from pillar to post by Netherlands, and could have been sent off.

Which route will Vinicius choose now? The elite, hard-headed "winners" path, where only minor losses of temper blemish a long, beautiful career? Or the angry, hot-headed, "taking the law into his own hands" which so many naturally flamboyant, entertainers find it impossible to resist when they are kicked, abused and provoked? His eventual status as a genuine great and his prospects of lifting the Ballon d'Or may rest on the answer.

Chelsea's Boehly makes blunders, but his message is solid, if unimaginative

By Gab Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

JUST over 100 days into his tenure at the helm of Chelsea and we've heard far more from Todd Boehly than we did from Roman Abramovich in nearly two decades. From a fan's perspective, it doesn't really matter in the long-term. As long as the club is seen to be well-run and successful, most can do without communication from the owner, which is why Abramovich was loved by most Chelsea supporters while Manchester United's silent owners, the Glazers, are loathed by most United fans.

The issue with Boehly, who leads the investment consortium that acquired Chelsea for around \$3 billion in the summer, is that the club isn't doing well. To the natural angst of a new owner after 20 years of stability and success, you throw in the sacking of manager Thomas Tuchel -- especially after the summer's massive investment -- and a turgid start to the campaign and naturally, every word will be scrutinized.

So when Boehly sat down on Tuesday for a half-hour chat in New York at the SALT Conference, a global thought leadership and networking forum, the world was watching.

Inevitably, some will focus on Boehly's blunders, malaprops and general things that will rub seasoned fans the wrong way. I'd be remiss not to chronicle them though in the larger scheme of things, they're nowhere near as relevant as to the main takeaway. Which, to me, is simply that Boehly's group isn't offering anything new.

But let's get the missteps out of the way first, because that's undoubtedly

what you're reading in the headlines.

Boehly said that every club in the Premier League gets "north of a few hundred million" (he didn't specify pounds or dollars) per year, which isn't quite true. Last season, the highest earner, Manchester City, received £164m (\$190m) and the bottom club, Norwich City, got £98.6m (\$113.8m).

When rattling off a list of players who came through Chelsea's youth system, he included Kevin De Bruyne and Mohamed Salah. In fact, they were signed at 21 and 22 years old respectively from Genk and Basel. While they weren't particularly expensive and were young, both were internationals (for Belgium and Egypt) who had already played Champions League football.

He also managed to butcher the name of Barcelona's academy -- somehow making "La Masia" sound like "La Messiah" -- which suggests that after a summer of talking to Barca regarding Frenkie de Jong, Marcos Alonso and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, he didn't quite pick up on how the Catalans pronounce it, and nobody around him has the confidence to correct him.

OK, get your snarky giggles out of your system. It's true that most people immersed in the sport -- whether fans, coaches or executives -- wouldn't make such mistakes, but then he's only been in this space a few months, and frankly, they don't really matter. The substance doesn't change whether Salah came through the academy at Cobham or Cairo, and it doesn't matter what Boehly calls Barcelona's youth set-up.



Boehly is taking heat in the media for some of the sillier things he said during a recent conference appearance, but his visibility and willingness to speak is a welcome thing given the chaos at Chelsea this year. (Agencies)

As for being off by more than 100% on what clubs actually earn from broadcasting, let's chalk it up to misspeak, and besides, maybe he's more of a big picture guy. Plus, it doesn't affect his broader -- and more interesting -- point that relegation in European football, which distinguishes it from U.S. sports, prevents "tanking," the practice of clubs with nothing to play for playing out a string of meaningless games. (In case you're wondering, he didn't go so far as to suggest that maybe promotion-relegation should be introduced in baseball, where he's part-owner of the LA Dodgers.)

As I see it, the more relevant takeaways have to do with his sense of what innovation and best practice means for the Premier League and for Chelsea.

First off, when you start a sentence by saying you are "hoping that the Premier League take a bit of a lesson from American sports," the odds are nothing good will come of it. The implication, whether it's what he meant to say or not, is that American sports are better at monetising fan experiences, and European football has something to learn from it.

Considering that from the start, the Premier League has been partly modelled on U.S. sports -- where do you think they got the idea, in 1992, of giving players individual numbers and having their names on the back of shirts? -- and more importantly, that U.S. owners have been a part of it for the past 15 years (and they're often owners of successful U.S. sports franchises, too), it's not a great look. It not only implies you want to borrow aspects of U.S. sports (which is a touchy subject to begin with), but it also suggests these things didn't occur to your fellow U.S. owners or, indeed, other owners who might have attended a baseball or football game across the pond.

The majority of media outlets focused on his first proposal, a "North vs. South" Premier League All-Star game. Without getting into the minutiae of scheduling, whether clubs can compel players to play -- there's no collective bargaining agreement in the Premier League -- how it might work with teams in the Midlands or whether anyone would actually enjoy this, this sort of suggestion, or variants thereof, isn't new. Heck, way back

in 1891, an All-Star team of top-flight players from the English League faced off against their colleagues in the Scottish League, a tradition that continued into the mid-1970s.

More to the point, given how American sports fans have been responding to All-Star games (the NFL's version has seen viewership decline since 2011, the NBA's was the lowest since at least 2007 and, in baseball -- Boehly's wheelhouse -- viewership was at a record low and one-fifth of what it was in 1980) maybe the lesson to learn from American sports is that fans don't want this. Why? Because they like to see competitive games, not exhibitions.

His other proposal -- a relegation playoff -- is actually a good idea, if you get the format right. (The biggest concern is fairness, when one team is well ahead of the other in terms of points.) But again, it's not something they need to learn from American sports. Relegation playoffs have been around other European leagues (like the German Bundesliga) for a while, in different divisions

and with different formats.

His admiration for the "multi-club model" (like the Red Bull group or City Football Group) as a means of sharing know-how, developing Academy stars and, as he puts it, "building out the footprint," was interesting though obviously nothing new. From David Blitzer to Bob Platek, to the folks at RedBull and the 777 Group, a host of other (mostly American) investors are doing this. It's basically a vision of baseball's farm system.

It's the sort of idea that makes a ton of sense on paper, though to what degree it helps the "parent club" remains to be seen. City Football Group has been around since 2013, but you can count on one hand the number of junior partner alumni who have ever suited up for Manchester City in the Premier League, let alone had much of an impact.

The impression is that making such a set-up work, given the cultural differences and local biases in the game, is actually very difficult. Which, by the way, may explain why governing bodies such as

UEFA and FIFA haven't seriously cracked down on it or why other top clubs around Europe (other than City) haven't pursued it. Ultimately, it's not clear that it gives you an advantage.

Boehly also talked about treating a club's youngsters as "Academy products" rather than "Academy players." Again, some will find that a bit dehumanizing and slightly creepy -- we're talking about monetizing teenagers here, not senior pros -- but give him the benefit of the doubt here. The more salient point is that anyone who has followed Chelsea over the past decade will know that the club have actually already been doing that and, in some cases, been criticised for it: from Marc Guehi to Nathan Ake, from Patrick Bamford to Fikayo Tomori, and even Tammy Abraham and Ola Aina, Chelsea have raked in some £175m since 2015 in fees for departing players developed in the Chelsea system.

When asked about the European Super League, he said it wasn't something Chelsea were pursuing since the Champions

League already has "many components of it." When pressed about whether this was a "hard no," Boehly said: "I never give hard nos. I like to keep my options open." Some will criticise him for it, but I have no problem with it. It's much better that Boehly be honest: He can't predict the future, and there may come a time when fan sentiment changes.

There wasn't much that was visionary or groundbreaking in his talk, but there didn't need to be. The mere fact that he's talking is important, no matter his slip-ups and questionable ideas, whether because they're goofy or simply because they're not new (even though he may think they are).

Boehly already seems to have grasped two of the most important things that club owners ignore all too often. (Yes, I'm looking at you, Glazers.) The first is that it's fine to stay silent if everything is rosy, but you have to send a message in times of turmoil, and that message has to be genuine. Boehly appeared genuine to me.

GWiji by David Chikoko



Yanga out complete job against Zalan FC



Tanzania's Yanga winger, Jesus Moloko (L), dribbles past South Sudan's Zalan FC winger Isaac Wani in the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Champions League's first preliminary round tie which took place in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

SPORT

Vinicius Jr. is a star for Real Madrid, but how will he handle being a target?

PAGE 19

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Yanga will have a home advantage once again when they face South Sudan's Zalan FC in their 2022/23 CAF Champions League first preliminary round return leg clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today evening.

The home side is very much in form and is unbeaten in all competitions this season.

In the first leg which took place at the venue a week ago, Yanga emerged with a comprehensive 4-0 victory, with the Tanzanian representatives overcoming a frustrating first half to score four goals after the restart.

The home side is very much in form and is unbeaten in all competitions this season.

They are top of the 2022/23 NBC Premier League after four games with 10 points.

In their Tuesday league fixture, they were 2-0 winners against Mtibwa Sugar.

Ahead of the game, Yanga head coach Nasreddine Nabi said they are struggling with physical and mental fatigue because they have not had a break.

The gaffer noted: "My players are very tired, it's a reality, they are tired because there was a succession of games."

"We had tough matches, especially the CAF match and the midweek matches. Even though we won, it was hard."

"This succession of matches means that currently, the team is tired and we saw the evidence in the last 20 minutes against Mtibwa Sugar, it's fatigue."

"And so we have responsibilities to complete the job. On the mental level, you know it's difficult when you have won a 4-0 match to motivate the players, you have to motivate them."

"You also have to respect that you have to have the Champions League mindset whatever the opponent."

"Whatever result, you have had you must have a Cham-

pions League attitude and mindset so you have to come out and give your all, even if you are tired you still push for more."

"Respecting the opponent is the very meaning of this African competition which must bring another dimension to this team."

"We must have a winning attitude and this state of mind must be expressed on the pitch."

Nabi will miss the service of Bernard Morrison, Khalid Aducho, and Djuma Shaban who are out nursing injuries.

Zalan FC has not been in action since the Yanga loss last week. Should Yanga triumph on aggregate, they will earn a slot in the second preliminary phase of the CAF Champions League.

They are likely to face Sudan's giant Al Hilal who, despite losing 2-1 in their first leg against Ethiopia's Saint George SC, have a high chance of overturning the deficit and qualifying for the second round.

All set for 2022 NMB Bank sports bonanza

By Guardian Correspondent

THE second season of a sports bonanza, termed 'NMB Kivumbi na Jasho', which brings together various sports teams of the Parliament and NMB Bank, takes place in Dodoma today.

The NMB Bank yesterday presented Parliament's sports outfit, Bunge Sports Club, with 20m/- sports equipment for the bonanza.

The 'NMB Kivumbi na Jasho' bonanza seeks to, the showdown's organizers revealed, build and strengthen good relations between the Parliament and the NMB Bank.

Bunge Sports Club promised to make full use of the bonanza to see to it its outfits shape up for the 2022 East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Inter-Parliamentary Games, as was the case last season.

Tarimba Abbas, Bunge SC's Chairman, said shortly after receiving the equipment they are taking today's event very seriously, given the 'NMB Kivumbi na Jasho' is more than a bonanza. Abbas revealed they value the bonanza, adding it has been useful to their preparation for this year's EALA Games.

The official noted: "We recognize and appreciate the goals of this bonanza, but let's be clear that for us it is more than that."

"Last year, the bonanza served as a good test for us towards 2021 EALA Games, we emerged as overall winners in eight games we participated in. We hope to maintain such success this year through this bonanza," he said.

Abbas, also the Member of Parliament for Kinondoni Constituency in Dar es Salaam, explained that MPs, NMB Bank staff, and guests who will attend the bonanza will thereafter have the opportunity to watch a 2022/23 CAF Champions League's first preliminary round return leg tie pitting Tanzania's Yanga against Zalan FC of South Sudan slated for today in Dar es Salaam.

Chief Executive Officer of NMB Bank, Ruth Zaipuna, thanked the leadership of Bunge SC and the captains of all sports teams for giving the bank chance to continue with the second season of the bonanza, which brings various opportunities for not



Ruth Zaipuna, NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer (R), hands over sports equipment to Bunge Sports Club's Chairman, Tarimba Abbas (2nd R), ahead of today's bonanza that will take place at Chinangali grounds in Dodoma. Standing (2nd L), is Deputy Chairperson of Bunge Sports Club, Esther Matiko, and the club's basketball squad's skipper, Stanslaus Nyongo (L). The sports items are worth 20m/- PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

only Parliament but also other government institutions.

The CEO stated: "The bonanza will start at 6 am with a walk that will start from the Parliament grounds to Chinangali Park, various games will be played, to prove the benefits of this bonanza, we will hand over equipment worth 50m/- to Uhuru Hospital and, after that, the bonanza will begin."

Rush added: "We started this bonanza last year and let us assure the parliamentarians that this bonanza will be sustainable to ensure that we continue the good cooperation that exists between us and the parliamentarians, the Parliament's Office, and the

government."

The CEO noted that sports are healthy, business, and employment, adding the participation of parliamentarians in sports reflects the image of the importance of sports for the nation and the youths. Ruth invited the residents of Dodoma to attend the bonanza.

The equipment handed over to Bunge SC includes special track suits and jerseys, soccer balls, netballs, and basketballs.

Sports events lined up for the bonanza include football, handball, basketball, netball, tug-of-war, chicken chase, sack race, short race, and others, with winners set to receive trophies and medals.

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

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88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Serengeti Boys learn 2023 U-17 AFCON qualifiers' group stage opponents

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S national U-17 soccer side, Serengeti Boys, have learned their opponents ahead of the 2023 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers for the CECAFA Zone.

The Executive Director of the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA), Auka Gecheo conducted the draw in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

"We are happy that some of the teams that missed the last edition like Sudan, Burundi, Somalia, and Sudan have this time entered teams for the competition," Gecheo revealed.

Serengeti Boys who finished second in the last edition held in Rwanda have been drawn in Group A alongside Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan. Defending champions, Uganda have been pitted in Group B along with Djibouti, Rwanda, Sudan, and Burundi.

The best two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-final stage, while the champions will represent the Zone at the 2023 U-17 AFCON to be hosted by Algeria.

Serengeti Boys who are coached by Kim Poulsen are currently camped at Black Rhino in Karatu, Arusha as they get set for the assignment that will take place in Ethiopia between September 30-October 19, 2022 at Abebe Bikila Stadium in Addis Ababa.

All teams are expected to arrive in Ethiopia on September 26 ahead of the MRI tests which will be supervised by CAF.

This will be the third tournament that the CECAFA region is hosting this year after the CECAFA Senior Women's Championship held in Uganda and the recent CAF Women's Champions League qualifiers for the CECAFA Zone staged in Tanzania.

Tanzania and Uganda have been finalists in the two editions. The inaugural zonal qualifiers tournament was held in Dar es Salaam in 2018 where Uganda emerged winners after beating Tanzania 3-1.

The 2020 edition in Rwanda, once again, had a final involving Tanzania and Uganda with the defending champions managing to win it back-to-back.

Overall, Tanzania will aim to qualify for the continental finals for the fourth consecutive time, having first done so in 2017 in Gabon.

Tanzania then made it to the continental showpiece as host in 2019 and later cruised to the 2021 showpiece which was to take place in Morocco, it was unfortunately canceled at the last minute due to the Coronavirus pandemic.



Janeth Mawinza, an Executive Director of WAJIKI, an organization fighting gender-based violence in Tanzania, speaks at the launch of the fifth phase of the campaign against sexual corruption for students and girls, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

THE MAJOR COMPUTER PROBLEMS ARE COMPUTER SOLUTIONS

