



Manufacturing key to economic prospects - VP

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

INDUSTRIALISTS need to embrace innovation and enhance efficiency in wide ranging production processes to enhance competitive ability and earn more foreign currency, the government has urged.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango issued this appeal in his remarks at the Presidential Manufacturer of the Year Award (PMAYA) ceremony, organized by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

In this year's awards, Tanzania Cigarette PLC emerged as the overall winner, followed by Plasco Ltd and ALAF Ltd, at an event where the VP emphasized the vital role of the industrial sector in driving the country's development.

The sector holds immense potential for rapid growth, job creation and technological innovation, he said, underlining that the industrial sector is a cornerstone of development prospects.

It offers vast opportunities to expand employment, enhance foreign exchange earn-

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Simba now focus on CAF Confederation Cup after strong start in Premier League



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Youth activist awarded for advancing family planning

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Labour laws listed for extensive amendments

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

A BILL proposing major amendments to labour laws for enhancing observation of workers' rights and addressing workplace challenges was read for the first time in the National Assembly yesterday.

The Labour Laws (Amendments) Act, 2024 seeks to amend the Employment and Labour Relations Act, the Labour Institutions Act, and the Non-Citizens (Employment Regulation) Act to enhance clarity, broaden protections and modernize provisions to better serve both employers and employees, the government says in its statement of purposes.

A key provision in the bill envisages expansion of maternity leave for employees who give birth to premature children, as currently maternity leave is fixed to a set duration.

Under the proposed changes, the leave will be extended to ensure that mothers of premature babies receive sufficient care for the children, where extended leave would allow employees to take the remaining time needed to complete the 36 weeks of pregnancy.

This is intended to ensure better health and care for mother and child during that critical period, while introducing up-

dates to the Employment and Labour Relations Act, first enacted in 2004.

Notable amendments include the broadening of definitions used in the legislation to improve clarity, particularly in relation to senior management employees and those on fixed-term contracts.

The changes are expected to offer greater flexibility in employment arrangements, including provisions for temporary work, seasonal employment and opportunities for new graduates to build their skills or gain work experience.

A new section is being introduced allowing employers and employees to agree on procedures for operating during emergencies such as health crises or other disruptions. "This would ensure job security, safeguard worker safety and maintain productivity during times of national or global emergencies," the statement affirmed.

The disciplinary process will similarly be improved by ensuring that no disciplinary action is taken against an employee while a dispute is pending before the Labour Commission or Labour Court.

"This is designed to protect employees from unfair treatment during legal disputes. Further provisions in the Bill

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday delivering address at the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards ceremony organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries. Photo: VPO

PM tasks top officials with current priorities

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has urged senior government officials to ensure that priorities outlined in the national development plan for 2025/2026 are effectively incorporated into plans being worked upon by their respective institutions.

Adjourning the 17th session of the current legislature in the capital, he stated that the plan is focused on initiatives for 'big results' in priority areas of the third five-year national development plan.

The President's Office (Planning and Investment) had submitted proposals for fiscal 2025/2026, where the government, in collaboration with the private sector, will focus on flagship projects.

It is those that generate significant benefits and results, concentrating efforts on stimulating a competitive and inclusive economy and strengthening industrial production capacity and service delivery.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa adjourns an ordinary meeting of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

It also seeks to promote investment and business, fostering human development and advancing human resource capacities, he elaborated.

He told the MPs that the government had successfully managed revenue collection during the first quarter of fiscal 2024/2025, with a

total of 11.55trn/- collected from domestic and international sources, where 7.93trn/- is domestic revenue, a 99.4percent of the target of collecting 7.97trn/- during the period, he said.

Upwards of 7.09trn/- was collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) while 518.32bn/- came from

non-tax revenues collected by ministries and state agencies. A total of 321.32bn/- was collected by local government authorities, he explained.

The increase arose from various strategies implemented by the government, including strengthening ICT systems in revenue collection plus widening the use of electronic receipt machines, he stated.

He was fulsome in his praise for TRC staff and CEO Yusuf Mwenda, along with other institutions involved in revenue collection, while lauding the wider public for dedication in ensuring they pay taxes for the country's development.

Business operators need to issue receipts and buyers ought to demand receipts whenever they purchase goods, he stated, tasking TRA officials to persist in the good work in revenue collection.

They also need to further educate the public on tax payment for the benefit of our nation, he added.

Rapid train trip impresses DRC parliamentary team

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Finance ministry permanent secretary Dr Natu El-Maamry Mwamba (R) bids farewell to the French Development Agency's Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Jean Francois Arnal, shortly after talks in Dodoma city yesterday. The focus was on cooperation between Tanzania and France, notably the implementation of energy projects and identification of new projects expected to be undertaken with support from the agency. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

Labour laws listed for extensive amendments

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outline clearer procedures for resolving labour disputes," it said, pointing at new measures requiring both parties to be present during mediation, as well as stricter timelines for resolving cases through arbitration.

The bill also seeks to enhance transparency and fairness in labour relations, by including changes to mechanisms for enforcing collective agreements and provide "clearer guidelines on compensation for employees who have been unfairly terminated."

"These measures aim to ensure that disputes are resolved quickly and fairly, while offering better protection for workers' rights," the statement of purpose affirms, underscoring the recognition of unpaid care work and its disproportionate impact on women.

It proposes instituting policies to address the redistribution of unpaid care work, enabling workers to take unpaid leave in case of emergencies or disasters, while A focusing on improving financial inclusion for

women.

This will help to reduce barriers to women's economic participation by ensuring better access to financial services, the preamble noted.

Changes to the Labour Institutions Act seek to improve the functioning of labour bodies such as the Labour Court and the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration.

Amendments to the Non-Citizens Employment Regulation Act are designed to streamline the hiring of foreign workers, particularly those holding shares in multiple companies, by removing administrative burdens.

The proposed amendments will be debated after the next reading and subsequently voted in its articles before being sent to the president for assenting the bill after its approval.

"If passed, the reforms will mark a significant shift in the country's labour laws, focusing on gender equality, worker protection and creating a more inclusive and transparent work environment," the statement of objectives underlines.

Rapid train trip impresses DRC parliamentary team

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A PARLIAMENTARY delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has expressed confidence in the standard gauge railway (SGR) project as a clear demonstration of Tanzania's commitment to infrastructure development.

John Banza, head of the delegation, made this declaration upon a visit to the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) headquarters and taking a

high-speed train from Dodoma to Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The visit was intended to observe first-hand the SGR project's progress in its construction and operation as an international-standard railway, with the fast train services already serving the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma flagship section.

He said the SGR project is testimony of Tanzania's ability to mobilize resources and efforts for public benefit, particularly

in the transport sector, hailing the sort of experience the delegation took in the rapid train journey.

"We travelled from Dodoma to Dar es Salaam yesterday on the fast-moving train, and we have learned a lot. More importantly, Tanzania is doing everything possible to make development strides," he said, describing SGR construction as a "remarkable achievement for Africa."

The railway will have a major role in spurring economic

growth, he said, expressing satisfaction with fruitful discussions between the parliamentary delegation and the TRC management.

The talks provided valuable insights into the implementation of the SGR project and potentiality for its adoption in the DRC, he said, extolling SGR construction as a 'miracle.'

"We've gained great insight into how it was implemented. As parliamentarians, we represent a powerful force, and we will return home to

encourage our government to expedite SGR construction," the delegation leader declared.

Senzige Kisenge, the TRC acting director general, affirmed that the launch of SGR train operations has significantly boosted potential for speeding up economic activity with the high-speed, large-capacity transport facility.

The speed train serves as a key transport link between major cities while enabling closer regional cooperation, raising bi-

lateral ties around the region to a higher level. A week ago, TRC introduced additional services with electric multiple units (EMUs) (wagons) on the Dar es Salaam - Dodoma route in response to rising demand for rapid rail transit.

Upwards of 9,000 to 10,000 passengers travel daily between the capital and the commercial two cities highlighting the urgent need for more efficient transport solutions.

Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC

director general, affirmed that there would be four daily EMU trips between the two cities, while asserting that even with this expansion, demand for rapid transit remains high.

To meet future passenger demand, TRC plans to deploy two more pairs of EMUs, as part of expectations tied with the SGR project, to further contribute to economic integration, social development and take ties with neighbouring countries to the next level, he added.

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ings and stimulate the growth of other sectors through domestic markets and export production, he elaborated.

Despite the industrial sector's importance, its contribution to the national economy remains relatively small, he said, recalling the challenge he raised in the same event back in 2021/

"Today I reiterate the same message: Increase your contribution to foreign currency earnings and create more employment opportunities for our people," he specified.

He acknowledged challenges facing industrial growth, including limited access to affordable financing, a shortage of skilled labor, outdated technology, inadequate infrastructure outlays and non-tax

barriers. "In response to these challenges, collaboration among all stakeholders is crucial. We must work together to boost productivity, enhance competition and produce more goods that can compete in local and international markets," he stressed.

He pointed at government efforts to address infrastructure bottlenecks like vast improvements in the transport sector including air and rail transport, illustrating having spent the night in Dodoma and came to Dar es Salaam by speed train, showing improved connectivity.

He told the gathering that the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) is now 99 percent complete, with some turbines already generating electricity. The project is a vi-

tal component of the government's industrial development strategy, he stated.

Exaud Kigahe, the Industry and Trade deputy minister, praised CTI for organising the award ceremony and its ongoing efforts to recognize excellence in local manufacturing.

CTI president Paul Makanza expressed gratitude for the government's efforts to create a favourable environment for investors and listen to their concerns.

"We are grateful to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her responsiveness to challenges faced by investors and industrialists. We have held many roundtable discussions with various government officials and most of the challenges have been addressed," he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell to legislators in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after adjourning an ordinary meeting of the National Assembly to January 28, 2025. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AT a global event in Bogotá, Colombia, more than 100 governments made historic pledges to end childhood violence, including nine nations committing to ban corporal punishment, an issue that impacts three out of every five children in their homes.

The event, hosted by the governments of Colombia and Sweden in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, set the stage for a new global declaration aimed at protecting children from all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse.

The event brought together high-level government delegations, children, young people, survivors, and civil society allies, all united in their commitment to address the widespread issue of childhood violence. Governments pledged to improve

Countries make pledges to end childhood violence

services for survivors of childhood violence, tackle bullying, and invest in critical parenting support—one of the most effective interventions for reducing the risk of violence in the home.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, highlighted the urgent need for action, saying, "Despite being highly preventable, violence remains a horrific day-to-day reality for millions of children around the world—leaving scars that span generations. Today, countries made critical pledges that, once enacted, could finally turn the tide on childhood violence. These actions—from establishing life-changing support for families to making schools safer and tackling online abuse—are fundamental to protecting children from lasting harm and ill health."

Globally, it is estimated that over half of all children—around

1 billion—experience some form of violence, including child maltreatment, corporal punishment, bullying, physical and emotional abuse, and sexual violence. Violence against children often occurs behind closed doors and remains vastly underreported. WHO estimates that fewer than half of affected children disclose the violence they experience, and less than 10 percent receive any form of help.

The consequences of such violence are devastating and far-reaching. It not only violates children's rights but also leads to significant health and developmental challenges. In some cases, violence results in death or serious injury. Each year, around 40,000 children and adolescents die as a result of homicide, with a child or adolescent dying every 13 minutes due to violence. For others, the consequences of violence are long-

lasting, contributing to anxiety, depression, risky behaviours like substance abuse and unsafe sexual practices, and poorer academic outcomes.

WHO's research shows that violence against children is preventable. Key interventions include parenting support to help caregivers avoid violent discipline and build positive relationships, school-based programs to prevent bullying and foster social skills, and child-friendly services for those who have experienced violence.

Laws that prohibit violence against children, as well as measures to reduce underlying risk factors like access to alcohol and firearms, are also essential in reducing childhood violence. Studies have shown that when countries implement these strategies effectively, they can reduce violence against children by 20-50 percent.

Despite the clear evidence that childhood violence is preventable, progress has been slow. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals set the first global targets for ending violence against children, but around nine in ten children still live in countries where common forms of violence, such as corporal punishment or sexual abuse, are not prohibited by law.

At the Ministerial Conference on Violence Against Children, specific pledges included commitments to end physical punishment, introduce new digital safety initiatives, raise the legally permitted age of marriage, and invest in parenting education and child protection services. WHO has been actively supporting efforts to end childhood violence by providing technical guidance, promoting effective prevention strategies, conducting research, and publishing global status

reports.

Some notable pledges made during the conference include commitments from eight countries—Burundi, Czechia, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Tajikistan—to pursue legislation against corporal punishment in all settings. Nigeria committed to addressing corporal punishment in schools.

Additionally, dozens of countries vowed to invest in parenting support programs, while the United Kingdom and other partners committed to launching a Global Taskforce on ending violence in schools. Tanzania pledged to introduce Child Protection Desks in all 25,000 of its schools, and Spain committed to passing new digital safety laws to protect children online. The Solomon Islands announced plans to raise the legal age of marriage from 15 to 18, acknowledging early marriage as a significant risk factor for violence against adolescent girls.



Kailima Ramadhani, Director of Elections at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), makes remarks during a training session on election laws for district police commanding officers held at the Tanzania Police School in Moshi municipality on Thursday. He is flanked by Commissioner of Police Operations and Training Awadhi Juma Haji (L) and INEC's Director of Legal Services, Selemani Mtibora. Photo courtesy of INEC

IITA deploys AI to help farmers combat banana disease outbreak

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is implementing a project to combat banana bunchy top disease (BBTD) outbreak in the country.

Christened 'Regional emergency response plan to control BBTD Outbreak in East Africa, the over \$300,000 worth project is designed to develop key technology to assist farmers control and eliminate the viral disease.

Rudolf Shirima, a researcher with IITA told this reporter recently that IITA has developed digital artificial intelligence facilities to help farmers to detect the disease.

"IITA is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) to disseminate to farmers key agronomic knowledge and skills to fight the disease," he said.

BBTD is caused by a virus known as banana bunchy top virus (BBTV) and it has so far caused a huge damage to banana plantations across the country.

"The virus is transmitted by an insect vector, the banana aphid (*Pentalonia nigronervosa*) or through the use of infected planting material," he said.

To curtail the disease, he said

that the vision is to contain further spread of the virus in order to allow banana farmers to heighten production and productivity.

"We're using a number of different approaches to assist farmers to battle the disease apart from use of the artificial intelligence facilities," he said.

He said the reliable solution to curtail the disease is total uproot of the infected banana plants in order to limit further spread.

The disease causes crop loss between 90 and 100 percent in just one season after infection, which means farmers will lose all income they used to generate from the sales of fruits in the market.

The other method against the disease is the use of special pesticides to kill the vector virus, banana aphid. "We're also training banana farmers on how to develop and spread the infected banana plant sopa forms to kill the virus," he added.

In further efforts, he said the institute was also working to support production of safe and quality banana seeds in order to overcome the disease.

"Among the ways of the spread of this disease is dissemination and use of contaminated (affected) banana seeds," he observed.

BBTD was reported for the first time in Tanzania in 2023 in Buhigwe District, Kigoma Region.

PM wants regional leaders to submit clean energy use reports next month

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has issued five directives to ministries and other institutions regarding adoption of clean cooking energy solutions in the country.

Among the directives, regional and district leaders are required to submit reports by December detailing which institutions have implemented clean cooking solutions.

Speaking yesterday while winding up the 17th session of Parliament, Majaliwa said that all institutions serving food to more than 100 people must comply with the directive to adopt clean cooking energy.

"The Ministry of Energy should monitor the clean cooking energy strategy while regional and district commissioners inspect key institutions such as the military, police, schools and ministries like that of education, health, and agriculture that need to transition to clean cooking energy," he said.

He further noted that entrepreneurs involved in large-scale catering such as those hosting wedding ceremonies should be encouraged to adopt clean cooking technologies.

The goal is to ensure that by 2033, 80 percent of Tanzanians will be using clean cooking energy, including gas, electricity, biogas, briquettes and

waste-to-energy technologies," he said.

Majaliwa also urged citizens to continue changing their cooking habits, especially by moving away from traditional cooking fuels such as firewood and charcoal which are harmful to the environment.

He also instructed all ministries to ensure timely reporting on the implementation of resolutions from the Controller and Auditor General's

(CAG) report in line with recommendations by parliamentary committees and submit the reports to the PM's office for further submission to the Speaker of the National Assembly.

He also urged government officials to ensure that the priorities outlined in the National Development Plan 2025/2026 are effectively incorporated into their respective institutional plans.

Prime Minister reported that the

government continues to manage revenue collection during the first quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year with a total of 11.55trn/- collected from both domestic and international sources.

Majaliwa credited this success to several government strategies, including continued strengthening of ICT systems for revenue collection and promotion of electronic receipt machines.



Amos Makalla, Secretary of CCM's National Executive Committee on Ideology, Publicity and Training, addresses a rally organised by the party at Temeke in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Healthcare providers urged to help check antibiotics misuse

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

HEALTHCARE professionals have been urged to adhere to proper protocols when dispensing medication, particularly antibiotics, to avoid adverse effects of unregulated drug use.

Dr Mbonea Yonazi, Director of Integrated Services at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when closing a two-day training session for healthcare practitioners from nine public hospitals across the country.

The session, which focused on the correct usage of medications, aimed to equip healthcare workers with knowledge to manage prescriptions more effectively amid growing threat of antibiotic resistance.

Dr Yonazi emphasized the importance of the training, particularly for laboratory specialists, nurses, pharmacists and doctors who directly interact with patients.

He warned that improper use of antibiotics can lead to resistance, which makes infections harder to treat and contributes to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"For example, a patient may be prescribed a seven- or eight-day course of antibiotics for a cough. If the medication doesn't work, further diagnostic tests may reveal that antibiotic resistance has developed. Once the disease-causing bacteria become resistant, it becomes increasingly difficult to treat the infection," Dr Yonazi said.

Dr Salma Hashoul Nassor, an internal medicine specialist at Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital in Zanzibar, said the training would significantly improve their ability to handle antibiotic use and resistance in their respective clinics and hospitals. As chairperson of the committee on Control and Correct Use of Antibiotics, Dr Nassor highlighted the growing importance of such trainings, noting that it was both timely and essential given the rise in antibiotics resistance. Pharmacist Tatu Ibrahim from Bukoba Regional Referral Hospital noted a growing concern around self-medication, whereby individuals buy medications without consulting healthcare professionals. The practice, he explained, is a major contributor to development of drug-resistant pathogens.

Dr Rukia Ibrahim, a paediatric specialist from Singida Regional Referral Hospital, warned that by 2050, antimicrobial resistance is projected to become a global crisis. She called for urgent measures to mitigate the risk, stating that addressing this issue now is crucial to avoid severe consequences of resistance in the future.

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

COP29 to give attention to clean cooking energy

AT Presidency of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) in Azerbaijan, the African Union (AU) and Tanzania will join forces in a high-level side event to make clean cooking a central part of the global climate agenda.

The event, 'Addressing Clean Cooking Challenges in Africa: A Call for African Leadership', will take place on Tuesday next week at the Africa Pavilion Blue Zone, H11.

As African countries continue to

grow economically and urbanize, the need for clean cooking solutions is more pressing than ever with 70 percent of the population still relying on traditional cooking methods.

The high-level gathering will bring together African leaders, policymakers, and international stakeholders to address the clean cooking challenges and highlight the urgent need for political lead-

ership, innovative partnerships, and substantial financial investment to achieve sustainable, clean cooking solutions across Africa. Africa has long been at the forefront of the climate conversation, and African countries are now taking bold and decisive steps to address the clean cooking challenge. The African Union, through its African Clean Cooking Program (ACCP), has already placed clean cooking

high on the continental agenda, recognizing it as a vital component of both climate action and sustainable development.

The AU's Clean Cooking Program (ACCP) focuses on increasing access to clean cooking solutions, reducing harmful emissions, improving public health, and fostering innovation in cooking technologies across Africa. This program is integral

to achieving the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful Africa.

Tanzania has emerged as a leading advocate for clean cooking in Africa, underscoring the importance of gender-inclusive approaches to addressing energy and climate challenges. In 2023, President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the Women Clean

Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) at COP28, a pioneering initiative aimed at raising awareness, creating partnerships, and mobilizing financial resources to scale clean cooking solutions.

Several African countries have made clean cooking a national priority. Ghana, for example, has made significant strides in promoting Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as a cleaner alternative, with a notable 36 percent increase in LPG use.

Inclusion of women in energy signifies sustainable progress

By Sinazo Mkoko

THE inclusion of women in the energy sector is not a matter of equity but a catalyst for change that will benefit communities, it has been said.

This was highlighted at energy conference in Cape Town last week.

The attendees heard that while the sector is still male-dominated across the continent, there has been a notable movement in focus and emphasis towards diversity, equity and inclusion.

It was reported that organisations are accelerating gender equality in the energy sector through a variety of programmes.

Faculty for the Future is one of the key programmes that were highlighted to be driving change and closing the gender gap in the sector.

The programme, run by the nonprofit Schlumberger Foundation, assists women from developing countries in pursuing PhD or post-doctoral degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects at top universities throughout the world.

The programme awards fellowships for advanced research in STEM at leading research institutes abroad.

Sheri Adoghe, SLB's Production Systems Division Manager for West Africa, said the initiative had helped more than 930 women in 94 coun-

tries since its inception.

According to the foundation, the fellows of this programme are expected to return to their home countries upon completion of their studies to "contribute to the economic, social and technological advancement of their home regions by strengthening the STEM teaching and research faculties of their home institutions as well as through their leadership in science-based entrepreneurship."

Mentorship was also emphasised as a critical component in transforming the energy sector. Alba Oliveira, Head of East Africa Upstream & Exploration at ENI stated: "Mentorship gives women a safe space to develop their own identity, equips them with skills and gives them a voice."

Nokwanda Khumalo, General Manager: Mobility & Convenience, BP Southern Africa, believes that transforming the sector is more than just having the right policies and legislation but about going beyond that and "shifting the mindset to practically implement that legislation."

Despite the increased understanding of the importance of gender equality, the World Bank says women are still notably under-represented in Africa's energy sector, accounting for only approximately 21 percent of the total employment in energy utilities across many African countries.



College of Business Education (CBE) graduands decorate one another in Dar es Salaam yesterday moments before their graduation ceremony. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Govt to develop digital system to ease pensioner verification

By Augusta Njaji, Dodoma

THE government is to develop a digital system aimed at simplifying the verification process for pensioners paid by the Treasury, the National Assembly has been told.

The new system will allow pensioners to verify their status remotely, either through their mobile phones or by using banking services, significantly reducing the burden of physical verification.

Deputy Minister for Finance, Hamad Hassan Chande, shared the information in the National Assembly early this last week while responding to a question raised by Amandus Chinguile, Nachingwea legislator (CCM).

In his question, Chinguile sought to know why the government does not establish a more convenient procedure for pensioners to verify their status at the council or ward level, as opposed to the current system which requires them to travel to regional offices.

In his response, Chande explained that the current verification process which takes place at council level is time-consuming and costly for pensioners, especially those who live in remote areas.

He said introduction of the digital verification system is part of the government's broader efforts to modernize public services and improve efficiency in pension payments.

"Once fully implemented, the new system is expected to benefit

thousands of pensioners across the country, reducing the need for physical visits to regional offices and enhancing the overall efficiency of pension distribution," the deputy minister said.

"By introducing this digital verification system, we aim to make it easier for pensioners to authenticate their status and receive their benefits without the need to travel extensively. The system will be integrated with mobile phones and banking platforms which are already widely accessible across the

country."

In a supplementary question, Chinguile expressed concern about retirees living in rural and remote areas who may still face challenges in accessing technology.

He suggested that the government should work with ward and village officials to help pensioners in the areas verify their status, especially those who are unable to access mobile phones or banking services.

"The government must take

into account the realities faced by pensioners who live in rural areas, where internet connectivity and access to banking services may be limited. It is crucial to find a solution that will ensure these retirees can still access their benefits," Chinguile said.

The deputy minister responded, acknowledging the challenges faced by pensioners in rural areas.

He assured parliamentarians that the government takes robust steps to ensure that no retiree is left behind.



Officials from the Public Service Management and Good Governance 'wing' of the President's Office pose for a souvenir good-time photo while on a tour of the Ngorongoro National Park yesterday shortly after attending the Ninth Meeting of the African Public Sector Human Resource Managers Network held in Arusha city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Botswana to legalise undocumented Zimbabweans, states new President

GABORONE

BOTSWANA'S new president Duma Boko has announced plans to legalise undocumented Zimbabweans living in the country by granting them temporary work and residence permits.

Speaking here yesterday ahead of his inauguration, Boko explained that the decision is aimed at formalising the situation of Zimbabweans already residing in Botswana and recognising the vital roles they play in the country's economy.

"These individuals do jobs that would otherwise go undone," President Boko told BBC. "They contribute significantly, and by legalising their status, we can provide a structured way to address the challenges they face while benefiting from their skills."

Botswana is home to one of the largest communities of Zimbabweans, many of whom fled their country's economic collapse, which has been marked by hyperinflation and widespread poverty.

While these migrants, many of whom work in low-skilled sectors such as domestic and agricultural labour, are often seen as essential workers, they face the risk of deportation due to their undocumented status.

President Boko, who recently unseated the 58-year-old ruling party in a historic election, acknowledged

the challenges that come with large numbers of undocumented migrants entering Botswana, especially through its porous border with Zimbabwe. He explained that without proper documentation, Zimbabweans often face limited access to public services and are vulnerable to exploitation.

"We need to create a proper arrangement that formalises their presence, allowing them to live and work legally," Boko said. "This will help address resentment towards undocumented migrants, while also allowing us to maximise the skills and contributions they make."

While the exact number of Zimbabweans in Botswana is unclear, official statistics show that Zimbabweans account for nearly 98% of irregular migrants in the country. Recent data indicated that between 2021 and 2023, 13,189 of the 13,489 irregular migrants deported from Botswana were Zimbabwean nationals.

Zimbabweans in Botswana are often employed in sectors where local citizens are less inclined to work, such as domestic service, farming, and construction. President Boko highlighted that many skilled workers from Zimbabwe, including welders and plumbers, already contribute to key sectors of the economy. "In every construction site in Botswana, the majority of people with those skills are from Zimbabwe," he said.

Embrace digital teaching means to ease your work, teachers urged

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

THE Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar, Khamis Abdallah Said, has called on teachers to adopt digital teaching methods to ensure pupils stay aligned with the rapid advancements in science and technology.

He made the statement yesterday during the handover of an ICT laboratory at Kitogani

Secondary School in Unguja a part of the 'Enhancing the Quality of Secondary School Education in Zanzibar (EQSSE-Z)' project, aimed at improving information and communication technology (ICT) services in schools.

The initiative which benefits schools across both Unguja and Pemba also includes installation of similar ICT labs at Bububu, Mkwajuni, Michakaini and Wingwi secondary schools.

Dr Khamis emphasized that the government undertakes significant reforms to integrate ICT in schools throughout the islands, building modern laboratories to offer pupils more hands-on, practical learning experiences.

He highlighted that the Ministry of Education has allocated 12bn/- in its budget for department of vocational training, a large portion of which will be used to train teachers in the ef-

fective use of digital tools.

"We are committed to creating an environment where both teachers and pupils can fully utilize ICT facilities to enhance their learning experience," he said.

He urged teachers to take their roles seriously, ensuring that pupils continue to excel academically. "We will continue to improve ICT classrooms to ensure they are used to their full potential," he said.

The PS also called on school head teachers to work closely with district and regional education offices to ensure effective management and supervision of teaching activities, helping Zanzibar maintain its strong performance in education. He praised the recent increase in pupil performance, particularly in science subjects which he attributed to the concerted efforts of the government, teachers and develop-

ment partners.

Ye Jincho, EQSSE-Z Manager at Good Neighbours Tanzania, said that with the growing importance of technology in education, the project identified a critical need to equip five teacher training centres in Unguja and Pemba with digital resources. "The goal of providing these resources is to encourage the use of ICT in teaching and learning. We hope that the tools will help streamline

teaching process and improve learning outcomes for pupils," he said.

The donation includes 155 computers and other equipment, aimed at benefiting both teachers and pupils by improving access to technology.

Managers of ICT centres pledged to maintain the equipment and ensure they are used effectively to support pupils, particularly in preparing for national exams.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing a technical and vocational education and training conference on skills development and youth employability organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

UN agri fund calls for adaptation financing for small-scale farmers

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AHEAD of the COP29 climate change summit, the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has urged world leaders to agree on an ambitious global finance goal for adaptation.

The New Global Quantified Goal (NCQG) will be one of the main areas under discussion in Azerbaijan, and it said assisting small-scale farmers to adapt to climate change should be part of this.

"This is essentially a negotiation on how much money richer countries should contribute to support developing countries deal with climate change," said IFAD President, Alvaro Lario.

"IFAD is calling on global leaders to agree to this climate finance plan and to include a specific goal for adaptation, prioritising the needs of small-scale farmers."

Lario said small farms around the world are the backbone of our global food systems, but they are "the ones that are bearing the brunt of climate change."

"They're the most vulnerable and

the least preferred. Investing in them is a prerequisite if we want to keep food security."

Countries in Africa have contributed little to the causes of climate change, but are among the hardest hit.

African leaders have long been calling for increased mitigation and adaptation financing to help fund change on the continent.

Agriculture in Africa is largely rain-fed and is being severely impacted by the extreme weather events associated with climate change.

Zimbabwe has been experiencing its worst drought in over 40 years, but thanks to an IFAD funded irrigation project farmers are still able to grow some crops.

"This year people could not harvest anything so there are big changes, and the rains no longer come at the time we expect. The seasons have changed," said Tinomuounga Hove, chairperson of the Biri Irrigation Scheme.

"Having an irrigation scheme helps us a lot, because firstly we can grow crops throughout the year. Secondly, despite the fact that there were no rains this year, we were still able to grow crops."

Youth activist awarded for advancing family planning

By Henry Mwangonde

A DAR ES SALAAM-BASED youth empowerment advocate Navid Adatia has been awarded the "Young Leader of the Year" in recognition of his significant impact on family planning and youth empowerment in Tanzania.

In an interview following the award, Adatia described the recognition as a "true honour" and a testament to the collective efforts of everyone involved in his mission.

"I feel immense gratitude for my family, friends, team, mentors and all those who have supported me. This award isn't just a personal achievement; it reflects our shared commitment to improving lives and empowering communities," he said.

Adatia who is also Country Manager for DKT International Tanzania, a leading non-governmental organisation in reproductive health and family planning, emphasised his commitment to making family planning services accessible, affordable and effective for

all Tanzanians.

Through various programmes, including awareness campaigns and healthcare partnerships, DKT Tanzania reaches diverse communities, helping individuals make informed choices about their reproductive health. "Our work is about breaking down barriers to reproductive health, enhancing accessibility and empowering people to take control of their wellbeing," Adatia explained.

He noted the transformative impact of their efforts, highlighting improvements in

access to family planning resources across Tanzania from urban centres to the most remote villages.

"We provide education, counselling and innovative solutions that meet people where they are. Over the years, we've seen increased awareness, healthier families and empowered youth making informed decisions. Witnessing these positive changes is the most rewarding aspect of our work and it motivates us to keep pushing forward," he said

Adatia's goals moving forward include expanding their impact, particularly in rural and underserved areas and further strengthening the framework for family planning across Tanzania.

"We are also committed to involving more young leaders in the process, ensuring they have a seat at the table. The future of Tanzania lies in the hands of its youth and I am passionate about creating opportunities for them to thrive, contribute and lead," he added.



Land surveyors and land officers in Tanga Region pictured earlier this week checking a government notice specifying the boundary between Handeni and Pangani districts earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon drops by 30 pct

By Special Correspondent

FOREST loss in Brazil's Amazon dropped by 30.6 percent compared to the previous year, officials said on Wednesday, and the lowest level of destruction in nine years.

In a 12-month span, the Amazon rainforest lost 6,288 square kilometers (2,428 square miles), roughly the size of the U.S. state of Delaware.

The results, announced in Brazil's presidential palace, sharply contrast with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's predecessor, far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro, who prioritized agribusiness expansion over forest protection and weakened environmental agencies.

Deforestation in Brazil's vast savannah, known as the Cerrado, decreased by 25.7 percent, the first decline in five years. The area destroyed reached 8,174 square kilometers (3,156 square miles).

Located in central Brazil, it is the world's most biodiverse savannah but has fewer legal protections than the Amazon.

Despite the success in curbing Amazon deforestation, Lula's government has been criticized by environmentalists for backing projects that could harm the region, such as the paving of a highway that cuts through an old-growth area, oil drilling in the mouth of the Amazon River and building a railway to transport soy to Amazonian ports.

Brazil's deforestation monitoring system tracks from Aug. 1 to July 30, so Wednesday's report doesn't capture the destruction from the past few months, as a historic drought opened the way to a surge in forest fires that burned an area larger than Switzerland.

Much of the damage from fires is classified as degradation, not clear-cutting deforestation, as the fire in the Amazon rainforest spreads mostly through leaves on the ground, and not through treetops.

But the full impact will be assessed in the following months through further satellite monitoring.

Government officials already fear that the deforestation rate may increase next year as the Amazonian city of Belem prepares to host the annual U.N. climate talks, known as COP30.

The Amazon, an area twice the size of India, holds the world's largest rainforest, about two-thirds of it within Brazil.

It stores vast amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that causes climate change. The Amazon thus prevents the climate from warming even faster than it would otherwise.

The basin also holds about 20 percent of the world's freshwater, and biodiversity includes 16,000 known tree species.

Call: Strengthen collaboration to curb human trafficking incidents

By Guardian Correspondent

A LOCAL non-governmental organisation Tanzania Relief Initiative (TRI) has underscored the importance of the government and stakeholders to enhance collaboration to fight the increasing human trafficking cases.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently at a training session aimed to equip journalists and editors with skills to report on human trafficking effectively, TRI Chief Executive Officer Edwin Mugambila stressed the importance of investing in robust strategies and strengthen human rights protection.

He highlighted that human trafficking is a global threat and a transnational crime,

with women and female children being the most vulnerable.

He noted that over 71 percent of female children and women are victims of human trafficking.

He said the situation is particularly dire in rural areas, where lack of awareness makes it difficult for both the public and authorities to recognise the signs of trafficking or to identify victims and perpetrators.

"This lack of awareness means that the information doesn't reach the right people. That's why we've organised this training to empower journalists to raise awareness and help uncover trafficking

networks," he said.

Mugambila stressed the critical role journalists play in informing the public, bringing attention to trafficking issues and helping to bring perpetrators to justice.

He added that increased media coverage of the issue could be key to dismantling trafficking networks operating within the country.

He also pointed out that Tanzania has become both a source and a transit country for human trafficking, with children trafficked into various forms of exploitation, including labour and sexual abuse.

Mugambila cited disturbing examples

of children being trafficked to work on tobacco farms and in mining while young girls are increasingly being forced into sex work.

He reported that some children in Dar es Salaam are forced into begging, describing the practice as a clear violation of their human rights.

"Tanzania is grappling with multiple forms of trafficking, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, organ trafficking and the trafficking of children for begging. No country is immune," he added.

Despite the challenges, Mugambila said that Tanzania has taken significant steps to combat human trafficking, including

strengthening laws and working with the government to establish dedicated institutions that tackle the issue head-on.

"Our goal is to dismantle trafficking networks and provide protection to victims in line with the provisions of the law," he said.

Frank Gollwitzer, representative from the Hanns Seidel Foundation, which supported the training, said that the initiative would help journalists deepen their understanding of human trafficking.

He added that well-informed reporting would contribute to better public awareness and collection of more accurate data on trafficking trends.

Sudan rolls out malaria vaccines to lift efforts out to protect children

KHARTOUM

SUDAN has begun rolling out its first malaria vaccination programme amid the country's 18-month civil conflict.

Vaccines will be administered to around 148,000 children under the age of 12 months in 15 sites in the Gedaref and the Blue Nile states.

Sudan is among the first 16 African countries to introduce the malaria vaccine.

The campaign is being carried out by the Federal Ministry of Health, in partnership with the UN children's agency UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The launch follows the arrival of the first shipment of 186,000 doses of the malaria vaccines to Sudan in October.

The vaccine is set to be introduced in 129 sites across the country in 2025 and 2026.

Malaria kills nearly half a million children under the age of 5 each year in Africa according to UNICEF.

In 2023, more than 3.4 million malaria cases were estimated in Sudan, causing an estimated 7,900 deaths, although UNICEF warns that figures are likely to go underreported due to the ongoing conflict and communication breakdown in the country.

Recommended for children aged five to 12 months, the vaccine is expected to reduce child hospital admission and mortality from the disease.

The war in Sudan has displaced more than 14 million people, or about 30 percent of the population, since it broke out over a year ago, the UN says.

The war started in April 2023 when tensions between the Sudanese military and its rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces escalated to violence in the capital Khartoum and spread out across the country.



Zanzibar House of Representatives' Budget Committee chairperson Mwanaasha Khamis (R, facing camera) leads a session on the review of an implementation report on the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

AFD wants others to add to €400 million South Africa climate loan

By Special Correspondent

THE head of France's state development bank expects other development finance institutions to add to a €400 million (\$432 million) climate loan for South Africa that partners will likely sign within days.

The funds are part of a \$9.3 billion climate-finance pact agreed between South Africa and some of the world's richest countries in 2021 to help the nation cut its reliance

on coal, which accounts for four-fifths of its electricity generation.

Germany's KfW development bank matched a €300 million loan by France's Agence Française de Développement made in 2022 as part of the so-called Just Energy Transition Partnership.

"The idea is not to do it in a pure France, South Africa partnership," Remy Rioux, the chief executive officer of AFD, said in an interview in Johannesburg on Thursday. "It's

of course open and probably other public development banks will co-finance," he said, declining to identify them.

The loan is a step forward for the JETP, which analysts have criticized for its slow pace of implementation. The success of the South African partnership – the first of its kind – is key as funders pursue similar deals with Indonesia, Vietnam and Senegal. South Africa's JETP was initially with France, Germany, the US, UK and

European Union. Denmark and the Netherlands joined later.

To date, aside from grants, the only money that South Africa has received through the pact is the earlier loan from the AFD and €800 million from Germany. Those have all been through so-called policy loans made directly to the Treasury. Other members of the JETP, such as the UK, don't favour using the instruments.

While Rioux, who was attending the 30th anniversary of AFD's

operation in South Africa, would only say the new loan would be bigger than the 2022 commitment, South African Deputy Finance Minister David Masedo gave the €400 million figure in a speech at the same event.

The AFD's board has approved the loan and the lender has to iron out some final details with South Africa before signing, Rioux said. The funds will go toward cushioning communities affected by the transition away from coal, he said.

The AFD will also consider investing in South African transmission projects once the government has decided how it wants to finance the expansion of the grid, Rioux said. Strengthening the network is crucial for connecting more renewable-energy projects to the grid.

"We are ready to examine opportunities to finance" grid projects, he said. "We will look at it carefully."

Morocco's population up in decade, reaches 36.8 million

RABAT

MOROCCO'S population has grown by nearly 3 million people over the past decade, reaching a total of 36.8 million, according to the latest official census.

The new population figure was revealed on Thursday by the government's spokesperson following the completion of the country's seventh national census, which took place throughout September.

In addition to the population increase, the census data shows that the number of households in Morocco has grown by 1.96 million, bringing the total number of households to 9.27 million as of September 2024.

This reflects both population growth and changing household dynamics, as more Moroccans live in smaller or more dispersed family units.

The Interior Minister emphasized that the census is a critical tool for the government, aimed at informing policy decisions at both national and local levels. The information gathered will be used to improve resource allocation, plan infrastructure projects, and design targeted programs to address the evolving needs of Morocco's population.

Morocco is the second-most populous country in the Maghreb region, after Algeria. The census data underscores the country's demographic growth, which has been accompanied by significant changes in the socio-economic landscape. In the past few decades, Morocco has seen a marked decline in fertility rates, from 5.5 children per woman in the early 1980s to 2.3 children per woman in 2011, according to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report.

The shift reflects broader trends in education, women's empowerment, and access to family planning, which have all contributed to slower population growth in recent years. The country's demographic changes are also mirrored in Morocco's economic progress. Over the same period, Morocco has recorded steady economic growth, with rising Human Development Index (HDI) scores and improvements in healthcare, education, and living standards.



Sinohydro Construction Company workers dig a trench as part of the ongoing implementation of the rapid bus road infrastructure project along Azikiwe Road in downtown Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Russian gas giant embarks on project to supply CNG fuelling trucks to Tanzania

CAPE TOWN

RUSSIAN gas giant Gazprom has presented a pilot project to supply two compressed natural gas fuelling trucks to Tanzania at African Energy Week 2024 in Cape Town.

The trucks, which are intended to fuel various vehicles with CNG and transport it, will make it possible to

increase the number of daily fuelling on Tanzania's natural gas vehicle (NGV) market, the company said, adding that the number of local automobile owners choosing natural gas is rapidly growing.

The CNG trucks can also be used for autonomous gasification of industrial and household consumers, Gazprom said.

Tanzania, which has a population of 67 million, increased natural gas production by 9.3 percent to 2.33 billion cubic meters in 2023, Eni statistics showed.

"Countries of the Global South in general and the African continent in particular will be the new point of growth in natural gas consumption. Growing populations and ur-

banization dictate the need to ensure access to a reliable and environmentally clean source of energy, which natural gas certainly is. Gazprom's experience in developing the domestic gas market, our competencies, technology and equipment might be sought after to solve African countries' energy supply challenges," Gazprom department head

Dmitry Khandogi, who gave a presentation on the "Gazprom Group in Africa," was quoted as saying in the press release.

Russia's Energy Ministry reported that Deputy Energy Minister Roman Marshavin also took part in the forum. He said at a roundtable that promising areas for cooperation include the oil and gas sector, renewable energy, moderniza-

tion and construction of network infrastructure and digital technologies in the fuel and energy sector.

"Considering the pressing problem of modernizing networks in Africa, which often leads to outages and significant energy losses, I would like to stress that Russian companies have a lot of experience in increasing energy security and

efficiency," the ministry quoted Marshavin as saying.

Another promising area for bilateral cooperation is training workers for the energy sector, Marshavin said, adding that Russia is prepared to share its experience training professionals for the oil, gas and mining sectors, as well as in the area of energy sector digitalization.

Food poisoning incidents spark concern in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG

FOLLOWING rise in food poisoning cases among children, the Gauteng Executive Council on Thursday urged the South African government to declare it a disaster.

In a telephone interview, Sizwe Pamla, spokesperson for Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi, confirmed their plan to request the national government to declare this a disaster.

She said members of the executive council and government officials would be meeting to address the food poisoning issue.

"Discussions with various government structures and the community were ongoing to stem the tide of food borne illness," Pamla said.

"The number of compliance officers deployed in communities to monitor the food sold in tuck shops have been increased." Over the past few months, four provinces in South Africa have been affected by food borne illnesses.

The most-impacted Gauteng Province recorded at least 10 deaths and hundreds hospitalised.

In the latest incident reported in Katlehong, Gauteng, Wednesday, 110 primary school students were rushed to the hospital after experiencing stomach cramps and vomiting after eating samp, a dish made from dried corn kernels, at school, according to the provincial education department.

The deaths of children prompted the South African government to announce a coordinated investigation to look into the causes behind these cases. On Monday, Nomonde Mnuakwa, the acting government spokesperson at the national level, announced the launch of investigations in multiple provinces following reports that the children had consumed contaminated food.

"The government is coordinating comprehensive investigations in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and has adopted an integrated approach which is being replicated across all provinces," Mnuakwa said.

"The investigation teams comprise experts from various departments, including the National Consumer Commission and the South African Police Service."



Sheikh Mohamed Idd, Chief Imam of Dar es Salaam's Buguruni-Mnyamani Mosque and Coordinator of the Tanzania Institution of Sheikhs and Islamic Scholars, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the need for religious leaders to use respectful language when referring to national leaders. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

UK targets Russian mercenaries and military suppliers with new sanctions

UNITED KINGDOM

THE United Kingdom has unveiled an extensive new sanctions package against Russia, focusing on Kremlin-backed mercenary groups operating in Africa and key players tied to Russia's military supply chain.

The latest measures, announced by the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, place restrictions on 56

individuals and entities involved in supporting Russia's war in Ukraine and destabilizing regions across Africa.

Among the sanctioned are three mercenary groups, including Africa Corps, the successor to Russia's Wagner Group, and 11 individuals associated with Russian proxy forces.

The UK became the first G7 nation to directly sanction Africa Corps, citing its role in "threaten-

ing stability and security" across African nations like Libya, Mali, and the Central African Republic. "These targets have direct ties to the Kremlin and have committed extensive human rights abuses across the continent," stated the Foreign Office.

The sanctions extend to entities in China, Turkey, and Central Asia, which the UK accuses of supplying vital components for Russia's military operations,

including machine tools, micro-electronics, and drone parts. This move is intended to curb Russia's access to critical technology that could be used in its ongoing war against Ukraine.

Also included in the sanctions is Denis Sergeev, a Russian intelligence officer allegedly involved in the 2018 poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury, England, using a Novichok

nerve agent. The UK described this as its most comprehensive sanctions package since May 2023.

The sanctions follow months of pressure from the UK on Russia, with previous rounds targeting Moscow's shipping industry, alleged chemical weapons usage, and cyber activities.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy emphasized the significance of the latest actions, say-

ing, "These measures will strike at the heart of Russia's destabilizing efforts in Africa and cripple its military supply networks for the Ukraine war."

As Russia seeks to deepen its influence in Africa amid a prolonged war with Ukraine, the UK's sanctions underscore a commitment by Western allies to counter Moscow's operations across the continent and restrict its access to military resources.



Despite decades of opposition to its use, mainly over environmental concerns, charcoal remains an important source of energy in many rural and urban communities - particularly in developing countries. Correspondent Sabato Kasika caught up with this vendor along Dar es Salaam's Goba-Mbezi Luis road yesterday. It's a common sight in Tanzania.

Four dead and dozens missing after landslide in Cameroon

YAOUNDE

AT least four people died and over 50 are missing in the west of Cameroon after three passenger buses and several road workers were caught in a landslide, authorities said Wednesday.

Torrential rains weakened the soil and led to the landslide on Tuesday, Cameroon's Minister of Public Work Emmanuel Nganou Djoumessi said after visiting the site of the disaster, a stretch of a highway linking Dschang in the West Region of Cameroon and the country's economic capital of Douala.

Only four bodies have been retrieved from the rubble, while dozens of others are still buried in the debris, he added.

"I have asked that rescued victims be taken to the mortuary, while survivors should be fully taken care of in order that they're quickly relieved of their pains," Djoumessi said.

The disaster comes as Cameroon's neighbour Nigeria among other West Africa have experienced some of the heaviest flooding in decades this year, killing more than 1,000 people and displacing hundreds of thousands across the region.

"The earth collapses have become common in Cameroon and the world in recent months and roads in these regions have become dilapidated," said the governor of the West Region, Augustin Awa Fonka.

Post-election violence intensifies in Mozambique ahead of SADC meet

MAPUTO

THOUSANDS protested once again on Thursday in Mozambique's capital over the outcome of the October 9 presidential poll which extended the rule of Frelimo party.

Security forces responded by firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

Human Rights Watch has said the internet is being restricted and social media sites blocked.

"We are asking to march, the police can march with us.

It's a peaceful march. Nobody came here with weapons, we don't have weapons, the weapons are with them," a protester said.

Amnesty International said on Wednesday that at least 20 people have died and hundreds more have been in-

jured and arrested since the beginning of the protests in late October.

Opposition leader, Venancio Mondlane, who came in second in the presidential election has reportedly fled the country. Prominent members of his party were killed

before election results were proclaimed.

The opposition has accused the ruling Frelimo of rigging the election in favour of its presidential candidate Daniel Chapo, who was declared the winner with more than 70 percent of the votes by the na-

tional Mozambique Electoral Commission.

Mondlane's party Podemos had called for a days-long march to culminate in the capital.

It also took the vote rigging allegations to court. EU observers had flagged irregulari-

ties and 'alteration of results' in Mozambique election.

Neighboring South Africa has shut its border post with Mozambique and heightened security around it. SADC is set to discuss the situation during a meeting next week in Zimbabwe.

SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2024

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

End to use of diesel, petrol in vehicles: Let us auction oil and gas blocks faster

A CERTAIN amount of hype is being raised around the fact that the government is set to auction 26 petroleum exploration blocks in our country's fifth licensing round set for March next year.

Since the presence of sedimentary rocks bearing oil and/or natural gas has been known for half a century and commercial gas production dates back at least to 2013, just why the auctioning has not materialised is unsettling.

The question is whether the mindset characterising this pace of the planned move is still valid, or it could be overtaken by time.

Just how close to the reality a ministerial deputy permanent secretary was in presenting this plan at an African Energy Week conference in Cape Town is not something one expects to be debated in local policy-making circles or among development observers.

Yet what basically colours many gatherings of an international character at the moment when it comes to energy is widening opportunities for renewable energy.

For instance, there is a plan to scrap the use of petrol or diesel in vehicles by 2035 in parts of Europe, meanwhile as the manufacturing of electric vehicles is moving at a fast pace in various parts of the world right now.

What this implies is that, just like coal, oil and natural gas are rapidly diminishing in their allure as a future prospect and when investment is being conducted, the timeframe for offsetting the costs and making a justifiable profit for sinking the capital is reduced.

With stable use of routine fuels in private and public vehicular transport all over the world, a company could give itself even 20 years to claw back the capital it used and expect that its shares would be rising all the time. This is not the case at present as oil and gas investments

become opportunistic.

That is what policy makers don't appear to grasp: that they ought to be in a hurry to dispose of any oil or gas blocks they still hold so that they are picked off at acceptable terms before more fuel consumption graphs shrink rapidly.

There is no apparent likelihood or impression that Tanzania's delegation to the Cape Town event was feeling a sense of urgency, just as has applied previously - while the world is changing in its fossil fuels transition. The world has been changing more rapidly since 2021 - and the climate emergency is there for all of us to witness.

We hear that a total of 23 blocks are located offshore in the Indian Ocean, while three are within Lake Tanganyika.

Such locations evidently require exceptionally huge amounts of capital relative to onshore blocks, if we had any. And it is an additional factor explaining why these potential investment spots ought to have been auctioned off a long time ago.

In that we are this late, we ought to draw up taxation levels that are consonant with profit expectations for a company that is vividly in a hurry.

That does not appear to have been on the mind of those making the exploration licensing round in Cape Town.

While there are indeed changes in the regulatory environment, talking about model production sharing agreements at the moment is potentially risky. It prolongs the timeframe a company has to observe as regards its share value, exposed to waning interest in oil and gas.

Regulators take it that our interest in natural gas is globally harmonious. While it is subject to debate what our take of this is, it is important that we move with as much caution - and as knowledgeably - as we can.

Experts 'back to school' as employment is everything in poll outcomes like in the US

GOVERNMENTS, public agencies, researchers and independent observers the world over must be making efforts to come to terms with what to most people is a shocking result in the just-ended United States presidential election.

Meanwhile, analysts are closely following what pundits say in that direction.

One thing that comes up is that the old school of globalisation that has its anchorage in what is known as 'comparative advantage' is reeling further and further into oblivion.

It is a situation where a country gains by obtaining cheaper commodities from outside, so most people will be satisfied.

'Returning' president Donald Trump pledged intent to raise tariffs by up to 60 per cent on all goods coming into the United States.

And that is more or less the policy that 'far right' parties in Europe want as they make big strides in nearly all elections.

The reason is that automation and large-scale imports have diminished active employment, making large numbers of people live on paltry allowances, listening to music, betting on whatever games are being held while failing to put up families, etc.

What is now visibly under threat is a whole parameter of global trade as such - that major economies will be importing on a low tariff basis things they don't easily make.

If one wishes to sell something

in another country it has to be on the basis of import need induced by shortages, in which case the tariffs will be low.

Conversely, they will face stiff tariffs trying to compete with local goods. It is in that manner that the biggest number of industries will be built.

This sort of prospect will likely lead to a mixture of sentiments for policy makers in many countries, and here if can be cited by those preferring state-led industry as it will create jobs.

But the clincher is that such industries will need subsidies from the central government and will be top-heavy, seeking monopoly over the local market and stifling job creation in an all-round way. It would be a bad lesson pretending that it is now clear, as it surely isn't.

What the world is witnessing is an elevation of an export-oriented strategy focusing chiefly on an investor in a country determining that there is need for this or that commodity locally, or that it can stomach plenty of competition.

Instead of shipping such goods, it would move to purchase stock of a major producer there or buy up a competitor and then put up stiffer competition than before.

It would mean that the shipping industry will have noticeably declined in 20 years to come, as most countries will be moving into localised production to create jobs to stem dissent.

The major reason would be that people will not be satisfied with allowances and betting but will be badly in need of jobs.

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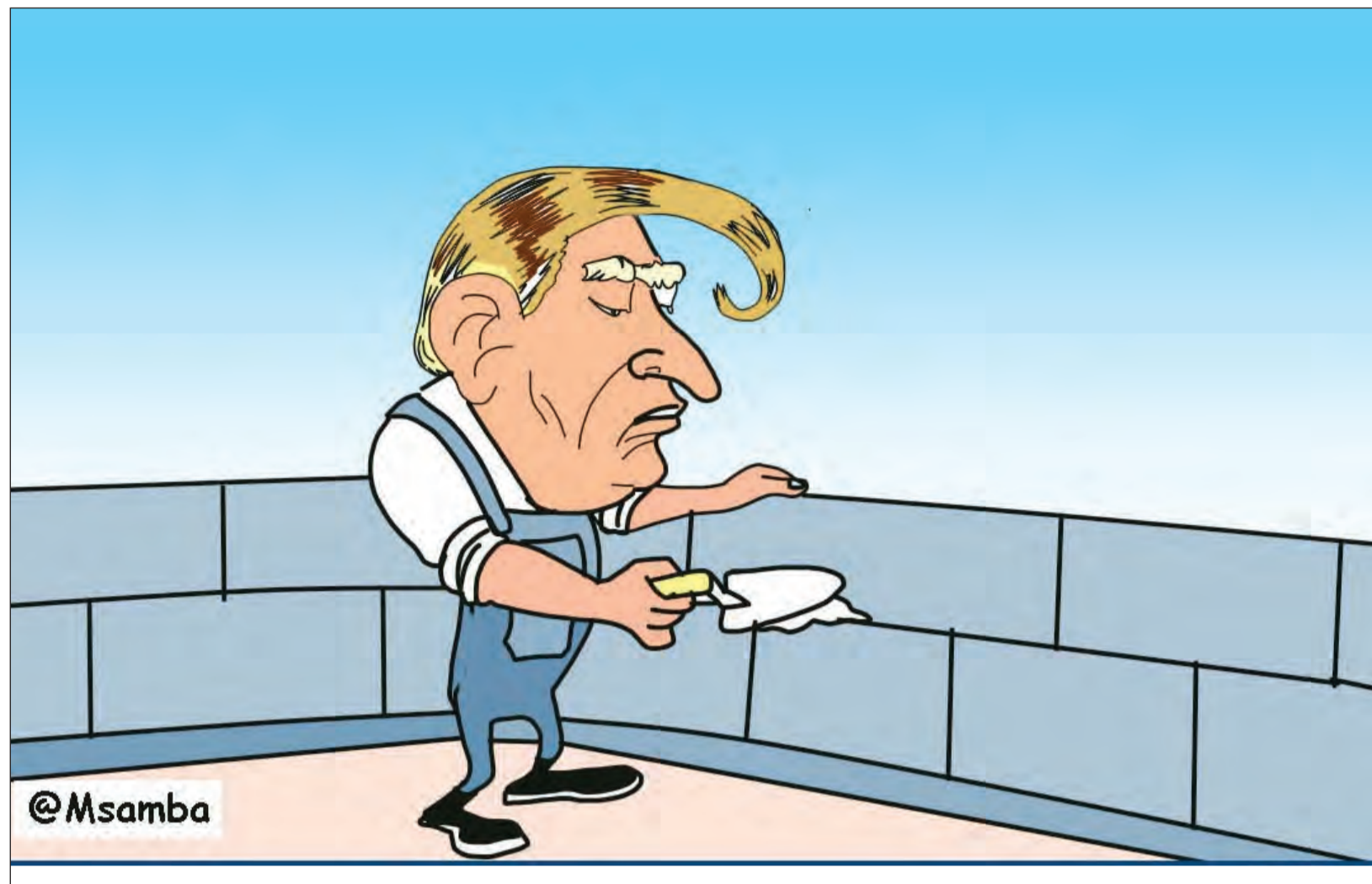
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Journalism is society's safety net

By WAN-IFRA External Contributor

A record number of newsrooms have signed up for, and were therefore committed to raising awareness about World News Day 2024, recognising the positive influence of journalism the world over.

More than 600 news organisations, media associations, media support agencies and individuals from over 100 countries across all continents joined forces to bring awareness to the purpose of journalism, a trade that is under constant attack.

It was a day to pause and reflect on the importance of independent and often brave journalists who make a difference in their communities and countries, by providing the proof that leads to the truth.

Too often, he or she who shouts loudest on social media seems to be the newsmaker of the day, overshadowing the professional reporters and editors trained and determined to stand behind everything they publish.

Responsible journalism is a tough business when done properly. It necessarily confronts the easy, repetitive and instant swirl of polemicists and propagandists determined to derail life to fit agendas that are often based on uncertainty and exclusion.

Photographing events that happen, reporting out the facts; beginning with incomplete information and building a more complete file over time and ultimately ensuring, in the final edit, that the facts are pried out and placed squarely into the public discourse, is the business of mainstream media.

It is inefficient yet is a timeless tradition without parallel.

Professionals fight back against the hackneyed idea that belonging to the mainstream is somehow inferior to being extreme.

World News Day is a global initiative primarily meant to draw public attention to the role that journalists play in providing trustworthy news and information that serves citizens and democracy.

Commemorated each September 28, it is a day of awareness, to better explain journalism to the public at large. It is also a moment meant to provide room for media audiences and highlight how their meeting journalists improved their lives.

How, perhaps, finally, they were listened to. Or to reflect on the contributions of a newspaper to the body politic, or the cost of liberty for a reporter detained for no reason - other than that she or he could be - by those with armies at their disposal.

Amid the growing coarseness of public debate, the pride of independent journalism stands as a source of optimism and belief.

Often at significant personal cost, whistleblowers entrust journalists with secrets. Businesses, politicians and others in power increasingly refuse to meet reporters or explain themselves - but that doesn't mean that they are unaccountable. The rot is still exposed by individuals.

This past year I met a source determined to get the truth out, but the conversations took place in a hot-tub to prove that I was not wearing a listening wire for the final interview. The story was worth it all, but I couldn't have known that it would be when I started out on the four-month odyssey.

That's the romance of the business that recruits and repays the indefatigable. Interest groups laden with bias threaten economic punishment: "I'll cancel my subscription" or "we'll pull our advertising." Perhaps next year we will list those people who act that way.

So far, news organisations take the hit, and don't make it public. But it is all an attempt to interfere with editorial independence, and it is wrong.

Attacks on journalists - including murder - run at record highs. Journalism was not created for the messenger to be shot.

But, while you can kill the journalist, you can't kill the story. Others will take it on.

Look at journalists in Mexico or Iran if you haven't received your daily dose of inspiration. The rate of impunity, killing journalists and not being arrested, creeps toward 100 per cent in some countries, but still the stories mount up.

A great miracle exists in the business of journalism: facts are not suppressible. Those in need understand

And it is those least in need who fight us most: the powerful, terrified their world can't be entirely controlled.'

That's the magic of World News Day. As you talk to friends, and consider your community, village, town or the wider world, think about what you have learned today. There is a fair bet that journalism was involved. The story tellers, who come from your community, tell the facts, no matter how uncomfortable that can be.

That is why, unarmed and living in your community, they are targeted, hassled, belittled or threatened. And it is why they respond with more facts, more answers and more independence of thought - while maintaining the link between you and the wider world.

David Walmsley is Editor in Chief of The Globe and Mail as well as Creator of World News Day, Canada. He has this to say on this: "Journalists are a bridge as we build the future, supported by the capstone of our audience, who are as loyal and determined as the reporter and the editor."

Together, on World News Day, if it feels at times that the vestiges of hope are falling away, it would still be worth remembering that the safety net of journalism is there.

• A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

'This is our mission in Donald Trump's second term'

By Sewell Chan

In his first administration, Donald Trump posed challenges to the press unlike any since the Nixon White House. When he returns, on January 20, 2025, those challenges are going to intensify.

The day after the election, CJR (Columbia Journalism Review) outlined what's likely to happen in Trump's second term: Justice Department leak investigations that will pressure journalists to disclose confidential sources, possibly under threat of imprisonment; the use of Federal Communications Commission licensing and antitrust laws to threaten networks and companies that are not to Trump's liking; the denial of access to the White House and to public records under the Freedom of Information Act; restrictions on how journalists cover mass protests as well as border and immigration enforcement.

Attacks on journalists - rhetorical and physical - are going to increase. So will the denigration of the press as "fake" and irrelevant. There may be efforts to put journalists under surveillance, to change defamation laws, even to block

stories from publication.

As I type, nonprofit newsrooms are gathering to understand whether tax law could be used to intimidate or even shut down independent media, as has occurred overseas.

Under my predecessor, Kyle Pope, CJR vigorously covered the first Trump administration, with special issues devoted to the threats facing journalists, disinformation, and the Covid-19 pandemic and racial justice movement.

In rising to the occasion, we do not pretend that all is all right with the press. One week before the election we examined all the reasons liberals are angry with the mainstream media, on top of the perhaps more familiar charges of bias that come from the right.

Critics are already asking whether the press adequately covered the discontent that propelled Trump to a victory in both the popular vote and the Electoral College; whether it continues to uncritically amplify falsehoods; whether it has gotten any better at reaching Americans who feel left out, left behind, or looked down upon; whether journalists are up to the job of covering a deeply divided society with profound regional, urban/rural, educational, class, gender,

racial, and ethnic cleavages.

Notably, this was an election in which both major-party nominees bypassed traditional news outlets, communicating to the public via podcasters, influencers, social media personalities, and talk-radio hosts.

We remain committed to serious, thoughtful criticism of the press. We will continue to ask hard questions about the media's ability to be fair, relevant, engaging and accessible amid a fragmented information environment and an ongoing blizzard of misinformation and propaganda. But we'll do so from a place of wanting American journalism to be better - not tearing it down.

The backsliding of American democracy is part of a global phenomenon, with establishment parties and incumbents under siege everywhere. We will focus on threats facing journalists working worldwide to cover illiberal democracies and authoritarian regimes.

We'll also focus on local news in the US, recognizing that it's the area of journalism most trusted by Americans, and that the loss of it is directly correlated with apathy, mistrust and polarisation. And we'll continue to focus on changing business models for news and on arti-

cial intelligence, because independent journalism can't survive without financial sustainability.

The press is the only profession explicitly mentioned in and protected by the (US) Constitution; we will make use of that license, for as long as we can, in service of our democracy.

We must again be at work, but also preparing for war if Trump chooses that.

Other media organisations are setting out their approaches to Trump's second term. The Freedom of the Press Foundation listed ways in which Trump will try to destroy press freedom - and vowed not to let him.

Radhika Jones, the editor of Vanity Fair, has promised fearless journalism, adding: "We believe in freedom, democracy and decency. We oppose racism, misogyny, xenophobia and fascism."

And Business Insider's Lucia Moses obtained an internal memo in which editors at the New York Times urged the newspaper's staff to be "unflinching in the face of intimidation, but also open-minded and fair".

• A Columbia Journalism Review dispatch.

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other day I was listening to a morning programme aired by Tumaini Radio. During the programme listeners were expressing the challenges they encountered in their areas to let the authorities listen to them and solve them. One listener in particular called and shared how bad she felt about schoolchildren's perennial transport problem, which had not been solved and nobody seemed to be bothered with it.

She blamed leaders who were interested in supporting football clubs and religious communities by contributing generously, but hardly solved the schoolchildren's perennial transport problem.

After two days I happened to see a clip on X showing schoolchildren who were taught outside their classrooms and were sitting on the ground and writing in ashes with their fingers what teachers were teaching them. I saw some CCM members who had visited the school and were shocked to find that there were still schoolchildren studying in such an appalling environment.

These two examples made me ask myself whether education is really a priority and whether studying in such an unfriendly environment brings any hope to schoolchildren.

The provision of equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all is stipulated in sustainable development goal (SDG) 4 recommended to be realised by 2030.

Yet, the schoolchildren's perennial transport problem to or from school is inconsistent with the provision of equitable quality education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities. At a time schoolchildren are supposed to be in class are still stranded at bus stations, waiting for transport.

The problem is more serious with girl children who have to help in doing household chores when they are at home. If we don't provide equitable quality education to our children we won't have well-educated children and for this reason we will have failed to provide a good foundation to our children.

If you visit various commuter bus stations in the city of Dar es Salaam you will find some schoolchildren still stranded because commuter bus conductors do not allow them to board a commuter bus before it is full.

When it is full, only one to three schoolchildren can be allowed to board a commuter bus and others will have to wait for other commuter buses. This makes schoolchildren arrive at school or return home too late.

Many travellers who board a commuter bus have families, and one would expect to be loving parents to children and offer any necessary assistance. Many parents give their children almost always a fixed bus fare without extra money. But adults, unlike schoolchildren, may find an alternative means of transport to the place they are going or when returning home. Yet, when schoolchildren are denied boarding a commuter bus, adults some of who are parents see it, but keep quiet as if nothing is happening before them.

To cut the story short, schoolchildren arrive at school late in the morning and also arrive home late in the afternoon because it is difficult for them to board

Plight of children going to school or returning home



a commuter bus on time like any other passengers.

Schoolchildren should be given priority when they go to school in the morning or when they return home in the afternoon. In Tanzania, children and women don't count much before men. Even where they should be treated differently because of the urgency they have, they are not, given the fact that ordinary travellers pay a higher bus fare than schoolchildren who just pay Sh200 per route. Commuter bus driver and conductor see a schoolchild's bus fare as insignificant and a loss to the commuter bus business.

They are often heard saying "this is business" - meaning that a commuter bus has

to operate at a profit and for them schoolchildren are not considered as contributing much to the commuter bus business because the bus fare they pay is lower than that of an ordinary passenger. Going to school late and returning home late disrupts the normal school life. This has an impact on the quality of personal study and school life in general.

But what is strange is that nobody seems to see transport as a perennial problem to these young people. It is neither the parents nor the government itself. In other words, schoolchildren's transport problem is left unsolved because no person seems to be bothered with it.

We can decide to ignore that schoolchildren

face a transport problem, but at a cost. If education is priority, we will work hard to find solutions to the problems schoolchildren experience in life. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states in Article II(2) that "Every person has the right to access education, and every citizen shall be free to pursue education in a field or his choice up to pursue education of his choice to his merit and ability, the highest level according to his merits and ability."

Sub-article (3) states that "The government shall make efforts to ensure that all persons are afforded equal and sufficient opportunity to pursue education and vocational training at all levels of schools and other institu-

tions of learning." In light of this, schoolchildren deserve not just education, but equitable quality education and lifelong learning.

Today's quote: "Change is the end result of all true learning." - Leo Buscaglia.

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.

Chinese road builders win credit in Uganda for community engagement

KIKUUBE

FOR 20-year-old Peninah Nasambu, a civil engineering student from Uganda, her recent visit to a Chinese road construction camp brimmed with new discoveries.

As Buhimba Technical Institute inked a cooperation memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China Railway Seventh Group (CRSG), Nasambu and dozens of her schoolmates took the opportunity to explore the camp's laboratory, stone quarry, and warehouse.

The tour allowed the young generations to gain firsthand insights into how a road is built from scratch.

During the MoU's signing ceremony in Kikuube, a western Ugandan district where expansive savannah and mountain slopes frame the camp, Nasambu told Xinhua that she dreamed of becoming a certified civil engineer. Finishing her studies, in her eyes, will mark an essential milestone toward her goal.

"I chose construction because I wanted to turn my dream into reality," she said. "Today has been a great day for me because I saw things I've learned about in school come to life in the field."

Kikuube, one of Uganda's oil-rich districts, was once remote and underdeveloped. Now, with the support of partners like the CRSG, the Ugandan government is building "oil roads" to better connect the region and advance the resource industry.

Such partnerships also benefitted students like Nasambu, presenting access to practical training, internships, and potential job opportunities.

"The training is so important because, at school, we mostly study theory," Nasambu said. "If I can get hands-on experience here, I'll gain so much in different fields."

She added that she hopes to be among the top students selected for an internship with the CRSG team.

The ongoing construction of oil roads is strengthening the bond between the road builders of the CRSG and the local community.

Chen Hai, the CRSG representative in Uganda, underlined the memorandum as a significant step toward enhancing that relationship.

"Our work here aims to boost local education through our company's efforts and to expand employment around the project," Chen said.

Principal of Buhimba Technical Institute Charles Piido noted that over 80 percent of the CRSG's workforce comes from the surrounding areas, deepening the connection between the Chinese company and local communities.

"Most of our students come from farming families who can't afford training costs," Piido said. "Through this memorandum, we can lower the cost of educa-



Students from Buhimba Technical Institute tour a stone quarry near a Chinese road construction camp in Uganda's western district of Kikuube, on Oct. 28, 2024. (Photo by Hajarah Nalwadda/Xinhua)

tion, as the company supports what families and institutions may struggle to provide."

Katumba Wamala, Uganda's minister of works and transport, who attended the ceremony as chief guest, praised the CRSG for its willingness to share expertise with Ugandans. He emphasized that this cooperation supports the government's goal to equip young people with practical vocational skills for their sustainable careers.

"Skills and experience are what matter in the workforce, not just qualifications," Wamala advised the students. "Those of you in technical courses are on the right path. It's technical training that will determine your future. With skills, you have capital. Now all you need are the tools."

Since entering the Ugandan market in 2009, the CRSG has provided over 7,000 job opportunities for locals, according to Chen.

Currently, the CRSG is overseeing 10 projects in Uganda, including eight road and municipal engineering projects and two bridge projects.

On the same day, CRSG local workers and students from Buhimba Technical Institute took part in a special painting competition themed "Changes in the Oil Region Through My Eyes."

The CRSG has previously partnered with various Ugandan or-

ganizations to host community-oriented activities, including short marathons, educational support, sports competitions, and safety workshops.

"Like the painting competition, these activities foster mutual understanding between the CRSG and the community," said Chen.

Chinese Ambassador to Uganda Zhang Lizhong hailed the CRSG and other Chinese companies for their commitment to community engagement.

"We encourage Chinese companies not just to do business here, but to contribute to local communities and to Uganda's economic and social transformation," Zhang said.

SHANGHAI

Import expo reveals 5 aspects of China's 'charm' for foreign firms

In the vast and intricately designed National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), where the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE) is being held, people from around the world can be seen exploring the exhibition halls and talking with others, seeking to make best use of the opportunities on offer.

Since its inauguration in 2018 as the world's first national-level import-focused exposition, the CIIE has increasingly gained popularity among attendees. The business exhibition at this year's expo, scheduled from Nov. 5 to 10, maintains its massive scale of over 360,000 square meters. Some 3,500 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions are participating, more than appeared in the previous session. Among them, 297 are Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders, marking a record high.

Why are foreign companies so fascinated with the CIIE? A close look at the exhibition halls and in-depth conversations with the exhibitors reveal several sources of the appeal of the Chinese market -- five factors can be neatly summarized in the acronym "CHARM".

C FOR "CHANGE"

Since China put forward the concept of "high-quality development" to shift away from the focus on high-speed economic growth, the country has witnessed great changes in many fields -- accelerated industrial transformation, robust innovation, and even shifts in people's lifestyles. Emerging market demand means fresh new business opportunities for all.

At this year's CIIE, the Innovation Incubation Special Section features for the first time exhibitions in four major fields: digital economy, green and low-carbon development, life sciences, and manufacturing technologies. It showcases about 360 innovative projects, the highest number for the section since 2018.

The exhibition hall of Suzano, a giant in commercial pulp production from Brazil, is located in the newly established new materials zone. The company showcases its innovative achievements in bio-based solutions, as well as a low-carbon tissue product jointly developed with its Chinese partner.

"Chinese customers are open to innovation and testing new products, business models and practices," said Pablo Machado, president of business management at Suzano Asia. "The biggest opportunities for companies here will be higher-quality products and services."

H FOR "HUGE"

When asked about the main impression of the Chinese market, Kok Ping Soon, CEO of the Singapore Business Federation, immediately thought of its "huge potential." The vast scale of the market is a unique advantage for China. With a population of over 1.4 billion, China has a diverse range of consumer groups, each with a massive scale, which translates into enormous demand for products and services, ranging from premium categories to everyday necessities.

"China is home to over 400 million middle-income population. Market growth might not always be in a rocketing state, but the world's second-largest consumer market will still grow," said Kok.

To help exhibitors connect with the vast Chinese market more effectively, local governments and agencies across China have organized 780 delegations for procurement at the CIIE, the highest number in CIIE history.

A FOR "ACCESS"

China has been committed to expanding its opening up and sharing its development opportunities with the world. Constant efforts have been made to facilitate market access for foreign investment and create a favorable business environment.

Just four days before the opening of the CIIE, the latest version of China's negative list for foreign investment took effect, removing the remaining investment restrictions in the manufacturing sector. The country has vowed to continue easing market access with the orderly expansion of opening up in sectors like telecommunications, education, culture and medical care. At its CIIE booth, French healthcare company Sanofi highlights representative innovative drugs whose entry and use in China have been accelerated through the platform.

In September, the use of a Sanofi immuno-inflammatory product was approved in China as a targeted therapy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, with approval granted faster than in the United States



This photo shows the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), the main venue for the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 4, 2024. (Xinhua/Yin Gang)

and the EU, according to the company. When meeting with select exhibitors and buyers attending the CIIE, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said that the country will continue improving the business environment and provide equal opportunities in accessing production factors, qualification licensing and participation in government procurement, among other areas.

R FOR "REWARD"

The ever-evolving demand, immense potential, and an increasingly open market have brought tangible returns to foreign companies that are expanding their presence in China.

Since 2018, more than 2,400 new products, technologies and services have made their debut at the CIIE, and the cumulative intended transaction value has amounted to approximately 420 billion

U.S. dollars. Success stories abound at the CIIE. From a 9-square-meter stall at the inaugural CIIE, cuddly Peruvian alpaca wool toys have now made it into over 30 shopping malls across China and onto various e-commerce platforms, with annual sales volume surpassing 30,000.

"It has been an incredibly rewarding journey completely exceeding our expectations," said Ysabel Zea, co-founder of Wampaca.

M FOR "MEGATREND"

Foreign executives at the CIIE have frequently mentioned "long-term confidence in China," which is largely underpinned by the unchanged sound fundamentals and the overall trend of steady development of the world's second-largest economy.

Despite the high base of the previous year, the Chinese economy achieved a year-on-year growth rate of 4.8 percent in the first three quarters of the year, outperforming many major economies worldwide.

Thanks to the strong demand from the Chinese market, Suzano saw its third-quarter earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization rise 77 percent year on year.

"We are glad to see that steps have been taken and more will be taken to boost recovery and fully restore confidence," said Machado.

Premier Li said that China is confident in achieving this year's economic and social development goals, as well as the future development of its economy.

"China has the capability to promote sustained economic recovery and facilitate market expansion and improvement, thereby creating broader development space for enterprises from around the world to expand trade, facilitate investment and business, and apply innovative products and services," Li told exhibitors and buyers attending the CIIE.



Visitors experience the process of radioligand therapy using AR technology at the booth of Novartis during the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in east China's Shanghai, Nov. 5, 2024. (Xinhua/Liu Ying)

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

WHO urges urgent integration of health in climate negotiations ahead of COP29

BAKU

AHEAD of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference in Baku (COP29), the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for an urgent shift in global climate negotiations, urging world leaders to center human health in climate action.

WHO advocates for an end to the reliance on fossil fuels and calls for people-centred adaptation and resilience strategies to address the health impacts of climate change.

In the launch of its COP29 special report on climate and health, as well as a technical guidance document on Healthy Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), WHO stresses that health must be integrated into every aspect of climate policymaking. The organization highlights that addressing climate change without considering its impact on health is a missed opportunity for transformative global action.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, emphasized. "The climate crisis is a health crisis, which makes prioritizing health and well-being in climate action not only a moral and legal imperative, but a strategic opportunity to unlock transformative health benefits for a more just and equitable future." He further stated that COP29 represents a critical opportunity for world leaders to integrate health considerations into both climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. "WHO is supporting this work with practical guidelines and support for countries," Dr Tedros added.

The WHO's report, developed in collaboration with over 100 organizations and 300 experts, identifies key policy areas to address

climate and health across three integrated dimensions: people, place, and planet. It stresses that over 3.6 billion people live in areas most vulnerable to climate change, highlighting the urgent need for policies that protect these populations from climate-related health risks.

The WHO's recommendations include making human health and well-being the primary measure of climate success, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and realigning global economic and financial systems to prioritize public health and environmental sustainability. WHO calls for investment in clean, renewable alternatives to reduce pollution-related diseases and mitigate carbon emissions.

It also emphasizes the importance of mobilizing financing for climate-health initiatives, particularly for strengthening responsive health systems and building climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure. The report notes that simple, proven interventions such as heat-health warning systems, clean household energy, and better pricing of fossil fuels could save nearly two million lives annually, delivering \$4 in benefits for every dollar invested.

Further, the report underscores the need for cities to play a greater role in health outcomes through sustainable urban design, clean energy adoption, resilient housing, and improved sanitation. WHO also calls for increased protections for nature and biodiversity, recognizing that a healthier environment contributes directly to human health through clean air, water, and food security.

Dr Maria Neira, WHO's Director for Environment, Climate Change and Health, explained, "Health is the lived experience of climate



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

change. By prioritizing health in every aspect of climate action, we can unlock significant benefits for public health, climate resilience, security, and economic stability. Health is the argument we need to catalyse urgent and large-scale action in this critical moment."

In addition to the special report, WHO has released new technical guidelines aimed at helping countries integrate health into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the climate plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement. While health is a priority in 91 percent of NDCs, few countries have outlined specific actions to protect health or leverage the health benefits of climate mitigation and adaptation. WHO's new guidance provides practical steps for ministries of health, environment, and other sectors such as transport, energy, and urban planning to ensure that health is a cen-

tral focus of climate policy.

This guidance is intended to support countries in implementing the WHO's COP29 report recommendations, with particular focus on key areas like health impacts, strengthening health systems, and promoting co-benefits in sectors like transportation and energy. It aims to help countries develop more comprehensive and integrated climate-health strategies that not only address the health risks of climate change but also support efforts to decarbonize and build resilient health systems.

As part of its broader efforts to drive the climate-health agenda forward, WHO is leading the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATAACH), which includes 90 countries and 75 partners. This platform was created to build climate-resilient, sustainable health systems and promote the integration of climate and health

policies in national, regional, and global strategies.

WHO's collaboration with ATAACH is designed to catalyse progress on the commitments made at COP26, ensuring that the intersection of climate and health is addressed with urgency and scale.

Global Support for the Call to Action

Several global leaders have voiced strong support for WHO's call to integrate health into climate action. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated, "The climate crisis is also a health crisis. Human health and planetary health are intertwined. Countries must take meaningful action to protect their people, boost resources, cut emissions, phase out fossil fuels, and make peace with nature. COP29 must drive progress towards those vital goals for the planet's health and for people's health."

Dr Rajiv J. Shah, President of The Rockefeller Foundation, emphasized that "The impact of climate change has to be measured in more than degrees. We have to account for lives saved, lost, and improved." He highlighted the importance of centering health considerations in climate action, particularly in enabling just energy transitions and increasing economic opportunities for frontline communities.

Dr Vanessa Kerry, WHO Director-General Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health, stressed that the accelerating climate and health crisis has far-reaching consequences beyond public health, including economic instability and deepening inequities. She urged leaders to fast-track a just transition to cleaner energy and increase funding for health systems to protect the most vulnerable populations.

Dr Alan Dangour, Director of Climate & Health at Wellcome, echoed these sentiments, noting that "In every single country, climate change is costing lives, causing pain and suffering. It is a common crisis that must unite us to act, and act quickly." He called for ambitious climate action at COP29 that would protect both the planet and public health.

Dr Micaela Serafini, President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland, highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, emphasizing that solutions to protect their health must be prioritized. "Failing to do so will take a toll on the very vitals of humanity," she warned.

Jagan Chapagain, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), also underscored the direct link between climate change and health, stating, "From the impacts of extreme heat to the spread of illnesses through floodwaters, from malnutrition as crops fail to mosquito-borne diseases where they haven't been seen before, the climate crisis is the ultimate health crisis."

Canada reinforces partnerships with African countries to strengthen diplomacy, economy

TORONTO

IN a significant move to deepen its engagement with Africa, Canada is strengthening partnerships with African countries and institutions to foster diplomatic relations, economic growth, and shared prosperity.

Building on more than seven decades of historical ties, Canada is committed to enhancing its role as a partner in addressing the continent's evolving geopolitical and economic challenges.

At the heart of the efforts is Africa's growing influence on the global stage. The continent, home to the world's youngest population and fastest-growing middle class, is increasingly seen as a key player in global economic and geopolitical dynamics. Canada's renewed approach focuses on collaborative efforts that prioritize democracy, respect for human rights, and peace and security—all essential components for sustainable development.

The announcement of the initiatives came during the Canada-African Union Commission High-Level Dialogue held today in Toronto.

Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development; and the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, introduced a series of flagship programmes aimed at strengthening partnerships across multiple levels—bilateral, regional, and multilateral.

These initiatives are the result of extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including African governments, civil society groups, business communities, diaspora organizations, and academic institutions. The focus is on fostering collaboration in areas of common interest, including peace, security, trade, and sustainable development.

Minister Joly announced a total of \$54.4 million in funding for several flagship initiatives and projects across Africa. These efforts will focus on four key areas: peace and security, good governance, people-to-people ties, and diplomatic engagement. Canada will support youth and women in peace processes and invest in community-led conflict prevention in Darfur, as well as support civilian-led political processes in Sudan. The country will also enhance counterterrorism capabilities and work to prevent violent extremism and gender-based violence across the continent.

In terms of diplomatic engagement, Canada is taking concrete steps to expand its presence in Africa. This includes the appointment of a Special Envoy for Africa and a Special Envoy for the Sahel, as well as the establishment of a full High Commission in Zambia and a full embassy in Benin. Additionally, a new diaspora engagement mechanism will be in-



International Development Minister Ahmed Hussen. Africa's infrastructure needs are great. Canada can uniquely position itself as a complementary partner to its G7 counterparts, providing early stage strategic planning, engineering and transaction advisory support to Africa, writes David Boroto. The Hill Times photograph by Andrew Meade

roduced to strengthen connections with African communities in Canada. During the High-Level Dialogue, Minister Joly formalized Canada's relationship with the African Union Commission by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), further deepening Canada's commitment to working alongside the African Union on key regional and global issues.

Minister Ng, who is leading Canada's trade initiatives, also outlined several measures aimed at boosting economic partnerships with Africa. These include the establishment of a new Pan-African Trade Hub to promote intra-Africa trade and increased private sector engagement. Canada will also pursue a trade mission to further strengthen economic ties, and the formal sig-

nature of the Canada-Nigeria Air Transport Agreement is set to enhance air connectivity between the two countries, providing a platform for greater trade and tourism. Canada is also advancing air transport agreements with Ghana, having launched negotiations with the country in October 2024.

In addition to economic initiatives, Canada continues to focus on poverty reduction, humanitarian assistance, and achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. Minister Hussen highlighted key projects aimed at empowering women and youth, promoting climate resilience, and fostering sustainable economic growth. These projects include creating an Africa Trade and Development Programme, which will sup-

port trade and investment initiatives while contributing to food security, job creation, and gender equality. Minister Hussen also announced \$176.64 million in funding for several programmes, including those that support women's entrepreneurship in Morocco, strengthen skills training in South Africa, and enhance climate resilience for women across the continent.

The flagship initiatives announced today mark the beginning of a new chapter in Canada's relationship with Africa. They will be foundational to Canada's upcoming Africa Strategy, which will guide the country's diplomatic, trade, and development efforts on the continent for years to come.

Minister Joly noted, "We share a longstanding relationship with the African continent. As our countries evolve in this changing world, our partnerships need to be reshaped to meet our current shared needs. Our priority is to reinforce people-to-people ties and enhance collaboration on issues like peace and security. Africa's

diversity requires tailored engagement, and we look forward to learning from the rich experiences of the Canadian African diaspora."

Minister Ng added, "The growing Canada-Africa trade relationship presents an exciting economic opportunity. Today's initiatives will further strengthen ties and open new doors for economic prosperity, benefiting both our economies and people."

Minister Hussen emphasized, "Canada and Africa are equal partners in tackling global challenges. Our investments in gender equality, economic development, and poverty reduction are key to building a better future for all."

Canada's enhanced partnerships with African nations will serve as the foundation for lasting cooperation that benefits both sides, strengthening Canada's global standing as a partner in economic development, peace, and human rights.

UN arms embargo on Israel: Dead on arrival

UNITED NATIONS

WHEN the United Nations imposes sanctions or penalizes a member state – be it the General Assembly or the Human Rights Council – the resolutions are “non-binding” and often remain unimplemented.

But the Security Council resolutions are “binding” – and still openly violated by countries such as North Korea – because all these UN bodies have no means of implementing these resolutions, nor a standing army to forcibly enforce them. But they only carry moral weight.

The Council can also impose its own sanctions, mostly in economic, financial and trade sectors, against violators of its decisions.

And last week there was a move to impose arms sanctions against Israel – and rightly so, judging by the 43,000 plus, mostly Palestinian civilians, killed in Gaza largely with US-supplied weapons since October last year.

But how effective will this be since the strongest opposition will come from the US, an unyielding supporter of Israel, which will unhesitatingly use its veto power if the resolution comes before the Security Council?

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, a former UN Under-Secretary-General and one-time Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, told IPS anything short of a real, permanent ceasefire would not create a pathway to end the perpetration of the ongoing genocidal aggression by Israel.

In this context, he said, the joint letter calling on all countries to stop the sale of arms and ammunition to Israel, signed by 52 countries and two UN-recognized multilateral organizations, is meaningfully forward-looking, and contains a purposeful objective of contributing to that “pathway”.

In fact, the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, whose country initiated the letter, asserted that “We must repeat at every opportunity that selling arms to Israel means participating in its genocide.”

“It would be argued rightfully that the United Nations and its apex body, the General Assembly have no powers to enforce such an arms embargo. The Security Council, the sole UN entity which can authorize an arms embargo and obligate the arms suppliers desist from sending arms to the areas of conflict, also becomes powerless if one of the P-5 uses the notorious veto”.

“However, I strongly believe that a General Assembly resolution following the call for the arms embargo to Israel would have a moral value which has its own merit. Despite the politics and power-play which is destroying the UN’s credibility and marginalizing its operational capacity to resolve conflicts, the arms embargo would highlight the principled position taken by the UN,” said Ambassador Chowdhury.

In a way, he pointed out, that would strengthen the Secretary-General’s efforts to promote the much-needed ceasefire.

In the aftermath of Israel’s declaration of the Secretary General as persona non-grata (PNG) and its extension of the attacks on UNIFIL in Lebanon, the General Assembly needs to show that its moral and normative role as envisaged in the UN Charter has not been cowed down by the politics of the frequently-used threat of veto, he declared.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco, who has written extensively on the politics of the Security Council, told IPS: “This initiative reflects the view of the vast majority of the world’s governments



In Khan Younis, thousands of people are fleeing for their lives again. Credit: UNRWA

and peoples and is consistent with imperatives of international humanitarian law, but given that the major arms supplier of Israel is a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, it is unlikely to have much of an impact.”

Also problematic, he pointed out, is that some of the countries sponsoring the initiative, such as Russia and Saudi Arabia, have been guilty not only of similarly providing weapons to those engaging in war crimes but engaging in war crimes themselves.

Türkiye’s foreign minister Hakan Fidan said last week his country had submitted a letter to the United Nations, signed by 52 countries and two inter-governmental organizations, calling for a halt in arms deliveries to Israel.

“We have written a joint letter calling on all countries to stop the sale of arms and ammunition to Israel. We delivered this letter, which has 54 signatories, to the UN on November 1,” said Fidan, according to the Times of Israel.

“We must repeat at every opportunity that selling arms to Israel means participating in its genocide,” said Fidan, adding that the letter is “an initiative launched by Türkiye.”

Among the signatories were Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Algeria, China, Iran and Russia, plus the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Elaborating further, Ambassador Chowdhury said the UN should not forget that the UN’s International Court of Justice which determined that Israel’s occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank is illegal under international law. The judgment was followed by a General Assembly resolution last September, demanding Israel leave the occupied territories within a year.

“I am encouraged by the UN’s own 45 Human Rights Experts and Special Rapporteurs, who, driven by their conscience, forcefully called for a ‘permanent ceasefire, ... an arms embargo on all warring parties,’ and ‘the deployment of

an international protective presence in the occupied Palestinian territory under the supervision of the UN.’ All these well-thought-out measures would only promote dialogue and diplomacy over death and destruction”. The UN Secretary-General needs to endorse and welcome this call by his in-house experts and recommend to the General Assembly to do the same without any delay, he declared.

Back in April 2024, in a resolution adopted by 28 votes in favour, six against and 13 abstentions, the 47-member Human Rights Council backed a call “to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel, the occupying Power...to prevent further violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights”.

Presented by Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, delegates heard that the resolution had also been motivated by the need to stop “egregious” human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Co-sponsors of the text included Bolivia, Cuba and the State of Palestine, ahead of the vote which saw support from more than two dozen countries including Brazil, China, Luxembourg, Malaysia and South Africa, according to UN News.

Unlike the UN Security Council, Human Rights Council resolutions are not legally binding on States but carry significant moral weight, and in this instance is intended to increase diplomatic pressure

on Israel as well as potentially influence national policy decisions.

Israel’s two largest arms sources, the United States and Germany, have resisted calls for an embargo on Israel, though each has been accused of withholding certain arms during the war.

In an October 2024 report, the Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI) said in the past decade, Israel has greatly increased its imports of arms. SIPRI estimates that in the five-year period 2019-23, Israel was the world’s 15th largest importer of major arms, accounting for 2.1 per cent of global arms imports in the period. In 2009-13 it ranked only 47th.

Although only three countries supplied major arms to Israel in 2019-23, the United States, Germany and Italy, many others supplied military components, ammunition or services. The three other global major arms exporters among the top 10: the United Kingdom, France and Spain.

IPS



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00 - 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05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



South African sugar industry receives crucial support from government

CAPE TOWN

The South African sugar industry is poised for a significant transformation, buoyed by commitments from government officials to help sustain and diversify this essential sector.

During a key meeting in Durban on Wednesday, Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Zuko Godlimpi, alongside Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, Zoleka Capa, announced plans to bolster the sugarcane-based value chain, particularly in the economically impactful regions of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

Industry stakeholders, led by the South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA), expressed enthusiasm for Godlimpi's proactive approach.

"He has displayed an impeccable grasp of our issues. We saw this being clearly demonstrated at the Executive Oversight Committee meeting for Sugar Master Plan yesterday," said a SAFDA representative.

"We look forward to working with the Departments of Trade, Industry and Competition; Agriculture; and Rural Development and Land Reform in driving diversification, making small-scale farmer a central focus of our value chain, continuing the transformation journey that picked momentum with the emergence of SAFDA in 2025, and making sure that all future value-add opportunities do not leave black farmers out."

The organisation underscored its commitment to driving diversification efforts, ensuring that small-scale farmers are central to the value chain, and preventing any future value-adding opportunities from marginalising black farmers.

With an eagerness to formalise collaboration, SAFDA indicated it was ready to sign the second phase of the Sugar Master Plan, but also made it clear that moving forward would necessitate action against the Health Promotion Levy (HPL), known colloquially as the sugar tax.

This sentiment was echoed during discussions where the detrimental impacts of the HPL on the industry were highlighted.

The Sugar Master Plan aims to position the sugar industry as a catalyst for economic development and job creation in rural areas.

Godlimpi emphasised the importance of restructuring and rebalancing the industry's operational capacity to cut costs and enhance competitiveness.

"The industry also needs to look at a diversification strategy that will enable it to tap into alternative energy sources and renewables such as biofuel that will revive and sustain the sector," Godlimpi said.

An urgent call for extending the current sugar tax moratorium was articulated by Advocate Fay Mukaddam, chairperson of the South African Sugar Association.

"We therefore make an impassioned plea to support us on this request. The success or failure of phase two of the master plan depends on policy coherence," Mukaddam stated, reinforcing that collective action is essential to safeguarding livelihoods tied to the sugar industry.

Since the signing of the Sugar Value Chain Master Plan, the dtic has initiated several measures, including a premium price for small-scale growers and investment in transformation efforts, with over R1.2 billion allocated to date. As the industry stands at a pivotal crossroads, the next steps will be crucial for its survival and growth.



We look forward to working with the Departments of Trade, Industry and Competition; Agriculture; and Rural Development and Land Reform in driving diversification, making small-scale farmer a central focus of our value chain, continuing the transformation journey that picked momentum with the emergence of SAFDA in 2025, and making sure that all future value-add opportunities do not leave black farmers out

Safaricom's impact on society grows 16 times in six months

NAIROBI

Safaricom's impact on society grew 16 times in the six-month period ending September 30, 2024, the group CEO Peter Ndegwa has revealed.

Speaking during the release of the Half Year financial results on Thursday, November 7, 2024, Ndegwa revealed that the giant telco through the Safaricom and M-Pesa Foundations directly reached 35,178 people in 11 counties.

"We remain deeply rooted in the societies we operate in, driven by our purpose of transforming lives. Our commitment to the society remains at the core of our operations," Ndegwa stated.

"During this period, our M-PESA and Safaricom Foundations continued to impact lives through various projects and partnerships. M-PESA Foundation continued to take healthcare close to the people through the bi-weekly medical camps. During the reporting period, 35,178 people were directly reached in 11 counties.

People accessed general doctor consultation, child health consultation, women's health services, fistula screening, dental and eye services and non-communicable disease screening and referrals. The Foundations also restored the dignity of 470 women with fistula in 14 counties."

The impact was also felt in its new market in Ethiopia, where the telco provided several schools with free internet connectivity and supported various sports and music concerts across the country (Ethiopia).

"We recently supported schools in various parts of the country with free internet connectivity and supported various sports and music concerts across the country that resonate with Ethiopians. We have also joined the national green legacy initiative to support the country to build a greener and more sustainable Ethiopia through tree-growing programs," Ndegwa stated.

This comes even as Safaricom marked 24 years of existence on October 23, 2024, with several success stories such as 5G connectivity, M-Pesa and initiatives such as Chapa Dimba.

"We look back at the achievements and lives that have been transformed and celebrate our customers for choosing us as their connectivity, digital and financial services providers. Reflecting on



Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa.

the success of Chapa Dimba, we will continue to support sports at various levels bringing communities together to cheer for their favourite teams and players in football, golf, and basketball, among others. We will also be acknowledging our partners who have supported our growth and helped in our promise to provide superior customer experiences. We look forward to the next 25 years of transforming not just in Africa but the world," the CEO added.

Ndegwa revealed that the telco has secured a Ksh15 billion sustainability-linked loan, bringing the total loan facility to Ksh30 billion having announced the closure of a similar amount in the last year.

"As a sign of market confidence, we secured another Ksh15 billion Sustainability Linked Loan, bringing the total loan facility to KShs

30 billion having announced the closure of a similar amount in the last year.

This funding will be channeled towards strategic and significant investments in technology and services which will enable us to unlock our ability to transform lives by elevating our ESG objectives," Ndegwa stated.

Safaricom also supported Team Kenya in the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics through the sponsorship of Kenyan athletes and teams and the provision of financial wellness training.

In September this year, Safaricom (NSE:SCOM) PLC announced Ksh28.1 Billion in net income attributable to equity holders for the six months ended September 30th 2024.

The strong performance was driven by double digit growth in the Kenyan unit, where service

revenue grew by 12.9 percent to Ksh177.5 billion, resulting in EBIT and Net income growing by 18.0 percent to Ksh79.2 billion, and 14.1 percent to Ksh 47.5 billion respectively.

"This performance, which comes at a time when we are marking 24 years of connecting and transforming Kenyans' lives, reflects the relentless execution of our strategy;

"We are proud of the value that we have given our customers through use of technology, and we will continue growing our core business while expanding into new services through our innovative spirit," said Dr. Peter Ndegwa, CEO Safaricom PLC.

In the period under review, the group service revenue grew 13.1 percent at KES 179.9 billion, while group Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) grew by 1.8 percent to 42.2 billion. Net income excluding minority interest on underlying basis grew 27.1 percent to KES 36.7Bn.

On a reported basis, net income excluding minority interest contracted by 17.7 percent to KES 28.1 billion, weighed down by the impact of Ethiopia's ongoing foreign exchange regime reforms and hyper inflationary accounting.

Safaricom Group's mobile connectivity business, comprising of voice, data and SMS, contributed 52.2 percent of revenue at Ksh93.9 billion, while M-PESA contributed 42.9 percent, at Ksh77.2 billion.

Adil Khawaja, Safaricom's Board Chairman said, "The Board is pleased with the great performance recorded in the period under review. We remain focused on our vision of becoming Africa's leading purpose-led technology company as we advance our propositions in both Ethiopia and Kenya."

In Ethiopia, where Safaricom now has a network covering 46 percent of the population, the customer base grew by 47.3 percent to hit 6.1 million monthly active customers, while data usage excelled, closing at 6.6GB per average user compared to Kenya's 4.1GB.

To mitigate against the short-term impact of the ongoing foreign exchange regime reforms, Safaricom Ethiopia has taken several steps including renegotiating foreign currency denominated contracts, onboarding local suppliers for certain products and services and reducing the expatriate's base.

Insufficient filling stations slow down CNG project

LAGOS

The Nigerian government's push for the utilisation of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a cheaper and cleaner alternative to fuel is being challenged by the lack of sufficient filling stations.

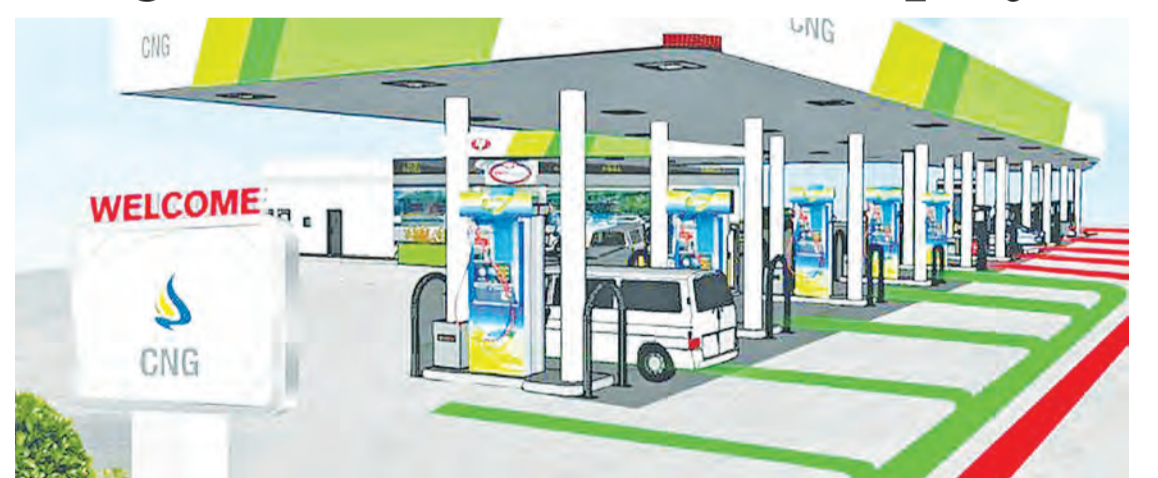
The CNG initiative has, in recent months, gained traction as many motorists continue to convert their cars in response to the high cost of petrol in the country. However, many Nigerians have described the difficulty in getting their cars refilled as 'moving from pan to fire.'

"You will not believe that I have been making efforts to refill my car for the past four days, but there is no gas in the station close to me at Durumi, Abuja, except I drive to Airport Road," Aisha Umar, an Abuja resident, said.

"How can the government be pushing people to convert their cars without adequate preparation on how these cars will be refilled? We are having conversion centres everywhere but no refilling station."

The federal government, in July 2024, commissioned six refuelling stations to serve residents of Abuja.

However, these stations have become inadequate, as motorists drive long distances before getting to these stations. In some areas,



CNG filling stations can't be found. Henry Orji, a businessman at the Gudu Market in Abuja, said he has returned to using petrol to power his car due to unavailability of CNG stations.

"Refilling my car with CNG is really cheap compared to fuel and I can tell you that I have saved some amount since I started using it. But getting it to buy is not as convenient as fuel. We have just this station here serving the whole of these areas," Orji said.

BusinessDay's findings also revealed that the high cost of conversion is a disincentive to many Nigerians. Currently, conversion cost ranges from N600,000 to N1,200,000 depending on size of the vehicle.

But speaking to BusinessDay on the cost of conversion, Micheal

Oluwagbemi, the programme coordinator, Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI), assured that various products are now being provided by the private sector to make CNG conversion affordability, adding that the government was working on credit facilities that can reduce the cost of conversion.

Nigerian Consumer Credit Corporation (CREDICORP) and the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI) recently signed a partnership agreement to launch a N10 billion Credit Access for Light and Mobility (CALM) fund.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Presidency addressed public concerns over the safety of CNG vehicles, following the recent announcement by the Malaysian govern-

ment to phase out the use of natural gas for vehicles by July 2025.

Responding to discussions prompted by Malaysia's announcement to phase out CNG vehicles by 2025, Bayo Onanuga, special adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Information and Strategy, clarified in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that these concerns do not apply to Nigeria's CNG programme.

He stated, "The Malaysian situation concerns LPG, which poses unique risks that don't apply to CNG. In Nigeria, we chose CNG only, avoiding LPG for safety and cost reasons."

According to Onanuga, Malaysia's CNG initiative faced significant challenges, with only a 0.2 percent vehicle conversion rate over 15 years.

Xi calls for stable, healthy Sino-US ties

BEIJING

As President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Donald Trump on Thursday on his election as United States president, observers said that Beijing is urging Washington to tackle China-US ties with a cool head and offer the rest of the world a sense of predictability.

In the message, Xi pointed out that history has shown how cooperation between China and the US can bring benefits to both sides, while rivalry can bring harm.

"A China-US relationship with stable, healthy and sustainable development is in line with the common interests of the two countries and the expectations of the international community," Xi said.

It is hoped that the two sides will uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, strengthen dialogue and communication,

properly manage differences and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, he said.

Xi added that the two sides should find the right way for China and the US to get along in the new era, for the benefit of both countries as well as the world.

Also on Thursday, Vice-President Han Zheng sent a message to J.D. Vance, congratulating him on his election as US vice-president.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department for American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, noted that Xi's congratulatory message reflects the importance Beijing attaches to the development of China-US ties.

Through the message, "China once again underscored the significance of keeping China-US ties stable, and it pointed to the fact that the international community is looking forward to seeing the stability of the relationship", she said.

"In the recent past, both



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Thursday.

sides have demonstrated their readiness to keeping the relationship away from turbulence, and have achieved

some results. They should carry on this momentum and move toward the same goal," she added.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations. And the two nations

have conducted fruitful cooperation in areas including people-to-people exchanges, counternarcotics and tackling climate change.

China is now the third-largest export market for American commodities, and the US is China's third-largest trading partner, according to the Chinese embassy in the US.

Observers also raised concerns that some hawkish politicians in the US may press ahead with efforts to seek economic "decoupling" with China and increase their confrontational stance on security-related issues, such as increasing tension in the Taiwan Strait.

At a regular news conference of the Foreign Ministry on Thursday in Beijing, reporters raised questions about topics such as China-US trade tensions, the Taiwan question and the future of China-US ties.

"I would like to reiterate that there will be no winners in a trade war and it is not

beneficial to the world," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning.

She noted that the Taiwan question is the "most important and most sensitive" issue in China-US relations.

"It is China's consistent and clear position that it firmly opposes any form of official contacts between the US and Taiwan," she said.

"The US government needs to earnestly abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, and prudently handle Taiwan-related issues, so as to avoid severe damage to China-US relations and cross-Strait peace and stability," she added.

When asked what would it take to prevent the ties from veering into a disastrous scenario such as a potential hot war, Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of economics and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, pointed to China's core security interests.

"The US has to recognize China's core security interests, including Taiwan as part of China, and the security of China's sea lanes in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean," he said.

"If the US would recognize and respect China's core security interests, relations would improve markedly," he added.



Company capacity with four dry-leased Boeing 737-800s to meet yuletide surge

LAGOS

Air Peace, Nigeria's largest carrier, has announced an agreement to dry-lease four Boeing 737-800 aircraft from Slovak carrier AirExplore for the yuletide 2024/2025 season.

This move is part of Air Peace's effort to enhance its domestic operations out of its main hub in Lagos, aiming to cater to the increased demand expected during the bustling yuletide period.

According to the agreement, the dry-leasing arrangement will see AirExplore, a subsidiary of Avia Solutions Group (ASG), supply pilots for the aircraft, while Air Peace will provide cabin crew who are currently on training program for the task.

Ejike Ndiulo, Head, Corporate Communications, Air Peace Limited, explained that the unique setup would allow Air Peace to maintain its high standards of customer service while leveraging AirExplore's operational expertise.

"Passengers can expect efficient and familiar service on-board, in line with Air Peace's established reputation," he added.

Ndiulo disclosed that Air Peace's existing fleet is robust, comprising seven Boeing 737-300s, four Boeing 737-500s, a Boeing 777-200ER, two Boeing 777-300s, eight Embraer E145s,

five Embraer E195-E2s, and an executive Dornier 328-300. He explained that the airline also has ambitious expansion plans, with pending orders for five Embraer E175s, eight more Embraer E195-E2s, and 10 Boeing 737-8s.

This is in addition to the two Boeing 737-700s from Mongolia's Eznis Airways on wet-lease, thus highlighting Air Peace's commitment to adaptability and growth.

This latest collaboration with AirExplore is not the first between Air Peace and ASG's ACMI/charter specialists.

From 2021 to 2023, Air Peace successfully dry-leased two Airbus A320-200s from SmartLynx Airlines Malta, another member of ASG, demonstrating a history of flexibility in meeting seasonal travel demands.

These partnerships have proven essential for Air Peace to sustain seamless operations, especially during peak travel times.

However, the Airline is silent on how the new Boeing 737-800s will integrate into the fleet—whether to supplement or eventually replace the two wet-leased Boeing 737-700.

However, analysts note that Air Peace's calculated approach to fleet management reinforces its market position as a leading airline in Nigeria.

AirExplore itself has recently expanded its influence in the

ACMI leasing market following its acquisition by Avia Solutions Group earlier this year.

The airline operates a diverse fleet of Boeing 737-800 variants, including passenger aircraft and converted freighters, which makes it a strategic partner for Air Peace's growing domestic and regional footprint.

As yuletide approaches, Air Peace's ramped-up operations and fleet expansion reflect its ongoing mission to provide safe, efficient, and high-quality air travel across Nigeria.

The addition of four Boeing 737-800 aircraft through a dry-lease agreement is a move that sets Air Peace up for operational success. By efficiently managing its fleet, enhancing passenger experience, and preparing for peak demand, Air Peace demonstrates its commitment to remaining Nigeria's leading carrier. As the airline continues to grow and expand its reach, these aircraft will undoubtedly contribute to smoother operations and an elevated travel experience for passengers across the country.

According to experts, the strategic decision by Air Peace to dry-lease four Boeing 737-800 aircraft from AirExplore reflects a calculated approach to optimizing operational capacity while enhancing passenger experience.

Aon Wednesday, Air Peace,

West Africa's largest carrier, announced the integration of the Opay Payment Service into its Internet Booking Engine (IBE) platform.

This new partnership, featuring diverse payment options such as Bank Card, Opay Wallet, Bank Transfer, and Bank USSD, reinforces Air Peace's commitment to delivering an enhanced, secure, and seamless payment experience for its customers.

Commenting on the launch, Ejike Ndiulo, Head of Corporate Communications at Air Peace, said, "At Air Peace, we are continually evolving to meet our customers' needs. Integrating the Opay Payment Service into our booking platform aligns with our dedication to providing unparalleled convenience, giving our passengers flexible and secure payment choices in a single interface."

Ndiulo added, "Our mission has always been to make the travel experience as smooth as possible, and this initiative marks another significant milestone in achieving that goal."

This collaboration with Opay is part of Air Peace's broader efforts to optimize the booking and travel experience.

On October 2022, Air Peace launched its partnership with Kalabash to offer Pay-Small, a payment option that allows customers to plan and pay for their flights in stages.

Shanghai highlights investment potential

SHANGHAI

As the 7th China International Import Expo caught the spotlight in Shanghai, the city hosted the Shanghai City Investment Promotion Conference on Wednesday, showcasing its open policies and development opportunities to attract more businesses and talent.

"The 7th CIIIE has made a call for upholding an open consensus and expressed firm confidence in promoting high-quality economic development in China," said Chen Jining, Party secretary of Shanghai. "Shanghai will intensify efforts to deepen reform and opening-up to unleash new vitality for high-quality growth."

Shanghai's economy has maintained strong resilience and vitality, holding significance for long-term strategic investments by, and the development of, multinational companies, Chen said.

He highlighted China's long-term growth advantages, robust industrial and supply chains, cost-effective innovation capabilities and policy stability — coupled with Shanghai's deepening economic transformation.

Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng described the city as an innovative, open and aspiring metropolis ideal for global investment, innovation and entrepreneurship, thanks to its location advantages, industrial mix, resources, government services and ecological environment.

Through further market opening and competitive policies focused on key areas and projects, Shanghai aims to facilitate investment, he added.

At the event, Shanghai signed 23 foreign investment projects spanning biomedicine, high-end equipment, advanced materials, fashion and green low-carbon development.

Executives from multinational companies participating in the event praised Shanghai's business environment and the value of CIIIE as a platform.

Deng Jian, vice-president of commercial operations at medical devices giant Medtronic, said Shanghai is crucial for the company, as its headquarters here has been driving development across the country since it entered China 35 years ago.

Medtronic remains upbeat

about the Chinese healthcare market and innovation sources, and has increased investments, including in a new cardiovascular devices production line in the Linggang special area in Pudong.

Guan Huili, president of Cargill China, said the agriculture and food giant has, by participating in the CIIIE for seven straight years, helped build local ties and insights to tailor more products for China.

From just over 10 products initially to over 120 innovations this year, including global premieres, the company has localized some CIIIE launches, meeting demand for quality, health and sustainability.

With the firm's China headquarters in Shanghai, Guan said the city's open, inclusive and innovative identity aligns with Cargill's philosophy, representing an important market and platform for better customer service and more innovation.

The 2024 Shanghai City Investment Promotion Conference was held jointly by the Ministry of Commerce and Shanghai Municipal People's Government.



India, UK pledge support for Ghana's clean energy transition

ACCRA

India and the United Kingdom have pledged their support for Ghana's transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy as part of global climate commitments.

The two countries said UK and Indian companies were open to partner with Ghanaian innovators in the energy sector to rollout products and services to promote sustainable and efficient energy solutions.

Shri Manish Gupta, the Indian High Commissioner to Ghana, and Harriet Thompson, the UK High Commissioner to Ghana, made the

commitment at the opening of the 3rd Power and Energy Ghana Expo and Exhibition in Accra on Wednesday.

The three-day event will assemble 100 exhibitors and about 1000 professionals worldwide to display their innovations in the energy sector and discuss measures to scale-up renewable energy and address demand and supply issues in the sector.

The expo is being organised by BIG4SURE events with Wegvoras Exhibitions, under the auspices of Ministry of Energy with the support of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

As the world races to transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy, Ghana has developed a National Energy Transition Framework (2022-2070) to decarbonise the energy sector.

The country has set out an ambitious target of 2070 to fully transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Ghana's Ministry of Energy estimates that the implementation of the plan would cost the country about US\$561.8 billion in the next five decades.

Gupta said power and energy were stepping to the development

of nations and that efficient and sustainable energy systems were crucial for Ghana's economic development.

He said India had enormous expertise energy solutions and was willing to share ideas with Ghana and build partnerships towards achieving reliable, efficient, and affordable energy.

"Energy is one sector that is going to play a fast forward and important role in Ghana and build the economy," Gupta said.

Thompson said the UK was committed to achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050, adding that the country had built expertise in renewable energy solutions particu-

larly in battery storage solutions.

She said Ghana had an important role to play in global energy transition following the discovery of lithium — an important raw material for the production of electric car batteries and other products.

"I look forward to further partnerships in clean energy transitions, driving trade, growth and supporting a cleaner planet for future generations," Thompson said.

Wilhemina Asamoah, Chief Director, Ministry of Energy, said Ghana was on course to achieving sustainable and modern energy access by 2030.

She said about 85 per cent of the citizenry had access to electricity, adding that the Ministry was exploring solar energy solutions to increase electricity access in remote communities.

"The Ministry of Energy has launched policies to increase renewable energy share to at least 10 per cent of our total energy mix by 2030," Mrs Asamoah said.

Dr Joseph Obeng, President, Ghana Union of Traders Association, appealed to stakeholders in the sector to patronise the exhibition and called for deepened sensitisation of the public on energy efficiency.

Looming Ghana Highway Authority strike threatens nationwide chaos

ACCRA

There is an imminent nationwide strike by the Ghana Highway Authority (GHA) workers that threatens to paralyze the country's road transport sector and create a dangerous vacuum in axle load enforcement across Ghana's major highways, potentially triggering a crisis that could reverberate through every sector of the nation's economy.



A section of the Ghana Highway Authority's members.

An internal communication, obtained from reliable sources within the GHA, details plans for an indefinite industrial action set to commence on November 12, 2024, if the government fails to meet workers' demands by November 7. The strike would affect critical operations including axle load stations, potentially creating a free-for-all situation for overloaded vehicles on Ghana's roads, with implications that could extend far beyond immediate transportation concerns.

The impending crisis stems from fierce opposition to the implementation of the National Roads Authority (NRA) Act 2024 (Act 1118), which seeks to merge the GHA with the Department of Urban Roads (DUR) and Department of Feeder Roads (DFR).

The workers have issued a two-pronged ultimatum that strikes at the heart of the controversy: the removal of Engineer I. K. Mensah and his retired Chief Executive, Engineer Collins B. Donkor within seven working days, and the complete revocation of the NRA Act within 14 working days. This demand reflects deep-seated concerns about institutional autonomy and governance within Ghana's road sector.

Transport industry experts, drawing on decades of infrastructure management experience, warn that the absence of axle load enforcement could lead to widespread abuse by transporters, potentially causing accelerated deterioration of road infrastructure. "The suspension of axle load monitoring would be catastrophic," says Dr. Samuel Mensah, a transport policy analyst with over 20 years of experience in infrastructure development. "Overloaded trucks can cause more damage to our roads in a few weeks than years of normal usage. We're looking at potential damage that could take years and billions of cedis to repair."

The comprehensive nature of the planned strike action, as outlined in the circular signed by the National Chairman of the GHA Senior Staff Association, Oswald Kwame Okafa Amanfu and National Chairman of the GHA Workers Union, Noble Yasroku, (CBMWU-TUC), reveals the full scale of the impending disruption. The action would affect operations at the head office, regional offices, road and bridge maintenance units, tollway stations, and resident engineers' offices nationwide, effectively bringing Ghana's road maintenance and monitoring infrastructure to a complete standstill.

Industry insiders note that the axle load stations, which serve as crucial checkpoints for preventing overloaded vehicles

from damaging Ghana's road infrastructure, represent just the tip of the iceberg. These stations, equipped with sophisticated weighing technology and staffed by trained personnel, play a vital role in preserving road integrity. Their closure would remove a critical safeguard against infrastructure abuse, potentially leading to widespread flouting of load restrictions across the country's major transportation corridors.

The Ghana Haulage Transport Owners Association, representing over 4,000 transport operators nationwide, has raised significant concerns about the potential chaos that could ensue. "While we don't condone overloading, some transporters might see this as an opportunity to maximize profits at the expense of road safety and infrastructure," stated their spokesperson, adding that the absence of enforcement could create unfair competition and pressure even law-abiding operators to overload their vehicles to remain competitive.

The strike threat has gained considerable momentum following earlier protests at the GHA yard, where workers displayed powerful messages such as "Mr. President, Ghana Highway Authority cannot be reduced to a division" and "Stop this evil against GHA." The workers' argument that GHA, as the pioneering institution that established both DUR and DFR, should maintain its autonomy rather than being subordinated under the new authority, reflects deep historical and institutional tensions within Ghana's road sector administration.

A comprehensive technical analysis conducted by infrastructure experts reveals a disturbing pattern of potential cascading failures that could emerge from even a short disruption in routine road maintenance. The assessment indicates that the carefully calibrated maintenance schedules currently in place serve as a critical defense against infrastructure deterioration. When these schedules are disrupted, the consequences extend far beyond simple maintenance delays - they can trigger a multiplier effect where minor issues rapidly evolve into major structural problems.

The technical evaluation has highlighted several high-priority areas that require continuous attention to maintain road network integrity. Critical maintenance activities currently at risk include essential pothole repairs, drainage system maintenance, and vegetation management along roadsides. The situation becomes particularly critical given Ghana's approaching rainy season, a period historically characterized by increased

stress on road infrastructure due to heavy precipitation and elevated flooding risks. During this vulnerable period, any lapse in routine maintenance could accelerate road deterioration significantly, potentially leading to structural failures within weeks rather than the months or years that would typically be expected under normal maintenance conditions.

The analysis suggests that what might appear as minor damage today - such as small surface cracks or slight drainage blockages - could rapidly deteriorate into major structural failures requiring costly reconstruction rather than simple repairs. This exponential escalation of infrastructure damage could translate into repair costs many times higher than those associated with routine maintenance, potentially straining national

infrastructure budgets beyond sustainable levels. The situation is further complicated by the prospect of Ghana being left without qualified personnel to address emergency situations. Sources within the GHA technical division estimate that a two-week suspension of maintenance activities could create an unprecedented three-month backlog of repairs, with the potential for this timeline to extend significantly if weather conditions deteriorate or if overloaded vehicles cause accelerated damage during the enforcement vacuum.

The economic implications of the strike extend far beyond the immediate transport sector. With resident engineers joining the strike, dozens of ongoing construction projects across the country face immediate suspension. This technical supervi-

sion vacuum threatens to delay critical infrastructure development projects worth hundreds of millions of cedis, potentially inflating construction costs and delaying crucial economic development initiatives.

The Ghana Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses across the country, has conducted an impact assessment that paints a grim picture of the potential economic fallout. Their analysis suggests that prolonged infrastructure deterioration could force many businesses to seek alternative, often more expensive, transportation routes, leading to increased operational costs that would inevitably be passed on to consumers. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of Ghana's economy, would be particularly vulnerable to these disruptions.

This deadlock has heightened concerns about the likelihood of averting the impending strike as the November 7 deadline approaches. The inconclusive outcome of this crucial meeting has intensified anxieties across various sectors, as stakeholders recognize that time is running out to prevent what could become one of the most disruptive industrial actions in Ghana's road sector history. The failure to reach an agreement at this ministerial-level intervention suggests that resolving the dispute may require significant compromises from both parties or possibly intervention at an even higher governmental level.

As tensions escalate and the deadline approaches, the nation watches anxiously, hoping for a resolution that can preserve both worker rights and infrastructure integrity. With Ghana's economic growth and development hanging in the balance, the coming days will prove crucial in determining whether this unprecedented crisis can be averted before it inflicts lasting damage on the nation's critical infrastructure network. The resolution of this standoff could set a precedent for future public sector reforms and infrastructure management across West Africa, making its outcome all the more significant for regional development.

As the November 7 deadline looms, the standoff between GHA workers and government authorities has reached a critical phase. A former President of the Ghana Institute of Engineers, who asked for anonymity, has conducted a comprehensive analysis warning that the combined impact of suspended maintenance and unrestricted axle loads could set Ghana's infrastructure development back by several years.

The Minister for Roads and Highways, Asenso Boakye in a recent high-stakes meeting with GHA workers and management, attempted to broker a resolution to the looming crisis. However, the talks reached an impasse, highlighting the deep divide between the workers' fundamental demands and the government's unwavering stance on its road sector reform agenda. The meeting, which lasted several hours, ended inconclusively despite intensive discussions aimed at finding middle ground.

Sources familiar with the negotiations reveal that while both parties expressed willingness to dialogue, the core issues remain unresolved. The workers maintained their position regarding the withdrawal of the NRA Act 2024 (Act 1118) and leadership changes, while the government stood firm on implementing the sector's reform policies.

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ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 9 Nov	SUNDAY 10 Nov	MONDAY 11 Nov	TUESDAY 12 Nov	WEDNESDAY 13 Nov	THURSDAY 14 Nov	FRIDAY 15 Nov	SATURDAY 16 Nov	SUNDAY 17 Nov	MONDAY 18 Nov	TUESDAY 19 Nov	WEDNESDAY 20 Nov	THURSDAY 21 Nov	FRIDAY 22 Nov	SATURDAY 23 Nov	SUNDAY 24 Nov
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Tourism sector recovery increases Zanzibar's current account surplus

By Guardian Reporter

The Zanzibar current account surplus grew to US\$451.9 million during the year ending July 2024 from a surplus of USD 370.6 million in the corresponding period in 2023.

The Bank of Tanzania (BOT) reports that the improved performance of the isles current account was largely associated with an increase in service receipts, particularly tourism, accompanied by a decrease in imports.

Exports of goods and services reached US\$1,001.7 million during the year ending July 2024, up from US\$992.4 million in the corresponding period of 2023.

The increase was driven primarily by higher service receipts, notably from tourism, which rose by 1.7 percent to US\$941.7 million due to growth in tourist arrivals.

According to the Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar's tourism sector in 2024 is experiencing robust growth, contributing significantly to the local economy.

By mid-2024, tourism revenues had increased by 12 percent, generating over \$1 billion in income and improving the island's current account surplus.

This growth is driven by a rise in tourist arrivals, which has positively impacted Zanzibar's service sector and bolstered exports of goods and services.

Additionally, the Zanzibar government has introduced various fiscal measures to further capitalize on this boom, including infrastructure levies on luxury tourists and taxes on marine transport.

In July 2024, data show Zanzibar received 68,223 tourists, marking a 16.2 percent increase compared to July 2023, when 58,711 visitors were recorded. Italy topped the list of countries with the most visitors, followed by France.

The tourism industry continues to play a crucial role in diversifying Zanzibar's economy, offsetting declines in traditional exports



In July 2024, Zanzibar received 68,223 tourists, marking a 16.2 percent increase compared to July 2023. File Photo

like cloves.

The Bot report shows that value of clove exports decreased by 32.6 percent to US\$28.8 million compared to the previous year, reflecting the cyclical nature of the crop.

The considerable growth of exports was recorded on other exports, which include souvenirs and spices, after expending by 41.8 percent to US\$9.1 million at the end of July this year from US\$6.4 million during the end of July last year.

On a month-to-month basis, exports of goods and services grew to US\$91.0

million from US\$86.5 million in the corresponding month in July 2023, with the growth attributed to higher tourism earnings.

Imports of goods and services declined by 10.7 percent, reaching US\$565.8 million in the year ending July 2024, compared to the corresponding period in 2023.

The decrease was observed in capital, intermediate, and consumer goods categories.

Imports of capital goods fell to US\$49.1 million from USD 67.7 million, largely

due to the completion of major infrastructural projects.

Imports of intermediate goods decreased by 9.6 percent to US\$366.2 million, largely on account of reduced imports of industrial supplies, fuel and lubricants, and food and beverages for industrial use.

Consumer goods imports also declined by 6 percent to US\$57.7 million, mainly due to lower imports of food and beverages for household consumption and non-industrial transport equipment.

Kenya begins fresh national debt auditing

NAIROBI

Kenya's auditor general has started to examine the country's debt to ascertain the amounts owed to various creditors, finance minister John Mbadi (pictured) said.

The East African nation's debt stands at 10.5tn shillings (\$81.7bn) but an audit of the borrowings was one of the key demands of anti-tax hike protesters that forced the government to abandon a number of planned tax increases in June.

In terms of debt-to-GDP ratio, Kenya's debt stands at roughly 65.4 percent of GDP, contributing to pressure on the government to stabilize public finances.

The audit has already started, Mbadi said, but did not provide further details regarding the focus of the investigation or when a report is expected to be ready.

The auditor general is a constitutionally mandated independent office that is funded by the state.

During the height of the protests, President William Ruto appointed a committee to perform the audit. However, several appointees, including the head of the Law Society of Kenya, declined the appointments, saying the task should be carried out by the auditor general.

During his parliamentary vetting for the post, Mbadi had promised to ensure there is more "debt accountability" to help the public better understand the issue.

More than 50 people were killed in the protests, which forced President Ruto to abandon the government's financing law.

It also led to a series of credit downgrades by the three main global ratings agencies.

A team from the International Monetary Fund is in the country on a fact-finding mission ahead of its board meeting to approve the latest review of Kenya's programme and approve a disbursement of \$600m.

Kenya has earlier set a three-year road map towards fully shifting its government financial transactions to a buildup basis of accounting, in a new financial reporting plan that promises to reduce the cost

Tour operators concerned with inbound travel insurance

Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) recently engaged the Zanzibar Finance Minister, Dr Saada Mkuya, over mandatory inbound travel insurance proposed by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. In an interview with The Guardian Correspondent, the TATO chairman, WILBARD CHAMBULO, explains the dilemma facing tour operators over the proposed scheme.

On Friday last week, TATO organised a consultative meeting with Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning). What was the purpose of the meeting?

The Zanzibar government recently announced a new compulsory insurance policy for all visitors to the island. This policy costs \$44 for duration of 92 days, but it is only valid for the period of the visitor's stay.

The insurance was developed in partnership between Zanzibar Insurance Company (ZIC) and AXA, the leading French insurer.

What issues does this decision

raise?

This decision raises several concerns. The insurance policy was introduced on a very short notice, providing no time for adequate discussion, consultation, or adjustment. This lack of preparation means tourists who planned their trips well in advance were not given reasonable notice.

Furthermore, many tourists are already covered by their own insurance policies, raising the issue of whether they will be reimbursed twice if a claim arises. The practice of refunding multiple policies for the same claim is generally not permitted, creating a moral dilemma and possible legal conflict.

Has the Zanzibar government understood these issues?

Answer: It appears that the Zanzibar government may not fully grasp these concerns. They might have introduced this insurance with the intention of enhancing tourist safety without considering the existing coverage many tourists already have.

I will therefore say that the proposed insurance is irrational because it is rate for tourists to travel without insurance.

The government's role should be to ensure that all visitors have insurance, not to dictate the price or the provider.

In your opinion, is AXA responsible for this situation?

Answer: Yes, AXA bears some responsibility. They proposed the insurance policy and have approached other countries, including Tanzania and Zambia, with similar offers. AXA is also aware of the high insurance coverage rates for tourists in Zanzibar and, therefore, has a moral obligation to avoid redundant policies.

Additionally, AXA Morocco has not implemented a similar system in Morocco despite the country's high tourist volume, raising questions about the necessity of the policy.

What advice would you give to Zanzibar's Minister of Finance?

I would advise the minister to consider the perspective of thousands of operators who promote Zanzibar. The new insurance is perceived as an unfair tax and negatively impacts on the image of Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland as well. We recommend that a month-



TATO chairman Wilbard Chambulo (standing) airs stakeholders concerns at the consultative meeting with Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (L), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

long thorough study be carried out to assess the percentage of tourists already insured.

If the rate stands at over 90 per

cent, this policy could be seen as a forced selling, which undermines ethics of the insurance industry?

If the insurance is essentially a tax, it should be renamed appropriately—

such as an eco-tax or educational tax—and provide a reasonable notice period for tourists.

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete

AS part of its efforts to boost healthcare service delivery, NMB Bank donated medical equipment including beds and bed sheets to the Iviliking Village Dispensary in Makete District, Njombe Region worth 9m/-.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held at the weekend, bank's Acting Manager for the Southern Highlands Zone, Willy Mponzi, reiterated the lender's commitment to supporting the development of the health sector adding that the bank through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) strategy allocates one percent of its Profit After Tax each year to support various development initiatives in its key priority areas.

"This donation in Makete today aligns with our CSI strategy. As a bank, we are committed to supporting the development of the health sector as we believe

Healthcare services in Makete get new thrust



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Ambassador Dr Pindi Chana (2nd R) receives donation of medical equipment from NMB Bank's Acting Manager for the Southern Highlands Zone, Willy Mponzi (3rd L) over the weekend in Iviliking Village in Makete District, Njombe Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. We believe these medical supplies will go a long way in enhancing service delivery here," he stressed.

He added that the bank had initially contributed roofing materials worth 8m/- during the construction phase of the dispensary.

He noted that the bank has for several years been actively involved in supporting the education sector as well by providing desks and roofing materials as part of its commit-

ment to support the sector's development.

"The bank through its 'closer to you' philosophy is committed to supporting various development initiatives in all areas where the bank operates," Mponzi added.

Award Mpanzila, Makete Development Association (MDA) secretary during the event expressed gratitude for NMB's support urging the bank to continue supporting development initiatives in the area. Minister of Natural Re-

sources and Tourism, Ambassador Dr. Pindi Chana during the event echoed the same sentiments commending the bank for supporting the government's development initiatives stressing that such efforts should be sustained.

Chief Physician of Iviliking Village Dispensary, Hassan Yusuph, noted that the bank's roofing material donation for the dispensary had come timely.

Makete District Commissioner Juma Sweda appealed to the bank to

Xi calls for stable, healthy Sino-US ties

BEIJING

As President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to Donald Trump on Thursday on his election as United States president, observers said that Beijing is urging Washington to tackle China-US ties with a cool head and offer the rest of the world a sense of predictability.

In the message, Xi pointed out that history has shown how cooperation between China and the US can bring benefits to both sides, while rivalry can bring harm.

"A China-US relationship with stable, healthy and sustainable development is in line with the common interests of the two countries and the expectations of the international community," Xi said.

It is hoped that the two sides will uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, strengthen dialogue and communication,

properly manage differences and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, he said.

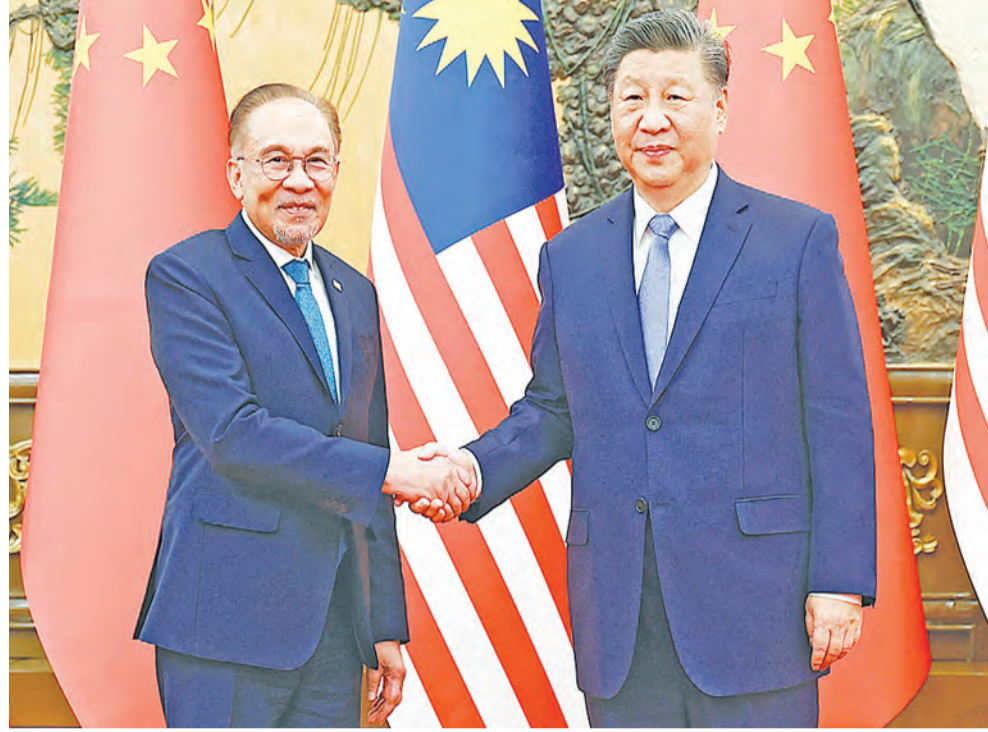
Xi added that the two sides should find the right way for China and the US to get along in the new era, for the benefit of both countries as well as the world.

Also on Thursday, Vice-President Han Zheng sent a message to J.D. Vance, congratulating him on his election as US vice-president.

Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department for American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, noted that Xi's congratulatory message reflects the importance Beijing attaches to the development of China-US ties.

Through the message, "China once again underscored the significance of keeping China-US ties stable, and it pointed to the fact that the international community is looking forward to seeing the stability of the relationship", she said.

"In the recent past, both



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on Thursday.

sides have demonstrated their readiness to keeping the relationship away from turbulence, and have achieved

some results. They should carry on this momentum and move toward the same goal," she added.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations. And the two nations

have conducted fruitful cooperation in areas including people-to-people exchanges, counternarcotics and tackling climate change.

China is now the third-largest export market for American commodities, and the US is China's third-largest trading partner, according to the Chinese embassy in the US.

Observers also raised concerns that some hawkish politicians in the US may press ahead with efforts to seek economic "decoupling" with China and increase their confrontational stance on security-related issues, such as increasing tension in the Taiwan Strait.

At a regular news conference of the Foreign Ministry on Thursday in Beijing, reporters raised questions about topics such as China-US trade tensions, the Taiwan question and the future of China-US ties.

"I would like to reiterate that there will be no winners in a trade war and it is not

beneficial to the world," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning.

She noted that the Taiwan question is the "most important and most sensitive" issue in China-US relations.

"It is China's consistent and clear position that it firmly opposes any form of official contacts between the US and Taiwan," she said.

"The US government needs to earnestly abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, and prudently handle Taiwan-related issues, so as to avoid severe damage to China-US relations and cross-strait peace and stability," she added.

When asked what would it take to prevent the ties from veering into a disastrous scenario such as a potential hot war, Jeffrey Sachs, a professor of economics and director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, pointed to China's core security interests.

"The US has to recognize China's core security interests, including Taiwan as part of China, and the security of China's sea lanes in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean," he said.

"If the US would recognize and respect China's core security interests, relations would improve markedly," he added.



Company capacity with four dry-leased Boeing 737-800s to meet yuletide surge

LAGOS

Air Peace, Nigeria's largest carrier, has announced an agreement to dry-lease four Boeing 737-800 aircraft from Slovak carrier AirExplore for the yuletide 2024/2025 season.

This move is part of Air Peace's effort to enhance its domestic operations out of its main hub in Lagos, aiming to cater to the increased demand expected during the bustling yuletide period.

According to the agreement, the dry-leasing arrangement will see AirExplore, a subsidiary of Avia Solutions Group (ASG), supply pilots for the aircraft, while Air Peace will provide cabin crew who are currently on training program for the task.

Ejike Ndiulo, Head, Corporate Communications, Air Peace Limited, explained that the unique setup would allow Air Peace to maintain its high standards of customer service while leveraging AirExplore's operational expertise.

"Passengers can expect efficient and familiar service onboard, in line with Air Peace's established reputation," he added.

Ndiulo disclosed that Air Peace's existing fleet is robust, comprising seven Boeing 737-300s, four Boeing 737-500s, a Boeing 777-200ER, two Boeing 777-300s, eight Embraer E145s,

five Embraer E195-E2s, and an executive Dornier 328-300. He explained that the airline also has ambitious expansion plans, with pending orders for five Embraer E175s, eight more Embraer E195-E2s, and 10 Boeing 737-8s.

This is in addition to the two Boeing 737-700s from Mongolia's Eznis Airways on wet-lease, thus highlighting Air Peace's commitment to adaptability and growth.

This latest collaboration with AirExplore is not the first between Air Peace and ASG's ACMI/charter specialists.

From 2021 to 2023, Air Peace successfully dry-leased two Airbus A320-200s from SmartLynx Airlines Malta, another member of ASG, demonstrating a history of flexibility in meeting seasonal travel demands.

These partnerships have proven essential for Air Peace to sustain seamless operations, especially during peak travel times.

However, the Airline is silent on how the new Boeing 737-800s will integrate into the fleet—whether to supplement or eventually replace the two wet-leased Boeing 737-700.

However, analysts note that Air Peace's calculated approach to fleet management reinforces its market position as a leading airline in Nigeria.

AirExplore itself has recently expanded its influence in the

ACMI leasing market following its acquisition by Avia Solutions Group earlier this year.

The airline operates a diverse fleet of Boeing 737-800 variants, including passenger aircraft and converted freighters, which makes it a strategic partner for Air Peace's growing domestic and regional footprint.

As yuletide approaches, Air Peace's ramped-up operations and fleet expansion reflect its ongoing mission to provide safe, efficient, and high-quality air travel across Nigeria.

The addition of four Boeing 737-800 aircraft through a dry-lease agreement is a move that sets Air Peace up for operational success. By efficiently managing its fleet, enhancing passenger experience, and preparing for peak demand, Air Peace demonstrates its commitment to remaining Nigeria's leading carrier. As the airline continues to grow and expand its reach, these aircraft will undoubtedly contribute to smoother operations and an elevated travel experience for passengers across the country.

According to experts, the strategic decision by Air Peace to dry-lease four Boeing 737-800 aircraft from AirExplore reflects a calculated approach to optimizing operational capacity while enhancing passenger experience.

Aon Wednesday, Air Peace,

West Africa's largest carrier, announced the integration of the Opay Payment Service into its Internet Booking Engine (IBE) platform.

This new partnership, featuring diverse payment options such as Bank Card, Opay Wallet, Bank Transfer, and Bank USSD, reinforces Air Peace's commitment to delivering an enhanced, secure, and seamless payment experience for its customers.

Commenting on the launch, Ejike Ndiulo, Head of Corporate Communications at Air Peace, said, "At Air Peace, we are continually evolving to meet our customers' needs. Integrating the Opay Payment Service into our booking platform aligns with our dedication to providing unparalleled convenience, giving our passengers flexible and secure payment choices in a single interface."

Ndiulo added, "Our mission has always been to make the travel experience as smooth as possible, and this initiative marks another significant milestone in achieving that goal."

This collaboration with Opay is part of Air Peace's broader efforts to optimize the booking and travel experience.

On October 2022, Air Peace launched its partnership with Kalabash to offer Pay-Small, a payment option that allows customers to plan and pay for their flights in stages.

Shanghai highlights investment potential

SHANGHAI

As the 7th China International Import Expo caught the spotlight in Shanghai, the city hosted the Shanghai City Investment Promotion Conference on Wednesday, showcasing its open policies and development opportunities to attract more businesses and talent.

"The 7th CIIIE has made a call for upholding an open consensus and expressed firm confidence in promoting high-quality economic development in China," said Chen Jining, Party secretary of Shanghai. "Shanghai will intensify efforts to deepen reform and opening-up to unleash new vitality for high-quality growth."

Shanghai's economy has maintained strong resilience and vitality, holding significance for long-term strategic investments by, and the development of, multinational companies, Chen said.

He highlighted China's long-term growth advantages, robust industrial and supply chains, cost-effective innovation capabilities and policy stability – coupled with Shanghai's deepening economic transformation.

Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng described the city as an innovative, open and aspiring metropolis ideal for global investment, innovation and entrepreneurship, thanks to its location advantages, industrial mix, resources, government services and ecological environment.

Through further market opening and competitive policies focused on key areas and projects, Shanghai aims to facilitate investment, he added.

At the event, Shanghai signed 23 foreign investment projects spanning biomedicine, high-end equipment, advanced materials, fashion and green low-carbon development.

Executives from multinational companies participating in the event praised Shanghai's business environment and the value of CIIIE as a platform.

Deng Jian, vice-president of commercial operations at medical devices giant Medtronic, said Shanghai is crucial for the company, as its headquarters here has been driving development across the country since it entered China 35 years ago.

Medtronic remains upbeat

about the Chinese healthcare market and innovation sources, and has increased investments, including in a new cardiovascular devices production line in the Ling-gang special area in Pudong.

Guan Huili, president of Cargill China, said the agriculture and food giant has, by participating in the CIIIE for seven straight years, helped build local ties and insights to tailor more products for China.

From just over 10 products initially to over 120 innovations this year, including global premieres, the company has localized some CIIIE launches, meeting demand for quality, health and sustainability.

With the firm's China headquarters in Shanghai, Guan said the city's open, inclusive and innovative identity aligns with Cargill's philosophy, representing an important market and platform for better customer service and more innovation.

The 2024 Shanghai City Investment Promotion Conference was held jointly by the Ministry of Commerce and Shanghai Municipal People's Government.



India, UK pledge support for Ghana's clean energy transition

ACCRA

India and the United Kingdom have pledged their support for Ghana's transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy as part of global climate commitments.

The two countries said UK and Indian companies were open to partner with Ghanaian innovators in the energy sector to rollout products and services to promote sustainable and efficient energy solutions.

Shri Manish Gupta, the Indian High Commissioner to Ghana, and Harriet Thompson, the UK High Commissioner to Ghana, made the

commitment at the opening of the 3rd Power and Energy Ghana Expo and Exhibition in Accra on Wednesday.

The three-day event will assemble 100 exhibitors and about 1000 professionals worldwide to display their innovations in the energy sector and discuss measures to scale-up renewable energy and address demand and supply issues in the sector.

The expo is being organised by BIG4SURE events with Wegvoras Exhibitions, under the auspices of Ministry of Energy with the support of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

As the world races to transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy, Ghana has developed a National Energy Transition Framework (2022-2070) to decarbonise the energy sector.

The country has set out an ambitious target of 2070 to fully transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Ghana's Ministry of Energy estimates that the implementation of the plan would cost the country about US\$561.8 billion in the next five decades.

Gupta said power and energy were stepping to the development

of nations and that efficient and sustainable energy systems were crucial for Ghana's economic development.

He said India had enormous expertise energy solutions and was willing to share ideas with Ghana and build partnerships towards achieving reliable, efficient, and affordable energy.

"Energy is one sector that is going to play a fast forward and important role in Ghana and build the economy," Gupta said.

Thompson said the UK was committed to achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050, adding that the country had built expertise in renewable energy solutions particu-

larly in battery storage solutions.

She said Ghana had an important role to play in global energy transition following the discovery of lithium – an important raw material for the production of electric car batteries and other products.

"I look forward to further partnerships in clean energy transitions, driving trade, growth and supporting a cleaner planet for future generations," Thompson said.

Wilhemina Asamoah, Chief Director, Ministry of Energy, said Ghana was on course to achieving sustainable and modern energy access by 2030.

She said about 85 per cent of the citizenry had access to electricity, adding that the Ministry was exploring solar energy solutions to increase electricity access in remote communities.

"The Ministry of Energy has launched policies to increase renewable energy share to at least 10 per cent of our total energy mix by 2030," Mrs Asamoah said.

Dr Joseph Obeng, President, Ghana Union of Traders Association, appealed to stakeholders in the sector to patronise the exhibition and called for deepened sensitisation of the public on energy efficiency.

Looming Ghana Highway Authority strike threatens nationwide chaos

ACCRA

There is an imminent nationwide strike by the Ghana Highway Authority (GHA) workers that threatens to paralyze the country's road transport sector and create a dangerous vacuum in axle load enforcement across Ghana's major highways, potentially triggering a crisis that could reverberate through every sector of the nation's economy.

An internal communication, obtained from reliable sources within the GHA, details plans for an indefinite industrial action set to commence on November 12, 2024, if the government fails to meet workers' demands by November 7. The strike would affect critical operations including axle load stations, potentially creating a free-for-all situation for overloaded vehicles on Ghana's roads, with implications that could extend far beyond immediate transportation concerns.

The impending crisis stems from fierce opposition to the implementation of the National Roads Authority (NRA) Act 2024 (Act 1118), which seeks to merge the GHA with the Department of Urban Roads (DUR) and Department of Feeder Roads (DFR).

The workers have issued a two-pronged ultimatum that strikes at the heart of the controversy: the removal of Engineer I. K. Mensah and his retired Chief Executive, Engineer Collins B. Donkor within seven working days, and the complete revocation of the NRA Act within 14 working days. This demand reflects deep-seated concerns about institutional autonomy and governance within Ghana's road sector.

Transport industry experts, drawing on decades of infrastructure management experience, warn that the absence of axle load enforcement could lead to widespread abuse by transporters, potentially causing accelerated deterioration of road infrastructure. "The suspension of axle load monitoring would be catastrophic," says Dr. Samuel Mensah, a transport policy analyst with over 20 years of experience in infrastructure development. "Overloaded trucks can cause more damage to our roads in a few weeks than years of normal usage. We're looking at potential damage that could take years and billions of cedis to repair."

The comprehensive nature of the planned strike action, as outlined in the circular signed by the National Chairman of the GHA Senior Staff Association, Oswald Kwame Okafa Amanfu and National Chairman of the GHA Workers Union, Noble Yasroku, (CBMWU-TUC), reveals the full scale of the impending disruption. The action would affect operations at the head office, regional offices, road and bridge maintenance units, tollway stations, and resident engineers' offices nationwide, effectively bringing Ghana's road maintenance and monitoring infrastructure to a complete standstill.

Industry insiders note that the axle load stations, which serve as crucial checkpoints for preventing overloaded vehicles



A section of the Ghana Highway Authority's members.

from damaging Ghana's road infrastructure, represent just the tip of the iceberg. These stations, equipped with sophisticated weighing technology and staffed by trained personnel, play a vital role in preserving road integrity. Their closure would remove a critical safeguard against infrastructure abuse, potentially leading to widespread flouting of load restrictions across the country's major transport corridors.

The Ghana Haulage Transport Owners Association, representing over 4,000 transport operators nationwide, has raised significant concerns about the potential chaos that could ensue. "While we don't condone overloading, some transporters might see this as an opportunity to maximize profits at the expense of road safety and infrastructure," stated their spokesperson, adding that the absence of enforcement could create unfair competition and pressure even law-abiding operators to overload their vehicles to remain competitive.

The strike threat has gained considerable momentum following earlier protests at the GHA yard, where workers displayed powerful messages such as "Mr. President, Ghana Highway Authority cannot be reduced to a division" and "Stop this evil against GHA." The workers' argument that GHA, as the pioneering institution that established both DUR and DFR, should maintain its autonomy rather than being subordinated under the new authority, reflects deep historical and institutional tensions within Ghana's road sector administration.

A comprehensive technical analysis conducted by infrastructure experts reveals a disturbing pattern of potential cascading failures that could emerge from even a short disruption in routine road maintenance. The assessment indicates that the carefully calibrated maintenance schedules currently in place serve as a critical defense against infrastructure deterioration. When these schedules are disrupted, the consequences extend far beyond simple maintenance delays - they can trigger a multiplier effect where minor issues rapidly evolve into major structural problems.

The technical evaluation has highlighted several high-priority areas that require continuous attention to maintain road network integrity. Critical maintenance activities currently at risk include essential pothole repairs, drainage system maintenance, and vegetation management along roadsides. The situation becomes particularly critical given Ghana's approaching rainy season, a period historically characterized by increased

stress on road infrastructure due to heavy precipitation and elevated flooding risks. During this vulnerable period, any lapse in routine maintenance could accelerate road deterioration significantly, potentially leading to structural failures within weeks rather than the months or years that would typically be expected under normal maintenance conditions.

The analysis suggests that what might appear as minor damage today - such as small surface cracks or slight drainage blockages - could rapidly deteriorate into major structural failures requiring costly reconstruction rather than simple repairs. This exponential escalation of infrastructure damage could translate into repair costs many times higher than those associated with routine maintenance, potentially straining national

infrastructure budgets beyond sustainable levels.

The situation is further complicated by the prospect of Ghana being left without qualified personnel to address emergency situations. Sources within the GHA technical division estimate that a two-week suspension of maintenance activities could create an unprecedented three-month backlog of repairs, with the potential for this timeline to extend significantly if weather conditions deteriorate or if overloaded vehicles cause accelerated damage during the enforcement vacuum.

The economic implications of the strike extend far beyond the immediate transport sector. With resident engineers joining the strike, dozens of ongoing construction projects across the country face immediate suspension. This technical supervi-

sion vacuum threatens to delay critical infrastructure development projects worth hundreds of millions of cedis, potentially inflating construction costs and delaying crucial economic development initiatives.

The Ghana Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses across the country, has conducted an impact assessment that paints a grim picture of the potential economic fallout. Their analysis suggests that prolonged infrastructure deterioration could force many businesses to seek alternative, often more expensive, transportation routes, leading to increased operational costs that would inevitably be passed on to consumers. Small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of Ghana's economy, would be particularly vulnerable to these disruptions.

As the November 7 deadline looms, the standoff between GHA workers and government authorities has reached a critical phase. A former President of the Ghana Institute of Engineers, who asked for anonymity, has conducted a comprehensive analysis warning that the combined impact of suspended maintenance and unrestricted axle loads could set Ghana's infrastructure development back by several years.

The Minister for Roads and Highways, Asenso Boakye in a recent high-stakes meeting with GHA workers and management, attempted to broker a resolution to the looming crisis. However, the talks reached an impasse, highlighting the deep divide between the workers' fundamental demands and the government's unwavering stance on its road sector reform agenda. The meeting, which lasted several hours, ended inconclusively despite intensive discussions aimed at finding middle ground.

Sources familiar with the negotiations reveal that while both parties expressed willingness to dialogue, the core issues remain unresolved. The workers maintained their position regarding the withdrawal of the NRA Act 2024 (Act 1118) and leadership changes, while the government stood firm on implementing the sector's reform policies.

This deadlock has heightened concerns about the likelihood of averting the impending strike as the November 7 deadline approaches.

The inconclusive outcome of this crucial meeting has intensified anxieties across various sectors, as stakeholders recognize that time is running out to prevent what could become one of the most disruptive industrial actions in Ghana's road sector history. The failure to reach an agreement at this ministerial-level intervention suggests that resolving the dispute may require significant compromises from both parties or possibly intervention at an even higher governmental level.

As tensions escalate and the deadline approaches, the nation watches anxiously, hoping for a resolution that can preserve both worker rights and infrastructure integrity. With Ghana's economic growth and development hanging in the balance, the coming days will prove crucial in determining whether this unprecedented crisis can be averted before it inflicts lasting damage on the nation's critical infrastructure network. The resolution of this standoff could set a precedent for future public sector reforms and infrastructure management across West Africa, making its outcome all the more significant for regional development.



SATURDAY 9 Nov		SUNDAY 10 Nov		MONDAY 11 Nov	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	Kumekucha	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI	7:00	HABARI
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu	9:00	Watoto wetu
10:05	Shika Bamba 5	10:05	Shika Bamba	10:05	Shika Bamba
10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15	Chetu ni chetu	11:15	Chetu ni chetu
11:50	Hawavumi lakini wamo	11:50	Hawavumi lakini	11:50	Hawavumi lakini
12:50	Art and Lifestyle	12:50	Art and Lifestyle	12:50	Art and Lifestyle
13:20	Shamba lulu	13:20	Shamba lulu	13:20	Shamba lulu
13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love	13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative	15:45	Doc rpt: Beyond Narrative
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:00	Hapa na Pale	18:00	Hapa na Pale
18:10	ITV Top 10 rpt	18:10	ITV Top 10	18:10	ITV Top 10
19:00	Jungu kuu	19:00	Jungu kuu	19:00	Jungu kuu
19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI
21:05	Kipindi maalum: Tatu Mzuka	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:05	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:15	Igizo: Haikufuma	21:15	Igizo: Haikufuma	21:15	Igizo: Haikufuma
21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo
21:55	Supa Min Jackpot	21:55	Supa Min Jackpot	21:55	Supa Min Jackpot
22:15	ITV Top 10	22:15	ITV Top 10	22:15	ITV Top 10
23:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:00	Hawavumi lakini	23:00	Hawavumi lakini
23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt	23:40	Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	Al Jazeera

WORLD

President-elect Trump taps Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff

WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday tapped Susie Wiles, his campaign manager, to be White House chief of staff.

"Susie Wiles just helped me achieve one of the greatest political victories in American history, and was an integral part of both my 2016 and 2020 successful campaigns," Trump said in a statement.

Wiles, an experienced Republican strategist, is widely acknowledged for overseeing Trump's most organized and effectively run campaign. Trump thanked Wiles personally in his victory speech at his election headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida.

"Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected. Susie will continue to work tirelessly to Make America Great Again," Trump said.

"It is a well deserved honor to have Susie as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in United States history. I have no doubt that she will make our country proud," he continued.

The tentative appointment came less than two days after Trump beat

his Democratic opponent and Vice-President Kamala Harris, winning by landslide on issues including inflation, immigration and Middle East conflicts.

At the same time, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has appointed Stephen Mull, a former diplomat who has served in both Democratic and Republican administrations, to oversee the transition from President Joe Biden's administration to that of Trump within the State Department, the department announced Thursday.

"Ambassador Mull will work with the president-elect's team to ensure as successful a transition as possible," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told a regular news briefing.

Mull's most recent position at the State Department was the Acting Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, which he served for a short period of nearly three months between early June and late August 2018 during Trump's first presidential term. Prior, Mull was the US ambassador to Poland from 2012 to 2015 during the second administration of Barack Obama.

"The peaceful transfer of power is an essential element of our democracy that is vital to our nation's security," Miller



Former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump greets his campaign manager Susie Wiles (L) during an election night event at the West Palm Beach Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Nov 6, 2024. AFP

said. "That's why it's so important for us to conduct a smooth, efficient and professional transition process."

Mull already started his work on behalf of the State Department, which involved "attending meetings, getting ready to coordinate the process," Miller said, adding that the department has yet to receive contact made by the Trump transition team due to the fact that there's a process that the team will have to go through.

According to a Wednesday report by CNN, Brian Hook, former US special representative for Iran during the first Trump administration, was tapped as Mull's counterpart on the

Trump transition team.

Coincidentally, Hook's job in the former Trump administration was preceded exactly by Mull, under whose charge the post was named Coordinator for Iran Nuclear Implementation. Mull served in that role from 2015 to 2017, describing it in a January interview with Xinhua as "one of the hardest jobs I had as an American diplomat".

After leaving the federal government, Mull joined the University of Virginia in 2018 and was named the university's Vice-Provost for Global Affairs.

Western failure, Kiev's terrorism: What Shoigu told top security officials at CIS meeting

MOSCOW

THE West tried to turn Ukraine into a tool for the strategic defeat of Russia through color revolutions, but the plan ultimately failed, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu said at a meeting with his counterparts from CIS countries in Moscow.

He pointed out that Kiev's aggression in the Kursk Region was aimed at seizing the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant (NPP), which he described as nothing short of an act of nuclear terrorism.

TASS has compiled Shoigu's key statements.

On the West's failed plan

The collective West sought to turn Ukraine "into an instrument for inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia" through color revolutions, but the plan ultimately failed.

Kiev's nuclear terrorism

Kiev's aggression in the Kursk Region was aimed at seizing the Kursk NPP.

In addition, regular attacks on the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant and related energy infrastructure continue. "What is this, if not an attempt to commit acts of nuclear terrorism?" Shoigu emphasized.

"The Kiev regime has now turned into an externally controlled, dangerous terrorist organization with its own industry and controlled territory, unlike international terrorist cells."

On multipolarity

The BRICS Summit in Kazan has effectively laid the foundations for a just multipolar world order, "which is based on indivisibility, security, and the sovereign right of states to choose their own path of development."

On the West losing leadership

The countries of the collective West are losing their economic, political, and moral leadership.

Now they are "effectively living in debt": "More and more states are abandoning the dollar and the euro as instruments for saving mutual settlements. It is clear that this situation does not suit the Western elites."

King Mohammed VI highlights unity, development of Sahara

RABAT

KING Mohammed VI delivered a speech on Wednesday evening on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the Green March, a key moment in Morocco's contemporary history.

Through this speech, the Sovereign reaffirmed the pride of the Moroccan people in this symbolic event that helped recover the Sahara and strengthen ties between this region and the nation. Since this event, Morocco has continued to defend its sovereignty over the Sahara, based on the principles of legality, justice and responsibility.

In his speech, the King highlighted three fundamental elements that underpin Morocco's position on the Sahara. First, the Saharawis' unwavering attachment to their Moroccaness, illustrated by centuries of loyalty to the monarchy and its sacred symbols.

Second, the growing development and stability of the Moroccan Sahara, which is experiencing significant dynamism, a constant improvement in security and a promising future for its inhabitants. Third, the growing international recognition of the Moroccaness of the Sahara, supported by the international community and the adherence to the autonomy proposal as a political solution to the conflict.

The King also condemned the defenders of obsolete ideas, such as that of organizing a referendum, an option abandoned by the United Nations due to its unfeasible nature. He denounced those who refuse to register the populations sequestered in the Tindouf camps, where they live in inhumane conditions, deprived of their fundamental rights.

He criticized the international actors who exploit the Sahara issue for geopolitical purposes, in particular those who seek to control access to the Atlantic Ocean. The King reaffirmed that Morocco supports an initiative aimed at facilitating the access of the Sahel countries to the Atlantic, within a framework of cooperation beneficial to the region.

The Sovereign reiterated that Morocco would never give up on its national unity, and that all the country's international commitments and partnerships would always be aligned with the preservation of its territorial integrity.

He stressed the need for continued mobilization of all citizens to defend the integrity of the country and praised the commitment of Moroccans abroad in defending national symbols and in the development of the kingdom.

Developing world faces multi-billion climate adaptation cash gap, UN report says

LONDON

THE amount of finance provided to developing countries to help them adapt to the impacts of climate change is far short of the \$359 billion a year needed even after the biggest annual increase yet, a UN report on Thursday showed.

Funding from the developed world hit \$28 billion in 2022 after a \$6 billion rise, the most in any one year since the UN Paris deal in 2015 to try and limit the impacts of global warming, the annual UN Environment Programme report said.

Countries are preparing to meet in Azerbaijan at COP29 from Nov 11-22 for the next round of climate talks in a year marked by extreme weather aggravated by climate change, including floods in Bangladesh and drought in Brazil.

How much money richer countries agree to send to developing countries to help them cope is expected to be central to the talks in Baku.

"Climate change is already devastating communities across the world, particularly the most poor and vulnerable. Raging storms are flattening homes, wildfires are wiping out forests, and land degradation and drought are degrading landscapes," UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen said in a statement.

"Without action, this is a preview of what our future holds and why there simply is no excuse for the world not to get serious about adaptation, now."

Adaptation finance covers activities including building flood defenses against rising sea levels, planting trees in urban areas to protect against extreme heat and ensuring infrastructure can withstand hurricanes.

In addition to the finance, countries need guidance on how to use it.

While 171 countries have a policy, strategy or plan in place, the quality var-



Yagua Indigenous woman Maria Soria (right) poses for a picture with her husband in the dry riverbed of the Amazon River due to low water level at Isla de los Micos, Amazonas department, Colombia, on October 2, 2024. Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) recently reported that the flow of the Amazon River has been reduced by up to 90% due to the alarming lack of rainfall affecting this triple border with Brazil and Peru, which is only accessible by water. AFP

ies, and a small number of fragile or conflict-affected states have none, the report said.

A separate UN report last month said

the world was on track to exceed its goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, opens new tab (2.7 Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average by

2050, and instead head for warming of 2.6-3.1C.

Agencies

Seven-time attenders at import expo evolving with China

SHANGHAI

AT the Consumer Goods Hall of the ongoing 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE), the LEGO Group is using over 300,000 building blocks to demonstrate its seven-year commitment to this important global cooperation platform. The structure stands 4.75 meters tall, with a thematic design featuring a giant rainbow made of LEGO bricks flowing from an out-sized LEGO mini-figure.

In 2018, when the first CIIE was held, the Danish company

displayed a vivid mosaic made by over 100,000 LEGO bricks featuring Jinbao, the mascot of the CIIE, and introduced science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) courses for Chinese schools. This year, the company is highlighting the potential of play for innovation and its commitment to sustainability.

"Since the first CIIE, we've introduced 29 novelties at the expo, among which 19 sets are inspired by Chinese culture and traditions," said Paul Huang, senior vice president of the LEGO Group and gen-

eral manager of LEGO China.

The LEGO Group is one of the 186 firms and institutions that have appeared at the CIIE seven years in a row, and many of them have signed up for next year's event.

The CIIE's full-time attenders have stood witness to and benefited from the evolution of the expo and the Chinese market at large, and have continued to make adjustments so as to take advantage of emerging trends and markets.

At the first CIIE, global industrial technology giant Schneider Electric signed cooper-

ation agreements primarily in the manufacturing and construction industries, but has since expanded to encompass various sectors, including oil and gas, infrastructure, commercial construction, life sciences, transportation, and water services and environmental protection.

As China develops new quality productive forces, innovative technologies are driving the transformation toward digitization and green low-carbon development, which have provided Schneider Electric with a broader

space for development, according to Yin Zheng, Schneider Electric executive vice president managing China and East Asia.

Zhang Xiqiang, executive vice president of Nestle S.A. and CEO of Nestle Zone Greater China, said the company has observed that the Chinese consumer market is gradually entering an era of scientific and rational consumption. "The demand in the Chinese food industry continues to evolve, shifting from simply eating well and eating enough to eating

healthily and seeking delight from the experience," he said.

The Swiss company has brought over 420 exhibits sourced from 14 countries and nine major business units, covering niche markets including baby nutrition, health science, confectionery and pet care.

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) has led a delegation of nearly 400 representatives from 44 Singaporean businesses, marking the SBF's seventh year at the CIIE.

SBF CEO Kok Ping Soon

said the federation is very encouraged to see that the companies are no longer limited to the food and beverage sector. "We are starting to see companies responding to China's call for more high-quality investment in fields like biotech," he said.

To mark its seventh consecutive participation, U.S. material-science giant Dow Inc. has brought the most robust lineup and planned for the most agreements signed at the event in its history at the CIIE.

Xinhua

UN Commission meeting urges closer Asia-Pacific transport cooperation

BANGKOK

TRANSPORT experts and policymakers from the Asia-Pacific region have called for more regional cooperation and formulating national and regional policies to promote more sustainable movement of people and goods.

The calls came at the eighth session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on Transport, which closed on Nov 7 in Bangkok, Thailand.

ESCAP delegates recognized that the region is witnessing transformative changes in the transport sector, including the adoption of electric vehicles, smart mobility, and digitalized freight systems.

With new highways, railways, maritime links, and advanced smart transport systems, the region is also becoming increasingly interconnected, fueling economic growth and enhancing efficiency in transporting goods and people.

However, as demand rises and urbanization accelerates, coordinated efforts are essential to mitigate emissions, improve road safety, and ensure access for all.

"Economic growth and development are driving up passenger and freight transport demands," said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, UN under-secretary-general and ESCAP executive secretary.

"Meanwhile, transport-related emissions are rising and road traffic deaths, while decreasing overall, still disproportionately affect certain social groups," she added.

Armida said much work remains as many Asia-Pacific countries, especially Small Island Developing



A Fuxing bullet train runs on China's section of the China-Laos Railway on Jan 27, 2023. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

States and landlocked developing countries, continue to face high transport costs and delays, exacerbating their vulnerabilities.

"We must renew our solidarity and commitment to improving their connectivity, ensuring that these nations can fully participate in regional and global markets," she noted.

During the session, the committee reviewed the progress of the Regional Action Program for Sustainable Transport Development (2022-26). To complement coordinated infrastructure development and leverage digitalization, the committee considered the latest developments in regional transport connectivity. These included

updates to the regional network of Asian highways, trans-Asian railways, and dry ports; a new annex to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network; the Strategy 2030 to promote rail digitalization; and the results of the Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity.

"One of the most pressing challenges facing our island nation is the critical need for environmentally sustainable transport system," said Abdul Latheef Mohamed, minister of state for transport and civil aviation of Maldives, who was elected as chair of the committee.

"The transition to sustainable transport isn't just an environmental imperative. It is an economic

opportunity," said Latheef, who was elected as committee chair.

The committee also considered the Regional Road Map for the Wider Deployment of Sustainable Smart Transport Systems, offering countries a common policy direction focused on connectivity, integration, inclusiveness, affordability, and resiliency.

It also deliberated regional guidelines for inclusive transport policy implementation, recognizing the intersectional nature of social inclusion and identifying policy shifts needed to address systemic barriers.

"We must never forget that road crashes are not an isolated event. They have an impact on all aspects of society, including health, economic, and sustainable development," said UN Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt.

ESCAP also launched its "Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific 2024: Transition Towards Sustainable Transport Solutions" report.

This highlighted growing transport demand and rapid motorization in the region, with a 64 percent increase in vehicle registrations relative to population over the past decade and road transport infrastructure expanding by more than 50 percent between 2004 and 2019.

The report also took stock of progress made in sustainable transport development and ongoing challenges, highlighting common solutions such as capacity-building, cross-sectoral collaboration, and proposed policy recommendations for governments in the Asia-Pacific region.

Qantas plane lands safely in Sydney after engine failure

SYDNEY

A Qantas Airways flight bound for Brisbane suffered an engine failure after take-off on Friday and circled for a short period of time before returning safely to Sydney Airport, the Australian airline said.

Passengers heard a loud bang from one of the aircraft's two engines, Australian media reported.

A journalist with national broadcaster ABC was on the flight and said there was a "sharp shudder" on the plane after the loud noise, his news outlet reported.

"It was apparent something had happened with one of the engines, then the plane seemed to labour to get off the ground or get any altitude," ABC journalist Mark Willacy said.

Qantas said its engineers had conducted a preliminary inspection of the engine and confirmed it was a contained engine failure, meaning the internal engine parts stayed within the protective housing designed to keep them safely enclosed.

Uncontained engine failures, where engine fragments fly out of this housing, can result in serious damage to the main body of an aircraft.

Qantas flight QF520 took off from Sydney at 12:35 pm, circled a few times and diverted to land at Sydney, tracking data from Flightradar24 showed.

The aircraft's departure coincided with a grass fire breaking out alongside Sydney Airport's parallel runway that was brought under control by teams from the aviation firefighting rescue service, the airport

said in a statement.

"It's not clear at this stage if the two incidents are linked and investigations are continuing," the airport added.

Qantas said the plane landed safely after appropriate procedures were conducted and added it would be investigating the cause of the engine issue.

The plane is a 19-year-old Boeing 737-800, according to Flightradar24. That model is powered by engines from CFM International, a joint venture between GE Aerospace and France's Safran.

Twin-engine passenger planes of this sort are designed to be able to fly on one engine in an emergency.

"We understand this would have been a distressing

experience for customers and we will be contacting all customers this afternoon to provide support," Qantas Chief Pilot Captain Richard Tobiano said in a statement.

By Friday afternoon Sydney Airport said all its runways had re-opened after the parallel runway had been closed for inspection, but passenger delays may continue into the evening.

On Friday morning, a technical outage crippled all of Australia's major airports, leading to long queues at international terminals after the disruption of automated kiosks for identity and facial recognition, authorities said. The issue was resolved by midday, according to the Australian Border Force.

Agencies

North Korean troops first clash in Ukraine war emerges

WHAT was described as a 'small engagement' in Kursk opens a 'new page in instability in the world', says Volodymyr Zelenskyy. What we know on day 987:

North Korean troops in Russia have come under Ukrainian fire, a Kyiv official said on Tuesday.

"The first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region," said Andrii Kovalenko, a member of Ukraine's security council. The Ukrainian Defence Minister, Rustem Umerov, also said, in an interview with South Korean television, that he understood the first 'small engagement' had occurred with the North Koreans.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's president, said the first battles between the Ukrainian military and North Korean troops "open a new page in instability in the world".

A Russian missile attack on Ukraine's south-eastern city of Zaporizhzhia on Tuesday killed six people, injured 23 and destroyed a critical infrastructure facility, Ukrainian officials said. Ivan Fedorov, the regional governor, said in a statement that a fire broke out as a result of the strike.

Foreign ministers from the G7 democracies and three key allies said on Tuesday they were gravely concerned by the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia and the possibility they may be used in the war against Ukraine.

"The DPRK's (North Korea) direct support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, besides showing Russia's desperate efforts to compensate its losses, would mark a dangerous expansion of the conflict," the ministers said.

Besides G7 members the US, Japan, Italy, Britain, Germany, France and Canada, the statement was also signed by South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The ministers said they condemned "in the strongest possible terms" increased military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including Russia's "unlawful procurement" of North Korean ballistic missiles. They said they were deeply concerned about the potential for transfer of nuclear or ballistic missile-related technology to North Korea, and would work with international partners "for a coordinated response to this new development".

An engineer at a factory that makes tanks for Russia's war in Ukraine was jailed for 16 years on Tuesday after being convicted of committing state treason by passing military secrets to Kyiv.

Weeks ago his wife received a similar sentence. The court in Sverdlovsk region said Danil Mukhametov, 32, who worked at the Uralvagonzavod tank factory, had partially admitted his guilt after being accused of passing unspecified

technical military information to Ukraine's intelligence services. Meanwhile a Russian court in the western Smolensk region jailed a man for 12 years for sabotage of the railways.

This is what we're up against: Bad actors spreading disinformation online to fuel intolerance, eams of lawyers from the rich and powerful trying to stop us publishing stories they don't want you to see, lobby groups with opaque funding who are determined to undermine facts about the climate emergency and other established science and authoritarian states with no regard for the freedom of the press.

But we have something powerful on our side. We've got you. This is why we're inviting you to access our brilliant, investigative journalism with exclusive digital extras to unlock unlimited articles in our app, ad-free reading on all your devices, exclusive newsletter for supporters and sent every week from the Guardian newsroom, far fewer asks for support.

It has been established that Europe not doing enough about foreign power taking part, says Ukrainian president; Sloviansk woman gets 15 years' jail for treasonous aid to Russians.

Ukraine believes 11,000 North Korean troops have reached the Kursk border region in Russia, Zelenskyy said on Monday. That was echoed by the US as Pentagon spokesman Maj Gen Pat Ryder said: "We think that the total number of DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] forces in Russia ... could be closer to around 11 to 12,000," with "at least 10,000 right now in the Kursk oblast."

Zelenskyy criticised the west for its muted response about the North Koreans. "We see an increase in North Koreans and no increase in the reaction of our partners, unfortunately," the Ukrainian president said in his evening address on Monday.

Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, said that like the Russian army, the North Koreans "pose a threat to Ukraine. They are present there and, of course, they will die."

Andriy Sybiga, Zelenskyy's foreign minister, said: "We call on Europe to realise that North Korean troops are now waging an aggressive war in Europe against a sovereign European state. This proves once again that while the west is afraid of and hesitates, Russia is acting and going for escalation."

Kim Jong-un's troops are either the boost that Russia needs or simple cannon fodder, depending on who you ask, writes Justin McCurry. However, none have ever seen real combat, they will be fighting on unfamiliar territory, and like their civilian compatriots, North Korean soldiers suffer from

malnutrition and disease.

Germany's foreign minister, Annalena Baerbock, visited Ukraine on Monday offering "rock-solid" support in what amounted to a symbolic display. Germany is Ukraine's second-largest backer after the US but its chancellor, Olaf Scholz, is refusing to provide long-range Taurus missiles and has rejected Ukraine's request to immediately be invited into Nato.

Baerbock's arrival was announced a few hours after 13 people, including four police officers, were wounded in another night of Russian attacks on Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv. Ukraine said it had downed 50 Iranian-designed Russian drones in nine regions, including over the capital, Kyiv, overnight into Monday. Zelenskyy later said Russia had been using around 10 times more drones compared with the same period last year.

A woman from the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk was given 15 years' jail on high treason charges for aiding invading Russian forces, Ukrainian prosecutors said on Monday. Between March and April this year she passed information about Ukrainian troop deployments to the Russian army, including where Ukrainian forces were stationed and the placement of checkpoints. Ukraine has opened thousands of cases of potential aiding and abetting Russia since the February 2022 invasion.

An incendiary device hidden in a DHL package that caught fire in Germany in July was due to be sent by air to the UK as part of a suspected Russian sabotage plot that may also have been a dry run for a similar attack on the US and Canada.

Dan Sabbagh writes that British police and officials, as well as their European counterparts in Germany, Poland and Lithuania, strongly suspect Russia is behind these other attacks as part of an effort to cause "mayhem" in the west in retaliation for western military support to Ukraine.

Reliable information on the performance of the North Korean economy usually has been lacking. Outside observers have concluded that the country has consistently failed to meet its stated goals and that production statistics released by the government often have been inflated.

Thus, although North Korea has made strong efforts to transform an essentially agrarian economy into one centred on modern industry in the post-Korean War years, it is generally believed that the country has been only partially successful. North Korea's economic goals have always been linked to the general government policy of self-reliance

(juche, or chuch'e). The country shunned foreign investment, although it accepted considerable economic aid from the Soviet Union and its satellite eastern European countries as well as from China. Despite its stated policy of self-reliance, North Korea routinely found it necessary to import such essential commodities as fuels and machinery as well as grain.

By the early 1990s, North Korea had begun to experience severe economic hardships. The Soviet Union had collapsed, and the communist regimes of its eastern European allies had fallen, depriving North Korea of most of its trading partners and much of its former aid.

China reduced but did not completely cut off its provision of materials to North Korea, but in 1992 it began to demand cash payments in place of grants-in-aid or credit accounts. In addition, in the mid-1990s the country suffered a series of natural disasters, including floods and drought. Serious grain and food shortages resulted, and starvation and malnutrition were widespread throughout the country. The situation improved somewhat by the end of the decade because of a massive infusion of international food assistance.

In July 2002 the government proclaimed a new policy intended to deal with the huge gap that had developed between the official economy and the so-called "real people's economy" (i.e., a black market), which was in the throes of runaway inflation. But the measures served only as a temporary stopgap; well into the first decade of the 21st century, the highest priority of the government remained the solution of what it called "the food problem."

In addition to North Korea's acceptance of foreign aid during the 1990s, its poor economic performance during the decade forced the government to begin opening up the economy to limited foreign investment and increased trade. By the end of that decade, North Korea was actively inviting foreign investment from European Union (EU) countries, South Korea, and others.

It was more receptive to discussions with EU and Commonwealth countries than it was to the United States, Japan, and South Korea—the latter three countries having been much more at odds diplomatically and strategically with North Korea since the Korean War (in the case of Japan, since the colonial period) than the others. However, since those three countries have been the main sources of foreign aid in the early 21st century, North Korea has maintained at least minimal contact with each of them.

Agencies



Singida Black Stars' Tchakei and Azam's Taoussi honoured as October's Best in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Black Stars midfielder Marouf Tchakei has claimed the NBC Premier League Player of the Month award for October, while Azam FC head coach Rachid Taoussi earned the Coach of the Month title.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Awards Committee made the announcement following a comprehensive voting process.

Tchakei, a standout Togolese midfielder, delivered consistent and impactful performances for Singida Black Stars, which included three goals and an assist over 360 minutes.

His efforts were pivotal in leading his team to victories over Mashujaa (1-0), Namungo (2-0), and Fountain Gate (2-0), with only a narrow 1-0 loss to Young Africans marring an otherwise successful month.

Tchakei outshone other nominees Lusajo Mwaikenda of Azam FC and Pame Zouzoua of Young Africans.

Azam FC's head coach Taoussi (pictured) also emerged as October's top coach after guiding his team through three consecutive wins, elevating them from fifth to fourth in the league standings.

Azam FC recorded victories over Namungo (1-0), Tanzania Prisons (2-0), and KenGold (4-1).

Taoussi was chosen over contenders Abdulhamid Moallin of KMC and Denis

Kitambi of Singida Black Stars, underscoring his strategic influence on the team.

Additionally, the TFF recognized Godwin Israel Haquet, the manager of Tanzanite Kwaraa Stadium, as the Best Stadium Manager for October.

Haquet earned praise for his effective management and dedication to stadium upkeep, enhancing the venue's suitability for hosting Fountain Gate FC's home games.

The October accolades also extended to the NBC Championship, where Geita Gold's Andrew Simchimba was awarded Player of the Month. Simchimba scored four goals and provided one assist in 330 minutes, playing a key role in Geita Gold's unbeaten October campaign.

Geita Gold's head coach, Amani Josiah, received the Best Coach honour in the Championship for leading the team to a flawless record in October, with victories over Transit Camp (3-0), Kiluvya (1-0), African Sports (2-0), and Mtibwa Sugar (1-0).

This impressive run propelled Geita Gold from ninth to the top spot in the Championship standings.

These awards highlight the critical role of standout players, coaches, and venue managers in shaping the competitive dynamics of the NBC Premier League and Championship, showcasing the evolving standards in Tanzanian football.

Tanzania launches inaugural Soap Opera Awards to celebrate film industry talent

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's film industry is set to host its first-ever Soap Opera Awards this December, creating a new platform for artists in the sector to be recognized.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Eliya Mjata, the awards director, announced that this event will honour the talents of actors, producers, music composers, costume designers, and makeup artists, providing them an opportunity to showcase their contributions to Swahili drama.

As the first of its kind in Tanzania, the Soap Opera Awards will begin accepting votes on November 18.

Mjata emphasized that the awards are designed to celebrate the efforts of individuals in the drama industry and are expected to attract global attention, with a focus on exchanging knowledge, skills, and best practices in drama production.

"The voting process will be inclusive, allowing viewers, industry professionals, and experts in film to participate. This creates a well-rounded evaluation

process and gives audiences a voice in recognizing outstanding performances," Mjata explained.

He also outlined the awards' long-term vision, stating that within five years, the Soap Opera Awards aim to become an internationally recognized platform for celebrating excellence in the Swahili drama industry, fostering connections between Tanzanian talent and the global film sector.

Emmanuel Ndumukwa, Director of the Film Development Department at the Tanzania Film Board, praised the awards as a step forward for Tanzania's film industry, encouraging local audiences to support homegrown productions.

"This is our own initiative, and we encourage Tanzanians to continue supporting local artists by purchasing their work and watching more homegrown films," he said.

He also assured that the Film Board would fully support the awards, which inspire filmmakers to aim for high-quality work and broaden the appeal of Tanzanian drama.

Tanzania suffers loss to Italy in ICC Men's CWC Challenge League B opener

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

A NINE-WICKET loss to Italy via the Duckworth-Lewis (D/L) method has witnessed Tanzania open its campaign in this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B on the wrong foot in the tie played in Uganda two days back.

In the game held at Entebbe Cricket Oval, Tanzania went in to bat first, ending with 173/10 in 42.3 overs of the encounter that was reduced to 45 overs because of rain.

Promising batsman Mohamed Omary was one of the cricketers who started with the bat for the batting side having scored 36 runs.

He had Tanzania reaching 73/5 once the cricketer left the crease upon the completion of 19 overs.

The youthful cricketer had laid his hands on the bat shortly after skipper Abhik Patwa had a day to forget having been dismissed with three runs to his name.

Middle-order batsman Maker Mukesh had the best batting performance for Tanzania, in which he secured 50 runs.

Ally Mpeka - slotted in as a low-order batsman - was the team's other cricketer with significant contribution in the innings, having scored 27 runs.

Ivan Ismail, who opened the innings with Patwa, was



Tanzania's senior national cricket team. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

the other cricketer with a notable contribution as the opener recorded 15 runs.

Damith Kosala was the bowler who played a pivotal role in Italy's successful efforts to keep Tanzania's batting unit in check, posting 4-35.

Italy, needing to mount a successful chase of a revised target of 169 runs from the allotted 28 overs, went on to come out victorious for the loss of one wicket.

Opening batsman Emilio Nico, posting 96 runs not out, formed a solid second-wicket stand with skipper Marcus Campopiano, securing 41 runs not out, to propel their team to victory.

In the second fixture, Tanzania would come up against tournament favourite and host Uganda at Lugogo Oval today.

Tanzania would then take on Hong Kong at the Entebbe Oval on November 12.

Tanzania's senior national cricket team, coached by Pushpa Kumar, is made up of skipper Abhik Patwa, Ally Mpeka, Amal Rajeevan, Harsheed Chohan, Asuri Rajendra, Kassim Nassor, and Ivan Selemeni.

Khalid Amiri, Maker Mukesh, Mohamed Omary, Mohamed Yunus, Sanjay Thakor, Laksh Bakrania, and Akhil Anil are the other cricketers constituting the squad.

The ICC Men's Cricket World

Cup Challenge League B is viewed as the first stage of the road to the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

The tournament is the second edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League and a cricket tournament which forms part of the 2027 Cricket World Cup qualification process.

Tanzania's senior national cricket team is featuring in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B whilst boasting a successful run in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier A, held in Dar es Salaam in September.

Simba now focus on CAF Confederations Cup after strong start in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER a stellar start to the NBC Premier League season, Simba SC head coach Fadlu Davids is now shifting the team's focus to their upcoming CAF Confederations Cup group stage campaign.

Simba, currently leading the league with 25 points from 10 games, boasts eight wins, one draw, and one loss. A series of setbacks faced by their rivals, Young Africans, has paved the way for Simba to secure the league's top spot.

Simba had a challenging spell after dropping five points in back-to-back games, drawing 2-2 with Coastal Union after conceding two second-half goals and losing 1-0 to Young Africans.

Since then, however, they've regained momentum with consecutive victories over Mashujaa, KMC, Tanzania Prisons, and Namungo.

With the FIFA international break approaching, Davids aims to use this period to regroup and fine-tune their preparations for the CAF Confederations Cup.

Simba's upcoming match against Pamba Jiji, initially scheduled for November 21, has been postponed due to their CAF fixtures, and a new date will be announced by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB).

During the break, Davids (pictured) has encouraged his players to embrace a CAF competition mindset, with their group stage opener against Bravos do Maquis scheduled for November 28.

This home match will be followed by away games against CS Constantine in Algeria on December 8 and CS Sfaxien in



Tunisia on December 15. This return to CAF Confederations Cup action follows their narrow elimination by Orlando

Pirates last season, which ended in a tense penalty shootout after a 1-1 aggregate draw.

"We're heading into the FIFA break with recovery in mind, but the real competition starts on the training ground," Davids stated. "Players must fight for their spots and earn their place in the lineup. I'm very pleased with the performances from those who have taken recent opportunities."

Davids emphasized the need for heightened intensity and a strategic approach as the team transitions to CAF interclub competition.

Drawing on their experience from a previous encounter with Al Ahli Tripoli, he urged his players to aim for early qualification through a renewed focus on performance and resilience.

Reflecting on recent league success, Davids praised his squad for their adaptability despite lineup rotations. He also underscored the importance of a versatile scoring approach, aiming to distribute the goal-scoring responsibility across various positions.

"To reduce pressure on our strikers, we need goals from unexpected sources. It's crucial to keep our opponents guessing with threats from different angles and positions," he added.

Simba's CAF Confederations Cup ambitions will also be supported by new signing Elie Mpanzu, who is set to be eligible to play in the upcoming matches.

Additionally, Simba plan to bolster the squad further when the mini-transfer window opens on December 15, enhancing their depth and competitive edge as they pursue early qualification for the tournament's quarterfinals.

SPORT

Man United ends winless run in Europe and Osimhen scores 2 as Galatasaray beats Tottenham

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Kapombe's Taifa Stars recall delights Fadlu Davids

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA head coach Fadlu Davids has hailed Shomari Kapombe's return to the Tanzania squad as absolutely deserved, following confirmation of his call-up by Hemed 'Morocco' Suleiman.

The experienced right fullback Kapombe (pictured) earned the most recent of his international caps when he featured for Taifa Stars against Uganda in an AFCON qualifier back in March 2023.

A combination of injury problems and fluctuating form has seen Kapombe left out ever since by the suspended Adel Amrouche and his successor Morocco, but a return to form for Simba this season has now been recognised.

On Wednesday, defender Kapombe received his first call-up for the Taifa Stars since 2023 for their upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Ethiopia and Guinea.

With 82 appearances to his name, Kapombe would be looking to add more under his belt in the forthcoming fixtures.

Davids expressed his delight in Kapombe earning his recall to the national team and said it is a deserved call up and acknowledgement of his consistent performance this season.

"Kapombe is one of the most consistent performers this season and it is a deserved call up for the national team. It is a moment to acknowledge his performance, his professionalism, his flexibility because he is playing in a role that is fine-tuned to his strength.

"He is really excelling in the role and fantastic. He can just keep it up and it is very important to keep him fit. I wish him well in the national team and the Tanzania national team all the luck and hope they qualify after this FIFA break. I hope he comes back fit," he said.

With his versatility, the 32-year-old has been a crucial figure for Simba in defence this season.

His ability to slot in to play right back and even wing-back in certain stages of the game has been vital for Simba in keeping clean sheets and negating attacking threats from the opposition.

Along with Kapombe, Simba's goalkeeper Aishi Manula earned a recall to the national team after seven months. However, the duo's teammate Ally Salim was snubbed from the 26-man squad.

Also, returning to the squad are Turkey-based midfielder Novatus Dismas and Azam's winger Iddy 'Nado' Selemeni while Azam youngster Abdulkarim Kiswanya has also been included in the squad for the first time after starring in the CE-CAFA U-20 tournament last month.

Gamondi shoulders blame for Yanga's defeat to Tabora United



By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MIGUEL Gamondi took the strain of a surprise defeat to Tabora United away from his players, after Young Africans suffered a humbling home defeat on Thursday evening.

Fresh from their first defeat of the season against Azam last week, Young Africans' jaw was swiftly rocked once more by a 3-1 loss at Chamazi Complex, leaving them one point behind Simba in the NBC Premier League standings.

Offen Chikola and Yacouba Sogne embodied Tabora United's brilliant performance, combining for the first two goals in the first half before defensive midfielder Nelson Munganga struck the final nail on Young Africans' coffin in the second half.

Chikola curled home the visitors' first with a pinpoint curling finish from 20 yards against the run of play in the 19th minute. While Stephane Azizi Ki wasted the chance to get Young Africans back in the contest from 12 yards in the third minute of added time before the interval, Chikola completed his brace a minute later.

Munganga put the game out of sight with 12 minutes to play before Clement Mzize scored a late consolation goal.

Reflecting on the reason for the loss, Gamondi (pictured) believes this side weren't as sharp as their opponents for a number of reasons but opted to shoulder the

blame instead.

"We must be honest. You see in the eighth minute Aziz Andambwile picked up an injury and we did not have any central defender on the bench. Munganga missed one clear chance and after that they attacked once and scored one goal.

"We had a penalty and missed it. In the second

half they attacked twice and scored two goals. We attacked 20 times but did not score. It is football. Like I said nothing worked for us today. The performance of the team wasn't good but I think it was influenced by the situation as well.

"But there are responsibilities. You know how football is, when the team is winning everybody is

happy and when they lose, I am held responsible. I am their coach. No blame because we played without all our defenders," he said.

He Added: "It is football, the other team did their business and we did not do well. We must accept and be strong. I am the first one who is concerned because the other day when we lost to Azam we did not deserve

it but it is football.

"But for today we can say nothing. They were realistic and we were not. This is what I can say, I don't have a single explanation. Probably tired as well, we played six games in 20 days plus travelling and everything. I repeat, I get all the responsibilities for this loss."

Aswani's vision transforms Tabora United with big win over Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TABORA United's interim head coach, Brian Aswani, praised his team's disciplined performance and strict adherence to the tactical game plan as key factors in their surprising 3-1 victory over Young Africans at the Azam Complex on Thursday.

This matchup brought together two teams with contrasting recent results. Tabora United, buoyed by consecutive 1-0 wins against Pamba Jiji and Mashujaa, went up against a Young Africans side looking to bounce back from a narrow 1-0 loss to Azam FC.

Two goals from Offen Chikola and one from Nelson Munganga helped seal a crucial victory for Tabora United, while Clement Mzize managed a consolation goal for Young Africans.

This significant win lifted Tabora United out of the relegation zone and into sixth place on the league table.

Although Tabora United's management offered a Tsh. 20 million bonus to their players for a win over Young Africans, coach Aswani highlighted that the players were driven by more than just financial motivation.

The team's primary objective was to improve their

league position and build on recent positive performances.

"Our focus wasn't only on the financial incentive," Aswani explained. "We carefully analyzed our strengths and weaknesses, studied Young Africans' tactics, and implemented our strategy effectively. The focus was on disciplined defense while taking advantage of counter-attacking opportunities."

"Today's victory was due to our collective effort and determination. Last season, we barely escaped relegation with five wins, but this season, we've already matched that total, showing just how

much we've improved," Aswani added.

While Tabora United have recently demonstrated strong attacking play, scoring five goals and conceding only one in their last three games, Aswani acknowledged that defensive improvements are still needed.

Their ability to score more than two goals against Young Africans was notable, marking the first time an opponent had achieved this since Kagera Sugar's victory in January 2020.

After ten matches this season, Tabora United have recorded five wins, two draws, and three losses, securing

17 points and rising to sixth place on the league table.

Despite a goal difference of -3, with 12 goals scored and 15 conceded, the team is on a positive trajectory.

Tabora United have also welcomed a new head coach, Anicet Kiazayidi, who observed the Young Africans match from the sidelines.

Kiazayidi, an experienced coach from DR Congo who has led teams such as AS Maniema Union and AS Vita, will take full charge of the team during the upcoming international break and aims to continue the team's upward momentum.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

