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DCEA creates database for drug kingpins

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Kyela gets palm oil processing plant

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EACOP lauded for training youth

US, India set to join triangular local renewable energy drive

By Guardian Reporter

A UNIQUE partnership is being forged between Tanzania and development agencies in the United States and India in a triangular energy infrastructure development partnership.

Alex Klaitis, the acting mission director US Agency for International Development (USAID), said in a statement yesterday that the partnership is intended to strengthen energy infrastructure and promote renewable energy development in Tanzania.

"This unique clean energy alliance is the first of its kind on the African continent," he said, noting that the trilateral partnership is being implemented by the US-based non-profit organization, The Asia Foundation.

It will leverage each country's relevant capacities, resulting in a stronger grid, improved regulatory and policy frameworks, reliable regional interconnections and the development of utility-scale solar projects in the country, he stated.

He explained US readiness to strongly partner with Tanzania to accelerate electrification, so that communities across the country can access clean and reliable energy, pointing at the Obama-era initiative in 2013.

At that time the USAID's Power Africa pro-



Together we can accelerate the development of renewables and a stronger grid in Tanzania

gramme was started, enabling Tanzania to make significant progress in the energy sector by increasing connections from just about 1.2m then to over 4.5m late last year, he asserted.

USAID is forging a partnership with the India Centers of Excellence, involving the Grid Controller of India Ltd and the NTPC School of Business, tied with the National Thermal Power Corporation as a major energy producer, to help uplift renewable energy locally.

Experts at the business school will engage local policymakers, regulators, utilities, academia and the private sector, to obtain their collaboration in efforts to expand the use of renewable energy and promote climate-smart energy investments, he stated.

"We are now embarking on an important new partnership, together with the government of India, which broadens energy collaboration with Tanzania. This collaboration will strengthen local capacity and expand bilateral trade opportunities for American firms to conduct business in Tanzania," he further stated.

He expressed satisfaction with the partnership with India to support the country's "emergence as a net regional energy exporter in East Africa," while Manoj Verma, the chargé d'affaires at the Indian High Commission applauded the partnership.

"It is a matter of pride that the first India-US

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Dar es Salaam-based members of the Shia Community march in the city on Tuesday to mark the death anniversary of their spiritual leader, Imam Husayn ibn Ali, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad's. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Small miners await govt to give them ex-licensed area

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has revoked 45 out of 102 exploration licences supplied for mining investors in Rukwa Region after the holders failed to meet the requirements, raising hopes that the area will be allocated to small miners.

Minerals minister Anthony Mavunde said this at a meeting with mining stakeholders in the region, explaining the move as arising from a request from leaders of small miners in Sumbawanga District in the region to expand their operational area, which would clash with existing licences for minerals exploration.

Revoking licences afford the govern-



We also urge the government to strengthen the data on exploration area so that miners do not rely on guesswork as they do now

ment an opening to reallocate these areas by rearranging spheres allocated to small-scale miners and to prospective large investors, where they are ready to actually invest, he said.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has given clear instructions to ensure that licences issued are put to use and that individuals do not hoard large areas without developing them, to stimulate mining activities and growth in the mining sector," he declared.

The 45 licenses covered a vast area of 812,383 acres, larger than the entire Sumbawanga District spread over 667,641 acres, he said, pointing out that mining in

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Samia wants teachers to instil morals, care values

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan appealed to teachers to take a leading role in instilling good morals in students to become responsible future citizens fully contributing to national development.

Speaking on the final day of a three-day tour in Rukwa Region where she laid foundation stones for the Rukwa

Region Girls' Secondary School and the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), Rukwa Campus.

There was also a foundation stone laying event for the construction of a tarmac road to Kaengesa Seminary, where the president spoke to residents at the Mandela Mazwi Stadium in Sumbawanga municipality.

"It is your duty to ensure that you mould them into responsible people

to help build this country," she implored when laying the foundation stone at Rukwa Girls' Secondary School.

The president asked teachers not only to focus on teaching but seek to nurture the students with a sense of belonging and concern, so that they take up appropriate role models to become a successful future generation.

The construction of the school is part

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Ummu Mwalimu

CDC-T lauds HIV care, scaling up method benefits

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS following the introduction and scaling up of approaches that combine prevention, care and treatment, a specialist has declared.

George Mgomella, associate director of programmes at the local branch of the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) affirmed this at a science communication engagement event with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, organised ahead of the Tanzania Health Summit slated for Zanzibar in October.

Noting that Tanzania was close to overcoming HIV as a public health emergency, he said the scaling up had resulted in 83 percent of Tanzanians knowing their HIV status, being linked to care and achieving virus suppression.

"We have made substantial progress, which is a crucial starting point. We need to learn from other countries and develop local solutions to the main challenges we face, particularly funding for ensuring sustainability," he stated.

Through these approaches, a large number of HIV/AIDS patients are linked to care with significant virus suppression, underlining that when people achieve virus suppression, it marks a significant success.

"Back in 2017, half of the individuals had achieved viral suppression whereas now



These include reducing the number of new infections among youths aged 15 to 24 as it is one the rise

we are discussing eight out of ten," he explained, noting that among strategies employed is the status neutral approach (SNA) used in the scaling effort.

It is a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention and care that prioritises high-quality care to engage and retain people within sight of the services, regardless of whether the services are for HIV treatment or prevention, he stated.

A start up 83 reproductive and child health clinics (RCH) were included in the outreach services from October 2023 to March 2024, with a total of 314 new sero-discordant couples initiating pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), medicine taken to prevent getting HIV.

It is a highly effective medicine for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed, served for people in unreliable affectionate situations or compulsive injection drug use, as part of CDC supported effective interventions to reduce HIV spread.

The CDC executive said that achieving the goal of ending HIV/AIDS infections as a public health threat by 2030 is an ambitious but attainable goal, as evaluation research demonstrates concrete interventions to maintain health, prevent HIV transmission and sup-

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US, India set to join triangular local renewable energy drive

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triangular cooperation on the African continent is taking place in Tanzania,' he said, adding that this collaboration exemplifies the strong strategic partnership between Tanzania and India.

"Focusing on renewable energy development and grid management, this partnership will boost Tanzania's efforts as it nears the completion of flagship energy projects and connects its grid with countries in the region," he said.

The triangular development partnership will play a pivotal role in

leveraging India's extensive experience in the renewable energy area, sustainably improving the lives of Tanzanians, he further noted.

Dr James Mataragio, the Energy deputy permanent secretary noted that the ministry was 'excited' to be part of the collaboration, affirming that the country will greatly benefit from US and Indian experience and learning on developing its solar and wind energy capacities.

"Together we can accelerate the development of renewables and a stronger grid in Tanzania," he added.

CDC-T lauds HIV care, scaling up method gains

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porting people living with HIV to lead healthy lives is working.

Suggesting that there are still many local people who do not know their HIV status as the only way to ascertain HIV status is through testing, he said that knowing one's HIV status provides valuable information for couples to stay healthy.

"If your test result is positive, you can take medication to treat HIV, enabling you to lead a long, healthy life and prevent transmission to others," he further noted.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports interventions to increase HIV testing, the director said, elaborating that it helps to implement strategies to prevent HIV transmission.

"These interventions focus on reaching key and vulnerable populations. They include index testing

(IT) programmes, HIV self-testing (HIVST), status-neutral approach, and adolescent peer educators (PEs), he said.

Implementation of tailored interventions has led to increased testing coverage and HIV prevention strategies such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), he said, acknowledging that there are still gaps to address.

These include reducing the number of new infections among youths aged 15 to 24 as it is one the rise, he said, underlining that successes have been registered in the past seven years in the wake of significant investments from PEPFAR and local political commitment.

Through these approaches CDC introduced a monthly supply for eligible HIV patients with six months sufficient medication to not visit health centres thus enabling them to focus on economic activities, he added.

Samia wants teachers to instil morals, care values

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of the government's strategy to establish special girls' science schools in each region to provide ample opportunities for them to study these subjects, she said.

Encouraging the students to study hard, she said that those who excel in Form Six stand an excellent chance of receiving scholarships for higher education, pointing at the Samia Scholarship Fund for both domestic and foreign higher learning institutions.

Teachers need to nurture the children with care sentiments so that they grow up well and seek to develop others, she stated, stressing similar values when laying the foundation stone for the MUST Rukwa Campus.

The president remarked that the presence of the university will advance higher education services, increase financial circulation and add to development, noting that the institution's engineering department can elevate local youth with technology for making bricks from local resources.

Pointing at such techniques in some foreign countries, she said that despite the region having resources for making bricks from local materials, houses built using these bricks do not meet the required standards. Some nearby areas like Mbinga District were doing better, she said.

At Kaengesa, the president said road construction is likely to be completed by the year's end, urging the residents to increase efforts in production activities so that the country can earn more revenues.

She also reminded the public of improved grain weighing equipment used by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), now using electronic scales, likely to help farmers by accurately weighing and purchasing grains, curbing most complaints.

She also demanded Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe to increase the buying price of maize from farmers to 700 per kilogram to ensure they can obtain a decent profit.

In the next farming season, maize seeds must be subsidized to ease the burden on farmers and motivate them to increase acreage and

yields, he said, similarly urging citizens to provide views on the National Development Vision 2050 so that it reflects expectations of the public at large when it is published.

Mohamed Mchengera, the Regional Administration and Local Governments state minister in the President's Office (PO-RALG) said the construction of the special girls' school for talented students is part of his directive to build one science school for girls in each region. So far 25 regions were completing construction and children already starting classes, he said.

Prof. Adolf Mkenda, the Education, Science and Technology minister, said the new campus will help to build agricultural technology to advance the sector, as part of higher education reforms.

MUST and the campus focuses on agriculture as it is the main economic activity in the region, with a view to increase crop production and promote the local economy, he added.



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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a delegation from the Zanzibar Research Centre for Socio-Economic and Policy Analysis led by the centre's executive director, Juma Hassan Reli. Photo: State House

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the region is still low.

It is therefore the responsibility of the regional mining office to ensure that mining activity is stimulated he said, to which the regional minerals officer, Joseph Kumburu expressed high confidence in implementing this directive.

He vowed to promote mining activities as the region is endowed with various types of minerals and

Small miners await govt to give them ex-licenced area

has considerable potential for success, a view reflecting an assessment of the situation in a report compiled by the Rukwa Region Miners Association (RUREMA).

Masie Mwambelege, the entity's chairman, appealed to the government to allocate to small-scale miners licenced areas where no work is as yet being done.

"We also urge the government to strengthen the data on exploration area so that miners do not rely on guesswork as they do now," he added.



Industry and Trade minister Selemani Jafo (2nd-L) has a first-hand account yesterday of the production of insecticides meant to destroy mosquito larvae. He was on a tour of a National Development Corporation factory at Kibaha in Coastal Region. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Medical staff in South Sudan start Chinese language course

JUBA

THE fourth Chinese language course for medical staff in South Sudan commenced Wednesday, attracting about 100 students eager to learn and seize opportunities that come with learning Mandarin.

In his opening remarks, Isaac Maker, medical director of Juba Teaching Hospital, encouraged the students to learn one of the most important languages globally.

Maker said that proficiency in the Chinese language would create opportunities for medical practitioners to advance their studies and acquire new knowledge under the people-to-people exchange programme being currently implemented by the Chinese and South Sudan governments.

"I would like to express my sincere thanks to the work being done by the Chinese doctors in Juba Teaching Hospital. They are really helping the people of South Sudan and I thank the Chinese government for sending doctors here and across Africa," Maker said in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Gift Gibson Natana, deputy director-general of Juba Teaching Hospital, noted that learning Chinese presents opportunities for enhancing career development for medical practitioners at the hospital.

According to Mu Jianjun, the counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Chinese Embassy in South Sudan, the people in the African country have warmly welcomed the Chinese language

and traditional culture.

Mu noted that the Chinese language course aims to help the staff of Juba Teaching Hospital better communicate with the Chinese medical team, understand the Chinese language and culture, and deepen the friendship between China and South Sudan.

"The Chinese medical team has been known and loved by more and more people in South Sudan. The second phase of the Juba Teaching Hospital project, built with China's assistance, was officially opened on Monday, marking another milestone project in China-South Sudan medical and healthcare cooperation," he said.

Chen Si, team leader of the 11th batch of the Chinese medical team, said the Chinese language course

aims at deepening mutual understanding and enhancing friendship between the two countries and peoples.

The course will see students attend two lessons each week from July to August, Chen noted, adding that they have provided a regular training schedule for each student that covers food, music, sports and other aspects of the programme.

"Through this cultural exchange, we hope our colleagues here can have a basic understanding of China, especially those who are about to visit China for further training, enabling them to familiarize themselves with China in advance," Chen said.

Since 2021, the medical staff of Juba Teaching Hospital has been attending Chinese language classes.



This is the debris of buildings housing at least 100 kiosks at Masasi Town Council's main market gutted by fire on Tuesday night. No details on the incident have been established. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

By Henry Mwangonde

DCEA creates a database for all suspected drug kingpins

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has prepared a database that includes names of all suspected drug kingpins who operate both from within and outside the country for easy tracking.

DCEA Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo announced yesterday in Dar es Salaam when briefing journalists on the new development, adding that the database will be an essential tool in the operations of the agency.

"We have established the database and embarked on an investigation on those people. We have realised that many of them have been identified to operate within the country while others outside the country," Lyimo said.

In another development, the anti-narcotics authority announced that it has nabbed a man, a resident of Manzese in Dar es Salaam, who allegedly produces 'heroin' by mixing medicinal drugs and expired hazardous chemicals, something

which puts drug users at high health risk.

Detailing, Commissioner General Lyimo noted the suspect identified as Shaban Adam (54) was also arrested with 19,000 litres of expired hazardous chemicals that he used to mix with medicinal drugs to produce illegal drugs.

He said the suspect was arrested on 11th June while producing the illegal drug that he introduced as heroin.

When interrogated, Lyimo admitted to transporting the narcotics by upcountry buses as parcels to various parts of the country, particularly to big cities.

"These narcotics with a mixture of medicinal drugs and hazardous chemicals have serious health effects, causing, among others, cardiac diseases, kidney disease, cancer,

liver disease, mental illnesses and addiction," he explained.

The suspect revealed to the DCEA that in the past he also used to produce such drugs in Asian countries and was serving as a drug mule and he continued with such crime even after returning back to Tanzania.

He said the suspect Adam resolved to produce illegal drugs locally after the authority successfully destroyed networks of drug smugglers through its intensive operations.

The operations largely managed to control the smuggling into the country the illegal drugs, hence creating a shortage of such substances in the market which forced him to produce locally.

"This fake heroin he produces has been a factor of serious health concerns among the users, includ-

ing sudden deaths," he explained.

On the other hand, he said, due to good regional and international cooperation, the DCEA was also holding a Tanzanian called Ndoba Issa who was arrested at Melchior Ndaye International Airport in Bujumbura, Burundi, with 3.8kg of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), locally known as 'Skanka' while he was en route to Dubai.

In his remarks Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) Executive Director Prof Mohamed Janabi said illegal drugs made of expired chemicals are dangerous to human health.

"We at Muhimbili conduct dialysis to 150 patients a day. One of the reasons for this disease is improper use of medicinal drugs to produce fake illegal drugs," Prof Janabi stated.

WHO decries growing toll of road fatalities in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICA has become an epicenter of deaths arising from road accidents, exerting strain on the continent's public health infrastructure, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said in a report.

Despite accounting for 15 percent of the global population and 3 percent of vehicles, the African region recorded one-fifth of all road accident deaths in the world, according to the 2023 status report on road safety in the WHO African region.

According to the report, Africa lost 250,000 lives in road accidents in 2021 alone, while the continent's road-related fatalities increased 17 percent between 2010 and 2021, while global rates fell 5 percent during the same period.

A myriad of factors, including lethargic enforcement of traffic laws, potholed roads, speeding and drunk driving, limited safety education targeting road users, have been cited by the report as leading causes of traffic injuries and deaths on the continent.

"The findings of this report point to a serious public health concern for African countries, with hundreds of thousands of lives being lost unnecessarily," said Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa.

Moeti said the WHO is working with partners across Africa to tackle the scourge of road accidents that has taken a toll on the productive segment of the population.

The WHO report says that men aged between 15 and 64 form the bulk of road accident victims in Africa, while vulnerable users, including pedestrians, people living with disabilities, children, cyclists and motorcyclists, have also been affected disproportionately.

In addition, limited investments in alternative modes of transport, including cycling and walking, have fueled road-related fatalities on the continent, according to the report,

which observed that only 13 percent of countries have national strategies to promote walking or cycling.

Abdourahmane Diallo, the WHO representative in Kenya, said that for Africa to reduce the burden of road accidents, countries should revamp transport infrastructure, re-train motorists, and promote safety education targeting motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Diallo added that sharing best practices on road safety, policy reforms, enforcement of existing legislation, and improving data collection are key to minimizing road fatalities on the continent.

Chiara Retis, the team leader for Violence and Injury Prevention at WHO Africa, called for investment in post-crash care and the reskilling of first responders while encouraging the use of safety belts and helmets to reduce fatalities on the continent's roads.



... men aged between 15 and 64 form the bulk of road accident victims in Africa, while vulnerable users, including pedestrians, people living with disabilities, children, cyclists and motorcyclists, have also been affected disproportionately

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Local processing to help Kyela's oil palm farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

OVER 10,000 oil palm farmers in Kyela District, Mbeya Region, will benefit more from the crop due to the establishment of an edible oil processing factory.

The factory, Covenant Edible Kyela Cooking Oil, is set to start its operation next week in the district, which is one of the oil palm farming areas in Tanzania.

Oil plant director Babylon Mwakymbile said that the factory will employ thousands of women and youths from within and outside the district.

Mwakymbile said that the factory would be a saviour for the farmer. They have started forming groups with more than 10 thousand people,

who will enter into an agreement to sell palm oil at an indicative price while more than 100 young people hope to find employment.

"We expect the torch of freedom to launch this country, but for the time being we have started to buy oil to start production in parallel with providing education to the established groups," he said.

One of the palm oil farmers in the district, Lutufyo Mwambola said the coming of the factory will increase the value of the farmer as they are forced to sell at a low price due to the lack of market.

He said that palm oil farmers have been transporting palm oil to Dar es Salaam for more processing to get better prices.

Currently, 20 liters of palm oil

is sold at 43,000/-, but with the establishment of the processing factory, the price may go up and benefit farmers of the edible oil crop.

Authorities in Kyela District recently distributed 33,000 quality palm oil seedlings for free.

The idea is to enhance farmers' incomes as well as address the country's edible oil shortage.

"We expect the torch of freedom to launch this country, but for the time being we have started to buy oil to start production in parallel with providing education to the established groups"



Residents of Laela ward in Sumbawanga Rural District, Rukwa Region, follow proceedings as President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressed a rally yesterday. The president is on an ongoing working visit of the region. Photo: State House

CCM recommends 'recipe' for peace at Mwenge bus terminal

By Guardian Reporter

THE ruling CCM has instructed that the new Mwenge terminal bus stop project in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam, must be inclusive to resolve conflicts among traders and stakeholders.

Amos Makalla, the party's secretary for ideology, publicity, and training, issued the directive yesterday during his visit to the project as part of a regional tour to inspect ongoing projects.

Makalla commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for advancing the project after it had been halted by an investigative commission.

"The aim of this project is to boost business. There may be various challenges and misunderstandings, but we all need shops here," he said.

Makalla added: "Everyone wishes

to be part of the project. I urge you to continue providing education and ensure inclusivity for various groups providing services at this terminal."

Jabir Chilumba, an economist at Kinondoni Municipal, stated



The aim of this project is to boost business. There may be various challenges and misunderstandings, but we all need shops here

that the project, upon completion, is expected to cost 12.283bn/- funded from the municipality's revenue. The implementation costs under the 'Force Account' period amounted to 2.216bn/-, with construction costs during the contracting period at 10.067bn/-.

Chilumba mentioned that the building, which has a total of three floors with 148 frames, can be used for various commercial purposes. "The municipality anticipates collecting 1.093bn/- annually, where the investor is required to pay 612.744m/- and the remaining frame tenants are to pay 480.623m/-," he said.

"As of June 2024, collections have amounted to 1.039bn/- with the investor having paid 612.744m/- and frame tenants in the online auction system having paid 426.397m/-."



INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, INCLUDING WARRANTY FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS ON ROOF TOP PROCUREMENT REFERENCE NUMBER ICAP/TZ/6/2024.

Introduction	MSPH Tanzania LLC, known as ICAP, is a non-governmental organization operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding mainly from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MSPH Tanzania LLC is supporting comprehensive HIV services in Geita and Mwanza regions through a five-years' PEPFAR-funded cooperative agreement and intends to procure assets for FIKIA+ project under PEPFAR/CDC awarded funding.
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General	Installation of solar power system to power health facility in Mwanza and Geita regions (42 health facilities)
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Capacity Required	Solar panel capacity required for single facility will be as below
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S/N	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	Specs	QUANTITY
1	Solar Panel	550Wp	4
2	Solar Inverter	3000VA/48V/24V	1
3	Solar Battery	200Ah/12V	6
4	Charge Controller	50A/48V	1
5	Battery Rack and Solar Mounted Structure	2.2KWp	1
6	Installation Material Kit		1
7	Installation Labor		1

General Requirements:

- The system shall be designed to withstand harsh weather conditions, including heavy rainfall, high temperatures, and strong winds.
- The supplier shall provide training to the health facility staff on how to operate and maintain the solar power system.
- The supplier shall provide a comprehensive warranty for the solar power system, including all components and parts.

Solar Panel Requirements:

- The solar panels shall be high-quality, durable and potential damage.
- The solar panels shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Battery Requirements:

- The battery capacity shall be sufficient to store the required power to provide backup power for a minimum of 12 hours in case of a power outage.
- The battery shall be of high quality and able to withstand frequent charging and discharging cycles.
- The battery shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Inverter Requirements:

- The inverter shall be able to convert the DC power generated by the solar panels to AC power suitable for powering the health facility.
- The inverter shall be of high quality and able to handle the power capacity of the solar panels.
- The inverter shall come with a minimum warranty of 5 years.

Mounting and Wiring Requirements:

- The solar panels shall be mounted securely and in a position that maximizes solar exposure.
- The wiring shall be installed safely and correctly to minimize the risk of electrical accidents.
- The mounting and wiring shall be done by certified and experienced professionals.

Documentation Requirements:

- The supplier shall provide all necessary documentation, including technical specifications, installation instructions, and warranty information.
- The supplier shall obtain all necessary permits and approvals from relevant authorities before the installation.

Testing and Commissioning Requirements:

- The supplier shall conduct a comprehensive test of the solar power system before commissioning to ensure that it meets all requirements and specifications.
- The supplier shall provide a commissioning report detailing the installation and testing process.

Bidders will be required to submit the following documentation.	Business introduction letter, Company profile, Valid business license, Tax identification number (tin), Valid tax clearance certificate, Value added tax registration certificate (if any), Certificate of incorporation (if any), Article of association (if any), Manufacture authorization, Memorandum of association (if any), Experience justification & a recommendation letter from reputable organization.
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Note	The public tender opening will be made in the presence of all bidders or their official representatives, we encourage all bidders to attend through zoom call and Zoom Call link that will be sent to all those who submitted their bids in advance of the meeting. Bids not received and opened in public at the public bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. The tender validity period is 14 days. Selection criteria will be lowest price, technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above. MSPH Tanzania LLC reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition, MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and to confirm if the bid was submitted for this solicitation. The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC Procurement Guidelines.
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Application procedure	Interested and eligible vendors should email their electronic proposals/bids via email to procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu The Internal Tender Committee (ITC), MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP at Columbia University, Alfa Plaza 7th Floor – Chaburuma Road, P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, all quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings. The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 31st July 2023.
Important note	No tender fee charged for this invitation

MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Jangid Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road) P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam, email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719+255 (0) 22 270 0725



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

"HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE SURVEY" JGITZ- RFP No. USAID-TKV/JGITZ/04/2024'

- The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural World we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment. We strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development, and environmental education. The JGI Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), The President's Office Regional Administrations and Local Governments (PORALG) and its partners makes a difference through community centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, youths' environmental education, the innovative use of science and technology, works closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania has received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support implementation of a 5-year USAID Hope Through Action/ Tumaini Kupitia Vitendo Project. (USAID HTA Project)
- JGI-TZ under USAID HTA Project has set aside funds for operations during the year 2023 -2028. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for Consultancy work of the "Household Resilience survey."
- JGI-TZ now invites proposals from Eligible Consultants to offer professional services for the Survey-Households Resilience. Interested Consultants are encouraged to request for a full Request for Proposal Document with the Scope of work and Terms of Reference through an email address applications@janegoodall.or.tz
- JGI-TZ will send the RFP documents via email, no charges will apply for the bid documents. Consultants must confirm receipt of the documents and participation. JGI-TZ will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the RFP documents. ALL inquiries for clarification should be addressed to the application email address provided, phone calls are strictly not allowed.
- ALL consultants proposal application documents should be submitted electronically to the applications email address applications@janegoodall.or.tz Attn: Tender Board Secretary, Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania with a captioned subject: "RFP No. USAID-HTA/JGITZ/04/2024". The deadline for submission acceptance is **Thursday, 1st August 2024, 5PM EAT.**
- Late and portion applications shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Tender Board Secretary
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UN agency praises Tanzania on role in transforming of its healthcare delivery

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

UNICEF Tanzania has commended the government for its dedication to transforming healthcare delivery, with a special focus on maternal and neonatal care.

Lawrence Oundo, UNICEF Representative to Tanzania observed that this commitment is crucial in addressing the significant challenge of maternal mortality which continues to claim many lives due to preventable complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

He was speaking during the official handover of the newly constructed and renovated Haneti, Soya, and Chipanga health centers in Chamwino, Chemba, and Bahi Districts in Dodoma Region, respectively, terming the event not just a handover of facilities as it symbolizes hope and offers a lifeline towards a brighter future for Tanzanian families.

These facilities are equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, including 50-bed maternity wards, postnatal care units, modern laboratories, theatres and much more to ensure that every woman and child receives the critical care they need.

The project was implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The UNICEF boss said this milestone represents a significant step forward in joint efforts to improve healthcare access for mothers, newborns, and children throughout Tanzania.

He observed that the project exemplifies joint efforts among the government, development partners, and the local community to improve the well-being of families.

"UNICEF reaffirms its commitment to working with the government and partners to support sustainable delivery of quality maternal health services through these new facilities," he noted.

Oundo added that his organization is to extend collaborations with the government to strengthen health systems and partnerships, promote behaviour change for improved healthcare access, and advocate for gender equality and inclusion.

He argued that the provision of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) services at every health facility is essential for promoting safer childbirth practices.

"We must ensure that these services are accessible, encouraging women to deliver in well-equipped facilities and thus reducing the risks associated with home births," he added.

Oundo also commended KOICA for their generous support in transforming these projects into beacons of hope and also acknowledged the unwavering dedication of regional and local leaders who have wholeheartedly embraced this initiative.

KOICA Country Director, Manshik Shin also commended the government for the efforts to improve the provision of health services in the country, saying his country is ready to keep supporting the initiatives.

He said women and children are at the centre and key in KOICA projects. "Investing in women and children is crucial in sustainable development," he said.

The Deputy Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Dr Festus Dugange, thanked the two organizations for their support, saying they contribute towards saving lives.

He expressed the government's commitment to ensuring that the facilities will be used as intended, calling on health workers to ensure proper use.

UNICEF reaffirms its commitment to working with the government and partners to support sustainable delivery of quality maternal health services through these new facilities



Dr Festo Ndugange (C), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to hand over newly constructed and renovated health facility buildings. Photo: Polycarp Machira

SA appeals to donors to delay its climate targets, minister says

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa told climate donors that it would miss its 2030 emissions goals, but was committed to "net zero" by mid-century as it races to remove financial and other hurdles to rolling out renewables, the new energy minister said.

"We have shared with the partners as late as this morning ... that we'll not be able to meet those targets by 2030, highly unlikely," Ramokgopa said, adding: "If you use a long horizon of 2050, we will not move (from) that."

Under the Paris Climate Accords,

South Africa was committed to cutting emissions to between 350 and 420 million tonnes by 2030, from 442 million tonnes in 2020, on the way to net zero.

Ramokgopa said that from next week he would also meet with lenders and private power providers to hear their "frustrations" at project delays, to accelerate investment into green energy and catch up on its climate commitments.

Owing to its heavy reliance on coal for electricity, South Africa is the world's most carbon-intensive major economy and its 15th biggest greenhouse gas emitter - higher

than France, Italy or Turkey.

After years of power cuts, South Africa had to prioritise energy security by boosting output from coal-fired power stations, Ramokgopa said.

"But we are committed over a (longer) period and we can say to them, this is how we'll achieve it," he said, referring to rich nations including the United States and several European countries that are offering \$12 billion in funding, mostly loans, towards South Africa's energy transition.

New policies he said would speed things up included removing

bureaucratic hurdles to existing private tenders, expropriating land from farmers holding up the power grid build-out, and re-pricing deals with power providers that failed to close after the Ukraine war jacked up component prices.

South Africa has abundant sun and wind, and the partly donor-funded plan to gradually wean itself off coal is being seen as a test case for such assistance to developing countries.

"We have been moving at a slow pace, we need to be more aggressive and I'm committed to that," Ramokgopa said.

IMF to disburse \$43m to Congo

POINTE-NOIRE

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board has approved the disbursement of approximately 43 million dollars to the Congolese government under the extended credit facility initiated in 2022.

This approval comes after four reviews of the three-year program, highlighting the economic effectiveness of the structural reforms implemented.

According to Alphonse Ndongu, an economic journalist, "The International Monetary Fund, contrary to popular belief, does not give us money to carry out our development. The IMF helps improve the quality of our financial credibility. This means that we become credible, and when you are credible, you can then raise the funds you need on the international financial market. Congo is above the community standard of 3 percent; Congo's inflation is at 3.7 percent, indicating an improvement at the macroeconomic level."

However, this positive outlook is not universally shared. Several civil society members and political actors express concerns about governance issues. They argue that the ongoing crisis and current cash flow tensions in Congo highlight

significant shortcomings.

Clément Mierassa, President of the Congolese Social Democratic Party, voiced his concerns: "I regret that in terms of major reforms that could have helped Congo out of the crisis, very little has been done. With a corruption perception index of 22/100, which is truly mediocre, nothing has been achieved. Pensioners have 41 months of pension arrears, students have 3 or 4 years of scholarship arrears, and Marien Ngouabi University is on strike. I believe this is due to poor governance."

While the IMF forecasts a Congolese growth rate of around 3.5 percent, many Congolese citizens feel disconnected from these positive indicators. They argue that they are bearing the brunt of the IMF's structural reforms.

Despite these criticisms, the Congolese government remains optimistic. It has assured the public that by next year, Congo could finally see significant improvements and emerge from its current economic challenges.

As the debate continues, the reality of Congo's economic and social situation remains complex, with progress and challenges coexisting in a landscape marked by both hope and scepticism.



Shangwe Ayo, opposition ACT-Wazalendo's Information, Publicity and Public Communication deputy secretary, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on plans by the party's officials to tour 22 regions. She said the idea was to register 10 million members. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Seaweed farmers bring the ocean's bounty to the world

By Special Correspondent

AS the sun rises over Pemba Island in Tanzania, Shajia and other seaweed farmers head towards the water to harvest their seaweed at low tide.

When Shajia first started farming seaweed in 1995, she did it largely along the shore. In the decades since, conditions have changed.

"Due to the high temperatures caused by climate change, the seaweed was not doing well on the shores," she explains. "We were forced to go deeper into the ocean."

The IFAD-supported LDFS project is helping Shajia adapt

to the new normal. As well as receiving equipment, she's learned how to grow seaweed along ropes. This ensures a plentiful harvest that is easier to gather and is protected from the tides.

At midday, the boats return to shore, laden with their glistening produce. The seaweed is then sorted and spread out on drying racks at the local collection centre.

The dried seaweed is then exported for use in medicines and processing into carrageenan, a gelling substance that is used in everything from shampoo to soy milk. With government plans to establish a processing plant on

Pemba, farmers will soon be able to move up the value chain and get higher profits for their produce.

Twenty-six-year-old Saumu has been farming seaweed on her underwater plot for two years. After receiving training and equipment through LDFS, she increased her yield to 290 kilos. She uses her earnings to pay for her children's education and to purchase iron sheeting to build a new home.

Saumu is also part of a collective of young women who produce a rich seaweed skincare oil. While they currently use imported powdered seaweed, they plan to purchase equipment to process

Pemba-grown seaweed into powder themselves.

Saumu is a role model for other young women. "We need to take advantage of the opportunities in front of us, like the seaweed farming, which can benefit us and our families."

For centuries, the islands off the east African coast have been part of a vast oceanic network spanning the Indian Ocean, with sailors following the trade winds all the way to Southeast Asia. Today, rural people in the region are sustainably harvesting the ocean's bounty before it sets out across the world.

Govt praises EACOP for training Tanzanian youth

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has praised the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project for offering welding training to 50 young Tanzanians through its contractor, China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering (CPP). This initiative aims to create local employment opportunities within the pipeline project.

The first phase of training, currently ongoing at the Arusha Technical College (ATC), focuses on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) and involves 25 students. The second phase, scheduled for the end of August, will involve another batch of 25 students.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony yesterday, Asiadi Mrutu, the EACOP Project Coordinator from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), highlighted that EACOP, through various contractors, has been providing training to Tanzanians to prepare them for work on the project. "This project has made significant investments in equipment for technical colleges across the country, training both students and instructors with expertise from abroad," Mrutu stated, expressing the government's satisfaction with the progress achieved and the strong emphasis on local content.

Mrutu added that the EACOP project has now reached 38.2 percent of its projection and has provided employment to 4,274 Tanzanians so far through various services implemented by project contractors.

"We aim for the EACOP project to have a significant multiplier effect, not only on job creation but also in producing professionals that the country can be proud of," he emphasised during the opening ceremony of the 12-week theory and practical training sessions.

EACOP's Local Content Manager, Neema Kweka, reiterated that the project prioritises three key aspects for Tanzanians: employment, capacity building, and the provision of goods and social services.

"We want to see local youths seizing professional opportunities in the project implementation," she said, highlighting the importance of training for Tanzanian youth.

George Kabelwa, Economic Analysis Manager at the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), praised EACOP and CPP for their ongoing training and investment in technical colleges in Tanzania, which produce professionals in various fields, including welding.

Monica Mbelle, Director of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in the Northern Zone, noted that the authority has been mandated by the EACOP project to train local professionals to work on the project. VETA is responsible for training 147 youths in various disciplines to work on major projects, including EACOP, for national development.

"Young people should take this valuable, high-cost training seriously to continue producing professionals for large-scale projects like EACOP," Mbelle stressed.

Cai Xiaolong, Deputy Project Manager from CPP, stated that through these training programs, their company aims to produce skilled local professionals who will work on welding the 24-inch pipeline transporting crude oil from Hoima, Uganda, to Chongoleani in Tanga.

Speaking on behalf of his peers, Joseph Raphael, one of the youths, thanked the EACOP project and CPP for providing them with additional skills and job opportunities in pipeline construction.

The pipeline passes through eight regions in mainland Tanzania: Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Manyara, and Tanga, encompassing 24 districts, 134 wards, and over 180 villages. The project shareholders are TotalEnergies (62 percent), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) (15 percent), China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) (8 percent), and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) (15 percent).



Tanga city deputy mayor Rehema Mhina (C), who doubles as chairperson of the city council's HIV control committee, pictured yesterday having a word with people living with HIV (not in the picture) engaged in various income-generating activities. The council had just presented them with 30m/- to empower them economically. Photo: Correspondent Cheji Bakari

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

CONSTRUCTION progress of the Sino-Tan Industrial Park has reached a good stage of construction and is expected to be completed soon.

The facility is expected to have nearly 300 industries and will create more than 100,000 jobs once it starts operating.

This was availed yesterday when Industry and Trade Minister, Dr Selemani Jafo, visited the area in Kibaha District, Coast Region to inspect the construction progress.

Dr Jafo was happy to see the great work being done and it is a great comfort that the completion of the construction of the industrial park will lead to many jobs for Tanzanian youth.

Jafo said the government will make plans to ensure that the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has its station in Kwala area to make it easier for the people who will be working in

Sino-Tan Industrial Park due to create at least 100,000 jobs

the park to travel to and from their homes.

He said that the area has already been provided with 10 Megawatts of electricity and the government is continuing efforts to ensure that the area is provided with enough electricity that will reach 50 Megawatts so that the factories that will be built can get reliable electricity.

"We want all the factories designated here to start working soon, so we will ensure that all the challenges of this area, including water and electricity problems, are solved immediately because the concrete level road has been completed up to here," said Jafo.

Janson Huang, Chairman of

Sino Tan Industrial Park said the construction of the park started two years ago and that they have completed the first phase of construction involving 500 acres.

He said that the park has 2,500 acres and will be the largest industrial park in East and Central Africa, adding that the vision is to have more than 200 industries in the park.

"We thank the government of Tanzania for putting in place all the basic infrastructure including roads, and electricity, the government is giving us great cooperation in this construction and we are cooperating with the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) to find investors who will come to set up factories in this

park," he said.

He said that until now 10 industries have started investing in the area and that they continue to encourage many investors to come to Tanzania because the environment in the area is good.

He said they have been promoting the area in China and neighboring countries, and many investors have shown interest in investing in it.

The Industrial Park intends to build a chain of industries that will have the capacity to produce \$6 billion per year.

Completing the industrial park will cost \$320 million and is expected to create 100,000 direct jobs and 500,000 indirect jobs for natives who will work in those industries.

In-Country Grants Officer - Tanzania Location: Dar Es Salam, Tanzania Job Reference: GO/PD/TZ/07/2024



AGRA Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems

AGRA and its Work to Transform Agriculture

AGRA is an African-led institution that actively supports the drive towards inclusive agricultural transformation and sustainable food systems. We do this by empowering the continent's 33 million smallholder farming households to transform their agriculture from a struggle to survive to profitable businesses. The continent's farmers regularly face challenges, and we aspire to provide uniquely African solutions that respond to their agricultural and environmental challenges, leading to increased harvests for reduced hunger and more income.

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The Position

In-Country Grants Officer - Tanzania Job Reference: GO/PD/TZ/07/2024

The In-Country Grants Officer is responsible for working flexibly and collegially in offering support to the Country Director, grants and programs staff as well as in processing grants and maintaining a grants database.

S/he will oversee the grants monitoring and evaluation processes in the assigned Country, and efficiently manages the flow of grants as per donor rules and regulations and in compliance with AGRA's internal policies and processes and uses technology to achieve the set turnaround times.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manage day to day project and grants management of grantees within their portfolio.
- Creates and maintains a grant tracking database through the AGRA management information system (AMIS) and other tools to monitor the flow of project proposals from the time full grant documentation is received in the grants unit to the time a grant award is issued, and the first payment is made.
- Identifies grantees requiring technical assistance and provides relevant training on AGRA grants compliance and reporting requirements.
- Conduct pre-award due diligence for potential grantees including organization capacity assessments.
- Ensure adherence to donor compliance requirements by grantees during the life of the grant post grants issuance. Provide advice to the country leadership on grants compliance requirements.
- Provide grants portfolio performance reports to country leadership and provide corrective actions on parameters that include commitment budget uptake, disbursement, and burn-rate, closures, and implementation of audit recommendations etc.
- Collaborates with country leadership, and HQ regional grants officers in implementing systems, policies, and procedures related to grants administration in the designated country.
- Collaborates with the program staff to analyze, revise and formalize any necessary modifications and/or amendments to grants and contracts.
- Builds capability of the AGRA grantees within priority countries through providing trainings and technical backstopping on M&E systems and tools as required.
- Advocates for compliance with donor and AGRA-specific regulations for grant making and all applicable delegation of authority policies, as they relate to signatory powers and thresholds.
- Track grant-making pipeline, Request for Concept Note processing and Grants Agreement Letter issuance.
- Ensure complete and accurate expenditure support documentation is uploaded by grantees and AGRA to AMIS in compliance with MCF and other donors as appropriate.
- Organize grants charter reviews and compiles grant materials for Grants Committee review.
- Delivers training to grantees and other In-Country users of grants tools and

e-platforms e.g. AMIS and maintains a log of problems and gathers information to contribute to continuous enhancement of the database.

- Conduct grantee monitoring and portfolio performance health checks.
- Prepare and conduct start-up orientation workshops for new awards and coordinate monthly / quarterly meetings with project staff to ensure grant contract clauses and all project-related requirements are complied with.

Key Qualifications and Experience required:

- **Essential**
 - o Bachelor's degree in a commercial domain or equivalent experience in a related field
- **Desirable**
 - o Working knowledge of key donor agencies including MCF, USAID, The Rockefeller Foundation and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
 - o Fluency in English and French and experience in a grant making environment.
 - o Computer proficiency in: Word, Excel, Outlook, Internet search skills, PowerPoint.
 - o Ability to learn new applications quickly.
- **Technical Competencies**
 - o Database management
 - o Training and Coaching
 - o Negotiation
 - o Evaluation
- **Behavioral Competencies**
 - o Ability to drive collaboration through inclusive and agile teaming, breaking siloes, sharing information celebrating joint successes.
 - o Ability to execute excellently by delivering high-quality work at speed, committing to decisions and plans, and increasing accountability to deliver impact at scale.
 - o Ability to be sincerely constructive in interactions with others by demonstrating trust, sincerity, and care, in recognition of our joint purpose.
 - o Ability to be increasingly entrepreneurial by breaking hierarchies, embracing learning and innovation to unlock the potential of diversity and ideas.

If you believe you are the right candidate for this position, kindly submit your application with a detailed CV (including your e-mail and telephone contacts) to recruit@agra.org. Please quote the job reference number in the subject line of the application e-mail.

Applications must be received on or before 24th July, 2024. Due to the large volumes of applications, we usually receive, we will only be able to contact those candidates who are shortlisted.

For more information on the AGRA, visit www.agra.org.

AGRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Cultivate culture of planting trees in all your areas, Tanzanians urged

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Khamis Hamza Khamis has asked Tanzanians to cultivate a culture of planting trees to save the environment.

Khamis made the call yesterday during a tree planting exercise organized by Mkuza Girls' Primary School in Kibaha district, Coast Region as part of the commemoration of the birthday of Vice President Dr Philip Mpango.

Khamis said that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they participate fully in the preservation and care of the environment, stressing that in terms of environmental care, the community should fully participate in the exercise of planting trees, especially fruit and shade trees, to unite the country and reduce environmental damage.

"I ask my brothers here that we remember the birth of the Vice President by doing a tree planting exercise, and the people to have a culture of planting trees as we celebrate our birthdays and other events," he said.

Khamis said that the government started the 'Soma na Mti' (Read with the Tree) campaign for primary, secondary and college students to increase the scope of tree planting and the result is to help deal with the effects of climate change.

He also appealed to Tanzanians to develop the use of clean energy for cooking and abandon the use of wood and charcoal which contribute to deforestation.

So far, the government has prepared a National Strategy for the Use of Clean Energy for Cooking which provides the direction for the country to move to the use of clean energy for cooking to ensure that 80 percent of Tanzanians use this energy by 2034.

Khamis also asked the citizens to take care of the water sources so that they bring benefits to the present and future generations.

Chediel Lwiza, assistant Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT - ECD) said that the tree planting exercise is to complement the government's efforts to ensure that environmental conservation becomes sustainable.

Lwiza said that taking care of the environment is a sign of recognizing God's creation, so if man destroys the environment, he will be going against God's creation.



I ask my brothers here that we remember the birth of the Vice President by doing a tree planting exercise, and the people to have a culture of planting trees as we celebrate our birthdays and other events

Interpol holds 300 people in a global crackdown on W. African crime groups

By Special Correspondent

IN a global operation targeting West African organized crime groups across five continents, police arrested 300 people, seized \$3 million and blocked 720 bank accounts, Interpol said Tuesday.

Operation Jackal III, which ran from 10 April to 3 July in 21 countries, aimed to fight online financial fraud and the West African syndicates behind it, the agency said in a statement.

"The volume of financial fraud stemming from West Africa is alarming and increasing," said Isaac Oginni, director of Interpol's Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre. "This operation's results underscore the critical need for international law enforcement collaboration to combat these extensive criminal networks."

One of the targeted groups was Black Axe, one of the most prominent criminal networks in West Africa. Black Axe operates in cyber fraud, human trafficking, and drug smuggling, and is responsible for violent crimes both within Africa and globally, the agency added.

Black Axe used money mules to open bank accounts worldwide and is now under investigation in over 40 countries for related money laundering activities, the agency said. The suspects include citizens from Argentina, Colombia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

In Argentina, following a five-year investigation, the police cracked down on Black Axe and seized \$1.2 million in high-quality counterfeit banknotes, arrested 72 suspects and froze approximately 100 bank accounts.

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterrorism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organized crime.

The world's biggest if not best-funded police organization has been grappling with new challenges including a growing caseload of cybercrime and child sex abuse, and increasing divisions among its member countries.

Interpol had a total budget of about 176 million euros (about \$188 million) last year, compared to more than 200 million euros at the European Union's police agency, Europol, and some \$11 billion at the FBI in the United States.



Mkalamu district commissioner Moses Machali addresses residents of Mwangaza ward yesterday, part of the thrust being the challenges they commonly grapple with. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Zambia's free schools lead to surge in pupil numbers

LUSAKA

A FREE education programme in Zambia has led to a huge increase in student enrollment. A lack of infrastructure, however, means that the quality of education remains low.

The Zambian government introduced free primary and secondary school education in 2021.

Three years later, an additional two million students are filling classrooms across the country.

While the initiative is widely seen as a positive step towards a brighter future for

young Zambians, a lack of simultaneous investment in infrastructure is threatening educational quality.

Congested classrooms, a lack of teachers, and a shortage of desks or textbooks means that pupils are not reaching key educational targets set by the government, according to the UN's children agency, UNICEF.

While 87.9 percent of children are enrolled in primary school, net enrollment in secondary school is just 42.9 percent with a 67.5 percent transition rate from primary to secondary stages.

"Education is the best economic policy"

The overall increase in enrollment reflects a trend across sub-Saharan Africa, with more children in school than ever before, according to UNICEF.

The African Union in February launched its "Year of Education 2024" and called on governments across the continent to "accelerate progress towards achieving quality education for all."

A key focus for policymakers now should be ensuring that the quality of that education is improved, UNICEF has

said.

With over \$1bn already invested in Zambia's education sector since 2021, the country's government says it plans to build over 170 new schools and recruit 55,000 new teachers by 2026. So far, 37,000 teachers have already been hired.

Despite the challenges, Education Minister Douglas Syakalima says that overcrowding is "a good problem", with education "the best economic policy."

"I'd rather let the children be in a congested classroom than in the street," he says.



Peter Stephen (R), acting Coast regional administrative secretary, holds talks with National Council of NGOs member Prisca Ngweshemi (L) who went to introduce herself at the regional commissioner's office at Kibaha yesterday. Looking on is regional community development officer Roseline Kimaro. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LAGOS

THE United Arab Emirates has lifted a 21-month long visa ban on Nigerians.

Nigeria's information minister Mohammed Idris said Monday that the UAE's decision to lift the ban that has been in place since October 2022 came after "mutually beneficial negotiations" between both governments. He referred to "updated controls and conditions" that prospective Nigerian visitors to the UAE must abide by.

Instead, travellers will be required to submit documents proving their identity and showing travel history, among other things, to generate a verification number

UAE lifts 2022 visa ban on Nigerians

that would then be used to apply for a visa. An exception is granted for applicants 13 years or younger, according to a website of the Emirati government.

The UAE's ban was premised on a number of factors, including allegations of improper conduct and attempts to circumvent visa rules. The row escalated when the Nigerian government cut back Emirates Airlines's flights to Nigeria from 21 times a week to just once. It was supposedly in retaliation for the UAE's refusal to allow Nigerian airliner

Air Peace fly thrice a week to Dubai, approving only one weekly flight.

Emirates suspended its flight operations to Nigeria late 2022, blaming an inability to repatriate tens of millions of dollar earnings away from the country. But on taking office in May 2023 Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu began meeting with authorities, including Emirati president Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to resolve the impasse.

The lifting of the ban this week was preceded by Emirates's announcement

in May that it would resume daily flights between Lagos and Dubai later this year in October.

"The Lagos-Dubai service has traditionally been popular with customers in Nigeria," Adnan Kazim, deputy president and chief commercial officer for Emirates said in May. A feature of the resumption of the service is that Emirates will offer "more than 300 tonnes" of weekly cargo capacity in its passenger aircrafts' lower deck in and out of Lagos.

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Steel, soda ash drives laudable, with market feasibility certified

THE National Development Corporation (NDC) is under instruction to quickly revive the integrated Liganga and Mchuchuma coal mine and iron ore project in Ludewa District, Njombe Region, so that it can start work and help the country earn foreign currency.

There is an equally explicit directive that the NDC proceed with the Engaruka soda ash project in Arusha Region by identifying people who need to be compensated for the project to start.

A recent session heard the respective minister cite the Engaruka project as similar to Liganga and Mchuchuma as a stalled strategic project.

While the minister recollected assertions about Mchuchuma and Liganga as not having changed since entering the issue landed in the National Assembly in 2010, many of us have memories taking the story further back in time.

That was nearly 30 years earlier - when the government was thinking of the basic industries development plan.

This plan did not take off and the projects found no takers starting in the mid-1990s when the changed financial sector environment and investment regulation ostensibly made it a usable project in that regard. Yet it did not work; and now the issue resurfaces - close to 30 years later.

In between there were plans like the Dangote Cement Co. being granted leave to install a power station to use coal to obtain electricity for the industry, while disputes arose with the NDC.

The Lake Natron soda ash project was in a sense the victim of pervasive environmental concern, mainly that it would severely disturb the

natural environment for flamingos inhabiting the area.

Such pressures have a way of blending with other issues and if the government turns a deaf ear to issues raised by global environmentalists it risks finding the doors closed for its other agenda. Such situations could well develop into a series.

That is why it is vital that more elaborate work be conducted for the directives to be implemented in a beneficial way instead of depending on statutory procedure.

The minister stressed the results expected, demanding that the NDC take care of the matter to ensure the project starts producing steel.

The NDC board is now tasked with presenting a roadmap "on how we are going to ensure that we get out of where we are". It would definitely be a good thing, on condition of respecting the basics.

As the recent public economic organisations working session had the participation of the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade), that may be a good starting point for trade experts to provide a substantive view of the feasibility of the two projects.

They would presumably not have to start afresh as in routine consulting but only examine if previous consultancy results were still valid.

Dangote Cement wanted to produce electricity largely for its own industrial outlays. NDC or for that matter the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) would rather have preferred the firm to provide the cash to set up such facility, hand it to the state and use electricity to recover its costs - as the facility remained with and under NDC.

With such prerogatives, leading to what is known in bureaucratise as a win-win situation, there stood the risk of some projects stalling.

With some funds, volunteer medical teams could freely treat people often

IN a matter of weeks, the public has witnessed various sorts of medical teams visiting several urban centres and administering free diagnosis and treatment.

It has not been just 'generalist' medical personnel but specialist teams capable of examining even the most acute and hidden ailments.

The latest example is a Chinese naval hospital ship now anchored at the Dar es Salaam Port and starting to provide free humanitarian medical service.

It is a five-day gesture of solidarity as Sino-Tanzanian cooperation attains 60 years, having started in earnest with the founding of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

Something can be noticed in the frequent medical teams visiting regions, including a recently completed initiative inspired by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in like manner - a legal aid campaign.

Looking at the matter closely, it is evident that there are substantial amounts of unused energy in the likes of naval forces equipped with medical teams but without a combat situation anywhere to engage their capabilities.

Stretching the matter a little further, one needs plenty of such capacities not just in massive public institutions like the military but also out there in the streets - dotted by hordes of unemployed people.

Public authorities often speak of the many doctors and teachers or other professionals having all the relevant documents for useful employment positions but with the government lacking the revenues to hire even a portion of them.

By the time the government can offer employment to 10,000 doctors or teachers, nearly 40,000 more would already have graduated. It means that charity initiatives can

from time to time use such energies while paid modest allowances and nothing more.

There is evidently need for arranging for occasions like this one - implemented as part of the commemoration of 60 years of Tanzania-China bilateral cooperation.

A cardinal building bloc here is engagement between the Tanzania People's Defence Forces and the Chinese People's Liberation Army cemented in the course of seeking friends out there in the wake of the Zanzibar Revolution and ardent support from 'eastern bloc' countries.

Other countries have national days tied to big themes enveloping a message of actual empathy and solidarity with people around the world, and with a facilitating structure say in the Prime Minister's Office, various brief but useful interventions can be arranged.

Such events are equally helpful in helping to consolidate attitude bridges already in place but, as opportunities are still limited, there is a reluctance of being forthright in showing solidarity in times of need.

It is fine if members of the Chinese naval medical corps treat people freely but it is a different matter if a Chinese turns up as a small trader, or small miner somewhere, as then it is a matter of sharing out poverty or scarcity.

Were it that a Chinese buys a cluster of houses in a low-lying area say at 200m/- per house, and the family shares out 50m/- apiece to move elsewhere, this would help shift attitudes as their presence starts being seen as a boon rather than an additional blot.

While we have accepted this arrangement for the Diaspora, there are eager people in other lands who could make a difference in many people's lives, with cash beyond charity.

It is Madiba's Day



Kanak ambition for independence is defiant following political turmoil in New Caledonia

NOUMEA, New Caledonia

IT'S been 26 years since a peace agreement, the Noumea Accord, was signed following an outbreak of conflict in the 1980s between Kanak islanders and French armed forces in the French overseas territory of New Caledonia.

But the eruption of turbulent protests and unrest again two months ago has shown that the cleavage of indigenous political grievances with the French state remains deep in this group of islands located east of Australia in the southwest Pacific.

The centre of New Caledonia's capital, Noumea, a popular holiday destination in the Pacific Islands, is usually abuzz with tourists patronizing sidewalk cafes. But many of the streets, now patrolled by French police, are deserted and eerily quiet.

The protests, which began in mid-May, escalated to armed clashes between activists and French security forces, resulting in ten deaths. And the destruction of homes, public buildings and businesses has had a devastating impact on the small island society. The cost of the damage is estimated to be more than USD 1 billion; at least 7,000 people have lost jobs and incomes, and the territory's economy has suffered a major downturn.

The unrest has revealed the gaping fracture between France's determination to retain control of the territory and the indigenous Kanak islanders, who are riled at lack of progress toward their call for self-determination.

"We protested in the streets. We wanted to say to the French state, you must respect the Kanaks because France voted for the reforms without consent from us," Jacques (his name has been changed), a Kanak activist in Noumea, told IPS.

He was speaking of the adoption of electoral changes in New Caledonia by the French Parliament, which would have opened the electoral roll to tens of thousands of recent migrant settlers, the majority from Europe.

About 41 percent of New Caledonia's population is indigenous and many believe it would have led to the declining influence of their vote against rising numbers of Loyalists in future elections and referendums. The changing demographic balance between Kanaks and non-Kanaks is a longstanding grievance.

The uprising in the 1980s was



Kanak Pro-Independence supporters display the Kanak flag during a rally in the streets of Noumea prior to New Caledonia's first referendum on independence in 2018. Credit: Catherine Wilson/IPS

driven by grievances about land dispossession, poverty, inequality, the absence of civil and political rights, and France's policy of promoting migration from France to New Caledonia.

While French President Emmanuel Macron suspended the electoral reforms in mid-June, many Pro-Independence supporters are unappeased.

Jacques is among a group of Kanak activists who have set up a campaign site next to a main road on the outskirts of the capital. They are sitting around a table under a marquee, surrounded by flags and banners.

"We want our country to be decolonized, as it is written in the Noumea agreement. The French state is only interested in dominating the population here. If the French state stays here, we will have more violence," Jacques claims.

The French government agreed in the 1998 Noumea Accord to grant New Caledonia more governing powers, recognition of Kanak culture and right to consultation, restrictions on the local electoral roll allowing only Kanaks and long-term residents to vote and the holding of referendums on its future political status.

But by 2021, three referendums had been held, all with majority outcomes, to remain part of France. There was a 43.33 percent vote for Independence in the first referendum in 2018, which increased to 46.74 percent in the second in 2020. But Kanaks, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, boycotted the third referendum in 2021. The overwhelming Loyalist vote of 96.5 percent has never been accepted by Pro-Independence political parties, such as the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

"We firmly support the call by FLNKS for the UN to declare the

unemployment rate is reported to be as high as 38 percent.

Yet the representation of Kanaks in the territory's government and politics has steadily increased over the past two decades. The number of seats held by Pro-Independence politicians in New Caledonia's 54 seat Congress rose from 18 to 25 between 2004 and 2014, while Loyalists witnessed a decrease from 36 to 29 seats, reports Australia's Lowy Institute for International Policy.

In 2021, Louis Mapou, the first Kanak Pro-Independence President of the government, was elected. And, following the French national election this month, Emmanuel Tjibaou, a Kanak leader from the rural North Province, was voted in as one of New Caledonia's two members of the National Assembly in Paris.

In the wider region, New Caledonia's self-determination movement has the international support of other Pacific Island countries, especially those that have indigenous Melanesian populations, such as Papua New Guinea and Fiji, as well as Azerbaijan and Russia. And the French overseas territory has been on the United Nations' Decolonization List since 1986.

Yet there are New Caledonians who are concerned about the viability of a New Caledonian state. The territory relies heavily on France's fiscal support, which amounts to 20 percent of the local gross domestic product (GDP) and pays for public services, local economic development programs and civil service salaries.

"We have a good economy here," Marcieux, a Frenchman who has lived in New Caledonia for 30 years, told IPS in Noumea. "It is easy to speak of independence, but, in reality, it is very difficult. You need a way to make independence."

But, until the yawning political divisions laid bare by the events of May are addressed, it will be difficult for New Caledonia's leaders to present a united will to President Macron and the French Parliament located more than 16,000 kilometres away.

However, Tjibaou, the new member of the French National Assembly, is the focus of hope that meaningful dialogue can emerge from the recent conflict. He told local media soon after his election this month that "we all have to offer a framework for discussions to resume between the three partners, which are France, the FLNKS and the Loyalists... we have to capitalize on this."

IPS UN Bureau Report

PEACE AND SECURITY

ECOWAS at age 49: Successes in regional integration, despite emerging challenges

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was founded in 1975 to promote economic integration in the region. Forty-nine years later, the regional bloc boasts significant successes in integration, peace and security and good governance, but also faces some challenges.

ECOWAS was founded on 28 May 1975. What are its achievements so far?

The achievements of ECOWAS over the last 49 years can be encapsulated in one key point: we have transitioned from creating an organization to building a community.

ECOWAS was created at the very height of the Cold War. The only possible area for people to come together and find common ground was economic integration, not political or ideological.

The protocol on the free movement of persons, goods and services (1976) permits citizens the right of abode in any member state and has been an ECOWAS calling card over the years. It is a major achievement that people in West Africa do not have to think about a visa when they cross borders within the region.

There was a lot of turmoil in Africa post-Cold War; without ECOWAS the whole region could have been engulfed in fratricidal wars. If you remember, a war started in Liberia towards the end of 1989 and continued throughout the 1990s, spreading to Sierra Leone and affecting Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

There is a lot the region can be proud of—the fact that ECOWAS is now a trademark, a pioneer in regional integration on the continent.

ECOWAS intervened through its multilateral armed forces, the Economic Community of West African States Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), which stabilized the situation and eventually provided a soft landing for the United Nations peacekeepers who came in subsequently.

On economic integration?

On economic integration, we can talk about many achievements. It is not just about the free movement of persons; it is also about creating a common market for the region. It is about helping countries develop infrastructure—energy, internet connectivity, and building road networks across the region. This is ongoing. However, learning from the sad events of the 1990s characterized by civil wars and the implosion of States, ECOWAS had no choice but to pivot to security matters and good governance.

Today, the values of democracy and human



Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria, July 7, 2024.

rights are very much embedded in West African culture, and ECOWAS is part and parcel of that process. West Africa is the only region in Africa that does not have an open, high-intensity conflict, despite the activities of Violent Extremist Groups.

There is a lot the region can be proud of—the fact that ECOWAS is now a trademark, a pioneer in regional integration on the continent. It provided a lot of the basis for the African Union's frameworks.

ECOWAS morphed from an economic bloc into both an economic and political union. Is this correct?

Yes, it is.

Some ECOWAS members have indicated their intention to pull out of the group. Are there efforts to ensure they remain?

ECOWAS is a community. We have solidarity. We may have challenges or differences, but pulling out is not the answer. The countries intending to pull out talk about their Pan-African ambitions and other things, but the basis of Pan-Africanism is integration. Given that disintegration will not promote Pan-Africanism, we are doing everything we can to have them remain in the fold.

However, it is important to note

that a country cannot just decide one day to withdraw from ECOWAS. There are procedures to follow, by Article 91 of the ECOWAS Treaty.

Several diplomatic engagements are going on behind the scenes to reunite the ECOWAS bloc.

What gives you hope these efforts will succeed?

What gives us hope is that ECOWAS held its extraordinary summit in February 2024 and lifted the severe sanctions against Niger, and we further encouraged them to return to the Community. We hope they understand that the advantages of being together far outweigh the disadvantages.

Talking about advantages, what further incentives do you provide these countries to encourage them to maintain their membership?

I spoke earlier about ECOWAS' free movement of people, goods and services. About 10 million citizens of these countries are spread across the region. As we speak, 4.5 million Burkinabe citizens live in Côte d'Ivoire alone. If they withdraw from ECOWAS, the status of their citizens will change dramatically. They will have to regularize their stay, and those who cannot regularize will need to

return to their countries.

We talk about trade liberalization. Intra-African trade is just about 15 percent. Within the ECOWAS region, exports from these three countries to other parts of West Africa do not go beyond 17 percent. What ECOWAS gets from them is meat products, vegetables and so on. Whereas they get energy and many manufactured goods from the other countries with virtually no tariffs attached.

The values of democracy and human rights are very much embedded in West African culture, and ECOWAS is part and parcel of that process.

Do not forget the three countries are landlocked. They will need outlets to the sea, which is being provided today under very favourable conditions within the framework of regional integration. If they pull out, they will have to find alternative outlets or pay higher freight charges and tariffs. It will take a lot of time and resources to do that.

We are also about community solidarity, which is something people take for granted. In fact, the three countries together consume more than 52 percent of the ECOWAS strategic food reserves, which is about 15,000 tonnes of food. Landlocked

countries or those ravaged by cyclical droughts need such support.

Finally, the most effective way of combating violent extremism is by sharing intelligence and cross-border military cooperation. If they separate from us, how do they effectively fight violent extremists? We need them back in the family and I hope they rescind their decision.

Could their withdrawal have reputational consequences for ECOWAS?

A withdrawal will neither be good for them nor for ECOWAS because in international diplomacy today, strength lies in numbers. If we remain 15 member states, our influence in international diplomacy is greater. If they leave, ECOWAS will be weakened. This is something we must consider.

Remember that ECOWAS is an organization of solidarity. If you are seeking positions in international organizations like the UN and others, ECOWAS comes together and backs a candidate. For the sake of solidarity, we will back those who are within the community.

So diplomatically speaking, security-wise, politically, it is bad for both sides. But on balance, it is very much not in their favour.



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a time programme with various news and show titles.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

China's open sci-tech cooperation benefits humanity

By Yan Yu

CURRENTLY, countries around the world are facing global challenges such as climate change, food security, and energy security. To overcome common development challenges, humanity needs international cooperation, openness, and sharing more than ever before.

At the same time, the world has entered an era of "big science," where scientific research and technological innovation have become more complex, systematic, and collaborative. No country can be an independent innovation center or enjoy the benefits of innovation alone. International cooperation has become an inevitable choice to promote technological innovation.

China has always been a participant in and a beneficiary of open cooperation in scientific and technological development. In recent years, China has proposed an international science and technology cooperation initiative, led several large international cooperation projects, and implemented the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation



A contestant competes in an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) maintenance competition during the second Belt and Road International Skills Competition in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, June 25, 2024. (Photo by Sun Kaifang/People's Daily Online)

Cooperation Action Plan. China's influence as an important global innovation hub continues to grow.

China has been continuously expanding its "circle of friends" in the global innovation network. As of October 2023, China has established scientific and technological cooperation relationships with 161 countries and regions and signed 117 intergovernmental cooperation agreements on scientific and technological cooperation.

It has engaged in practical cooperation with various countries in areas such as climate change, clean energy, and health, building a

multi-level, comprehensive, and wide-ranging new pattern of open cooperation in scientific and technological development.

China has deeply integrated into the global technology governance system. As of October 2023, the country had joined over 200 international organizations and multilateral mechanisms, and participated in nearly 60 large international cooperation programs and projects. Its contribution and influence in these organizations have significantly increased.

Additionally, China has taken the initiative to set global technology innovation agen-

das, leading the Green Powered Future Mission (GPFM) and launching an international technology innovation and cooperation program on carbon neutrality.

China is continuously expanding its opening up in science and technology, creating a favorable environment for open innovation. In recent years, China has set up a globally oriented scientific research fund, stepped up the opening-up of the national science and technology programs, and encouraged and supported foreign scientists in addressing global challenges.

It has strengthened exchanges and interactions with governments, scientific communities, and industries of various countries, promoting the smooth flow of innovative factors of talents, technology, capital, and data. It also supports joint research and development among scientists from different countries, so that they can work together on research programs that contribute to global sustainable development.

Openness brings opportunities, and cooperation drives development. Reviewing China's scientific and technological progress in the



A Long March-2C rocket carrying an astronomical satellite, the Space-based Multi-band Variable Object Monitor (SVOM), a result of China-France cooperation, blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan province, June 22, 2024. (Photo by Chen Haojie)

new era, one can see new breakthroughs in basic and cutting-edge research, new leaps in strategic high-tech fields, and new achievements in innovation-driven high-quality development, such as translating human somatic cells back into pluripotent stem cells using the chemical cellular reprogramming technique, the superdeep boreholes drilled by China's most advanced land-based drilling rig Crust 1, and the expedition of China's deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe (Striver) into the depths of the ocean, the commercial opera-

tion of China's self-developed large passenger aircraft, and China's new energy vehicles (NEVs) providing new momentum for the global auto industry. These successes paint a vivid picture of how China has enhanced its innovation capabilities through open cooperation.

China shares its wisdom and achievements in open cooperation. From the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) exploring the mysteries of the universe, to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

project striving to bring unlimited clean energy to humanity, and to the Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions (ONCE) plan aimed at providing intelligent solutions for global ocean carbon sinks, Chinese scientists are actively involved in major international scientific programs and projects. They work hand in hand with scientists around the world, contributing Chinese wisdom to major global scientific challenges.

Today, China's space station has extended invitations to space explorers worldwide, the Chang'e-6 probe has carried four international payloads to the moon, and the FAST is open for international cooperation.

Regardless of the complexity of the international environment, China consistently maintains an open-minded approach, keeps its doors open, and remains committed to ensuring that science and technology better benefit all of humanity.

International science and technology cooperation is a major trend. China's technological advancement is becoming increasingly interdependent with the rest of the world, and global technological progress is also increasingly reliant on China.

A busy day at North China's Tianjin Port

By Weng Yufei, Jin Bo

NORTH China's Tianjin Port is always bustling with vitality. Every day, the port welcomes a steady stream of over 100 colossal container ships, with more than 20,000 heavy-duty trucks thundering across its vast expanses.

According to Wang Bin, a manager with China Ocean Shipping Agency Tianjin Co., Ltd., the cargo and container throughput of the port has been rising steadily.

"We are obviously busier this year than last," said Wang, who has been working at the port for two decades.

Ports are a "barometer" of the economy. As a gate to the sea of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in north China, Tianjin Port handled 9.58 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first five months of this year, up 5.1 percent year on year, hitting a historical high.

At the crack of dawn, Wang arrived at the Yuanhang International Ore Terminal, the largest ore terminal of Tianjin Port, where the massive bulk carrier "Cape Asia" was ready to discharge its mammoth cargo of 171,400 tons of iron ore.

Since November 2023, the terminal has witnessed a dramatic surge in its operations. From February to April this year, the terminal's monthly throughput has maintained double-digit growth compared to the same period last year, reaching a new high in the last five years.

Completing his work at the ore terminal, Wang immediately made his way to the roll-on roll-off terminal, or ro-ro terminal, to handle relevant procedures.

"This year, we have seen a rapid increase in

the number of ro-ro vessels, so I have to make more frequent trips to the terminals," said Wang.

As a major auto import and export hub in north China, Tianjin Port exactly mirrors the surge in China's automotive exports.

After lunch, Wang rushed back to his office. "I need to handle the work for the liner service between Tianjin Port and Ethiopia, and coordinate the container operations," he explained.

Wang noted that the liner service has seen a notable increase this year, leading to a container shortage caused by the high volume of cargo. As someone who routinely liaises with Ethiopian shipping companies, Wang said this was an unprecedented situation for him.

Tianjin Port maintains trade connections with over 500 ports in more than 180 countries and regions worldwide. It has close ties with "old friends" and is also gaining more "new friends." On May 6, Tianjin Port launched a direct container shipping route to the east coast of South America. On May 15, a direct route to the east coast of the United States was opened. On May 16, it launched a new direct shipping route to Central America.

"Tianjin Port remains committed to expanding its shipping routes and will never cease its steps of opening up," said Liu Yakun, Wang's colleague who is responsible for container shipping businesses. According to Liu, enterprises have been showing a strong demand since the launch of the three new routes.

The port's increasing regional presence has unleashed its potential for transshipment to and from the inland.



Photo shows the bustling activities at the smart zero-carbon terminal of north China's Tianjin Port. (Photo by Guo Junfeng/People's Daily Online)

At 4:00 P.M., Wang arrived at the Huisheng Terminal. Across the street, heavy-duty trucks loaded with containers were departing the Tianjin Xingang North Container Central Station for destinations as north as Jilin and as west as Xinjiang. Cargoes from 14 provinces were being shipped out from Tianjin Port via sea-rail intermodal transportation.

On the other side, a project to expand the station is currently underway. "The uptick in foreign trade in specific inland provinces has boosted the need for sea-rail intermodal transportation, creating a highly optimistic market outlook," said an employee of the station.

As dusk fell, Wang concluded his work at the

Huisheng Terminal and made his way to the world's first smart zero-carbon container terminal at Tianjin Port. While the three 200,000-ton berths of the terminal were occupied by massive vessels, not a single staff member was visible. Instead, Level-4 autonomous artificial intelligence (AI) transport robots hauled containers, with operators in the central control room maneuvering levers and buttons based on real-time video feeds to load and unload containers. Several wind turbines were spinning vigorously outside the central control room, supplying electricity to the terminal. The terminal has achieved self-sufficient green power supply, resulting in zero carbon emissions throughout the entire process.

Currently, all container and dry bulk cargo berths at Tianjin Port are covered by shore power, and multiple terminals have achieved self-sufficient green power supply.

"When I started working here, some of the terminals were just dirt lots; 20 years later, the terminals have been increasingly intelligent and clean," Wang said.

Tianjin Port has been constantly enhancing its smart port construction with the continuous growth of ships and gradual expansion of the port. This year, the port launched an intelligent container terminal control system with fully autonomous and controllable software and hardware. It has also introduced China's first integrated intelligent system for general cargo with independent intellectual property rights.

Intelligent systems have greatly improved the operational efficiency of the port. For instance, the maximum daily unloading volume of the traditional berths at the Yuanhang International Ore Terminal increased by nearly 90 percent following its transition to automated operations.

Deep into the night, Tianjin Port's terminals were still bustling with activities, marked by increased throughput volumes, a constant flow of vehicles and vessels, and intelligent machinery working tirelessly. The activities of a single day at Tianjin Port vividly showcase the dynamic momentum and robustness of the Chinese economy.

China sets exemplary model for world in high-speed rail technologies

By Li Xinping

TODAY, China's Fuxing bullet train has become the world's fastest commercially operated train with the most diverse operating scenarios. By the end of 2023, Fuxing bullet trains had operated 2.34 billion kilometers safely and transported a total of 2.2 billion passengers.

From the initiation of the train's development in 2013 to its impressive debut in 2017, the Fuxing bullet train epitomizes China's innovative prowess.

In 2004, faced with the country's surging demand for a railway speed-up, China began to track high-speed rail technologies from around the world and successively introduced technologies from Japan, France, Canada, and Germany.

Three years later, the Hexie high-speed train officially went into service, and subsequently, a series of products were developed and put into mass production.

With the remarkable performance of the Hexie series, why was there a need to develop the Fuxing bullet trains?

The total mileage of high-speed railways in China is unparalleled in the

world, and no county has such a complex operating environment.

"Some imported train models inevitably face challenges in adapting to the local conditions and require further innovation," said Ye Yangsheng, chief engineer of China Railway.

Every upgrade or modification on foreign technology platforms inevitably involves software updates, and sometimes even requires the assistance of foreign experts, Ye explained.

Although China mastered the technologies of the Hexie series, and many of the technologies were developed and improved through independent innovation, due to the use of foreign technology platforms and adoption of foreign standards, further development was constrained, said former chief engineer of China Railway He Huawu. Therefore, it was imperative to develop high-speed trains with Chinese standards.

"A high-speed train traveling at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour includes over 40,000 parts, covering various technical fields such as mechanics, metallurgy, materials, power electronics, chemical engineering, and information control," said Wang Jun, chief scientist of China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC).

Besides, with China's super large railway network, complex geographical and climatic conditions, and long-distance and continuous high-speed operation, the independent development of high-speed trains faced unprecedented challenges, Wang added.

To reduce noise, more than 3,000 tests were conducted on different materials and structures for



A Fuxing bullet train runs on the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed railway in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province. (Photo by Wang Wei/People's Daily Online)

sound insulation. As a result, the Fuxing bullet train is able to run at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour with a minimum noise level of 65 decibels in the train compartments.

To reduce vehicle resistance and energy consumption, over 40 different solutions were analyzed through simulation and wind tunnel tests. As a result, aerodynamic resistance was reduced by 14 percent, and energy consumption per passenger per 100 kilometers was cut by 20 percent.

To achieve optimal harmonic control for the entire vehicle, the research and development team went through numerous cycles of design,

analysis, testing, and optimization. This process ultimately led to the development of an innovative control module that has reached world-class standards.

During the independent innovation of the Fuxing high-speed train, the research and development team has made breakthroughs in core control technologies such as traction, braking, and networking, as well as key technologies in wheel, axle, and gearbox design and manufacturing.

Among the 254 important standards adopted by the train, 84 percent are Chinese. The overall design of the train, as well as key technolo-

gies such as the train body and bogie, were independently developed, and the software was entirely self-developed, possessing complete independent intellectual property rights.

After undergoing over 10,000 simulations, ground tests, and line trials, the Chinese-standard high-speed train Fuxing obtained its model certificate and manufacturing license in 2017. In June of that year, the Fuxing bullet train made its debut.

Three months later, the train started commercial operation with a speed of 350 kilometers per hour on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway, and in December 2019, it also achieved a speed of 350 kilometers per hour on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou high-speed railway, operating in autonomous driving mode.

In June 2021, the Fuxing train, powered by internal combustion and electric power, extended its services to Lhasa, Xizang autonomous region, marking that the train has reached 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China.

Additionally, it had participated in 249 international standard development and revision projects. All II system-level UIC international standards in the field of high-speed rail were formulated by China.



Simba midfielders now acknowledge intense competition within the team

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA Sports Club, currently in Egypt for pre-season training, has made significant changes to its squad, especially in the midfield, as they prepare for the 2024/2025 campaign. Only two midfielders from last season, Fabrice Ngoma and Mzamiru Yassin, remain on the team.

To bolster their midfield, Simba have signed five new players: Yusuph Kagoma, Augustine Okejeffa, Debora Mavumbo, Jean Charles Ahoua, and Saido Ntibanzokiza. Additionally, Awesu Awesu is reportedly set to join the club soon. These additions bring the total number of midfielders to eight, marking a significant shift from the previous season.

To accommodate the new recruits, Simba parted ways with several midfielders, including Sadio Kanoute, Babacar Sarr, Clatous Chama, and Saido Ntibanzokiza. This overhaul reflects the club's ambition to strengthen its squad and improve its performance in the upcoming season.

Yusuph Kagoma (pictured), one of the new signings, acknowledged the intense competition within the team due to the increased squad depth. However, he remains undeterred and is determined to earn his place on the team.

"There is always talk about the number of players in a squad, but that doesn't bother me. I am here to work hard and convince the technical bench to give me a chance," Kagoma said.

Discussing the upcoming season, Kagoma expressed confidence in the team's prospects, citing the quality and strength of the squad.

"I believe we will do well because of the quality and strength we have. Competition is inevitable when you have many players, but that's what makes a team stronger," he stated.

"Personally, I am not afraid of competition. We are all here to fight and help the team succeed. Simba SC fans

have high hopes this season, and we plan to make sure we bring them happiness," Kagoma added.

Kagoma also shared his excitement about joining Simba, a dream he has harbored since childhood.

"Choosing Simba was an easy decision for me. Playing for Simba has been a dream of mine since I was a child, and when the opportunity came, I didn't hesitate," he said.

Similarly, Nigerian midfielder Augustine Okejeffa, another new addition to the squad, expressed his satisfaction with the team's preparations in Ismailia, Egypt. Despite being new to the team, he praised the warm welcome he received from his teammates, which has boosted his confidence.

"I feel at home because I have been well-received by my colleagues. The preparations are going well, and all the players are showing their determination to fight for the team next season," Okejeffa remarked.

Okejeffa joined Simba from Rivers United in Nigeria and has previously played for Kano Pillars and Warri Wolves FC. Reflecting on the pre-season training, he noted the positive atmosphere within the team.

"Since we started training for the new season, the motivation has been great. This includes the players, the technical bench, and the leaders. Everything is going well, and the leaders have been with us shoulder to shoulder, ensuring we give our best for the fans. I believe the next season will be good, and what makes me proud is how everyone is performing in practice," Okejeffa added.

Simba's ambitious revamp of their midfield is a clear signal of their intent to dominate the upcoming season. With the new signings, the team is poised to bring a fresh dynamic to their gameplay, aiming to meet the high expectations of their fans and secure success in the 2024/2025 campaign.

Alliance Caravans storms into 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup final

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

ALLIANCE Caravans have boosted their quest for the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup title, cruising to the final after commanding an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Park Mobile Lions in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Jitin Singh-led Alliance Caravans, also the tournament hosts, met Park Mobile Lions in the weekend's final match of the showdown's Super 4 stage at the Leaders Club venue in Kinondoni.

A win for Alliance Caravans was bound to have the outfit secure a spot in the tournament's final, a goal cherished by all of the club's supporters.

However, standing in their path were the formidable Park Mobile Lions, who had breezed through the group stage.

Park Mobile Lions won the toss and opted to bat first and, despite their strong form earlier, they struggled against the disciplined bowling put on by Alliance Caravans.

Apart from opener Ejaz Aziz, Mohamad Jawed, and Yash Hirwania, who managed to reach double figures, most of Park Mobile Lions' batsmen faltered.

Alliance Caravans' bowling attack, spearheaded by Jerry Mathew, ran rings all over the opponents' batting unit.

The in-form Mathew claimed three wickets for just nine runs in his four overs to walk away with the Automark Purple Cap.

Mathew was ably supported by skipper Akhil Anil (3-14 in four overs) and Yalinde Maurice (2-17 in four overs) to bundle Park Mobile Lions out for a



Alliance Caravans' Jerry Mathew (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award from a representative of Colourflex Inks and Coatings Company, once the club confronted Park Mobile Lions in the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup Super 4 phase clash in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

mere 78 runs.

With qualification seemingly assured, Alliance Caravans needed to maintain composure over the next 20 overs.

Openers Prakash Nair (43 runs not out off 30 balls) and Jitin Pratap Singh (22 off 33 balls) set a solid foundation with a 41-run partnership before Jitin fell to Park Mobile Lions' Umar Shaikh.

All-rounder Kassim Nasoro departed soon after without scoring, but Ganesh Giri's quickfire 11 runs not out off three balls sealed the victory and confirmed Alliance Caravans' place in the final.

Mathew's exceptional bowling performance earned him the Ras Logistics Man of the Match award.

Nair's aggressive batting, particularly his onslaught against Mohamed Jawed's bowling, was celebrated as the Medinova Moment of the Match.

The tournament is an annual T20 cricket showdown organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Alliance Caravans, Aurobindo AKSC, Delaware Upanga SC, Balakrishna Foundation Aces, Flashnet Strikers, Park Mobile Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, Econo Lodge Lions, Azania Bank Pak Stars, and Generics

Gymkhana are taking part in the showdown.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of this tournament. Other sponsors of this tournament include Alliance Insurance, Ras Logistics, Medinova Healthcare, Automark, Pepsi, Ashton Media, MFI-Vertiv, Jiuzhou, SmarDTV, Intek-Korea, ASAS, Colourflex, and Delaware.

Aurobindo, Balakrishna Foundation, Park Mobile, Harab Motors, Flashnet, Generics, Econo Lodge, Azania Bank, Horizon Teleports, TATA, The Works, MO Bajaj, and Sealcliff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.



Tiger Woods of the United States answers questions at a press conference ahead of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, Tuesday, July 16, 2024. (AP Photo)

TROON, Scotland

TIGER Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture.

He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play – how much longer he should play – to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around.

Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at

one point, "What the hell is he doing?"

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either."

Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a major.

"Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an

Analysis: Tiger Woods is playing all the majors. But for how much longer?

Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned off the table for charity.

Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen.

"I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions."

Poor Monty.

The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door no matter what numbers he is posting.

His 82 in the third round of the Masters was his highest in a major. The 78 on the Old Course two years ago in what likely will be his final time at St. Andrews.

He still draws the biggest crowd and generates the loudest buzz. And two numbers worth remembering are four and 15. He had four surgeries on his lower back, the last one to fuse his spine, and two years later he won his 15th major at the Masters.

Another number worth noting is 59 – the age of Tom Watson when he was an 8-foot par putt away from winning the British Open at Turnberry in 2009. The year before, Greg Norman was 53 when he had

the 54-hole lead at Royal Birkdale.

Courses for the U.S. majors might be getting too big for the 48-year-old Woods, whose body is held together by hardware. But there is something about links golf that is timeless.

"The older you get, the less you can carry the golf ball," Woods said. "But over here, you can run the golf ball 100 yards if you get the right wind and the right trajectory. ... You can play on the ground. You can burn it on the ground with a 1-iron, 2-iron, 3-wood, whatever."

"I think that's one of the reasons why you see older champions up there on the board because they're not forced to have to carry the ball 320 yards."

Woods always will be linked with Augusta National because of his watershed win at age 21 when he won the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, and it is the major he has won the most times. But for all his power as a younger man, no one hit irons like Woods. The flight of his shots was ideal for the links golf. It still is.

Woods showed up Tuesday wearing shorts, with a black compression sleeve covering his right leg. That was a clear reminder that age isn't as big an issue as health. Woods has been forthright in explaining his dilemma. His body won't allow him to play a full schedule, and when he shows up at the majors, he has to deal with competitive rust.

FA willing to wait for Pep Guardiola as England manager to replace Gareth

By Miguel Delaney

THE Football Association would consider the idea of appointing an interim in order to try and coax Pep Guardiola as England manager if he does decide to leave Manchester City in 2025.

While it is not the federation's first choice to wait, the Catalan represents such an outstanding candidate that it would at least bring a re-assessment if there was any chance of getting him.

Gareth Southgate's resignation was announced on Tuesday morning, just two days after the Euro 2024 final defeat to Spain, putting into action a long-prepared FA plan for his departure.

The priority now is for a manager who understands the culture of the national team, which Guardiola fits into perfectly having spent eight years in England and supplied so many players.

He has naturally been high on any ideal list, but the feeling was previously that it would be near impossible to get him out of City for such a job.

There is now a feeling within the English champions that Guardiola might leave at the end of the 2024-25 season. Complicating his future is the ongoing Premier League investigation into City over the hundred-plus charges for alleged breaches of rules on financial regulation. The club stress their innocence.

Guardiola has previously expressed interest in going into international management, although primarily on the romance of coaching Brazil.

In such a scenario that he might be interested, the FA would seek to play up the idea of ending England's long wait for an international trophy.

Guardiola does not have particular interest in managing Spain due to identifying as a Catalan.

One problem is that the 53-year-old may not even make a decision until the end of the 2024-25 season, as has been the case in recent campaigns. That may not prove completely off-putting, however.

While the FA have stressed their intention to make a quick decision, that can involve an interim. Qualification for the 2026 World Cup doesn't even start until late March.

Under-21 manager Lee Carsley would be seen as someone ready to step up, given he is currently a candidate for the senior job. Any success in such games could even see him promoted if Guardiola does not ultimately leave City or want the job.

Figures with knowledge of the situation have also pointed out that the FA were prepared to wait for Sarina Wiegman on the women's team, because they felt she was absolutely the right choice.

As regards candidates the FA would seek to go for immediately, Newcastle United have already let it be known that they would work to keep Eddie Howe.

THE INDEPENDENT

'Easily one of the best' - Bellingham leads Southgate tributes

By Sam Drury

JUDE Bellingham praised Gareth Southgate as "easily one of the best coaches in the history of the national team" in a heartfelt tribute to the outgoing England manager.

Southgate resigned on Tuesday after nearly eight years in the role, with England's 2-1 loss to Spain in Sunday's Euro 2024 final his last match in charge.

In a post on Instagram, Real Madrid midfielder Bellingham described Southgate as "an unbelievable human being".

"I'd like to thank Gareth and his staff for the great memories during his tenure," Bellingham wrote.

"From the point of view of a fan who has become a member of the squad, it's been a rollercoaster of amazing emotions that has instilled hope and joy back into our country.

"It was a privilege being lead by someone who is so dedicated and passionate, not only is Gareth easily one of the best coaches in the history of the national team but also an unbelievable human being.

"Thank you for everything and all the best in the next chapter, Gaffer."

BBC Sport pundit and former England striker Alan Shearer was also among those to pay tribute to Southgate, who took charge of 102 games and led his country to back-to-back Euros finals.

"It was a huge job for him [Southgate] to take on," Shearer told the BBC.

"He did that and turned everything around, we went from rock bottom to playing in semi-finals and finals. That is now the expectation with England and he played a huge part in that."

He added that the 53-year-old will be remembered for "creating this incredible spirit and for players again wanting to represent their country".

Gary Lineker expressed his thanks to Southgate on X.

BBC

On 'incredible day,' Kylian Mbappé welcomed by Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium

MADRID

KYLIAN Mbappé finally put on a Real Madrid jersey on Tuesday, fulfilling his childhood dream in front of a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Nearly 80,000 fans were in hand at the Bernabeu to welcome the 25-year-old France star during his official presentation as the club's newest player.

After signing his five-year contract with the Spanish powerhouse alongside club president Florentino Pérez, Mbappé entered the stage set up at the Bernabeu to loud cheers by the Madrid fans.

Wearing the No. 9 jersey, Mbappé smiled broadly and waved to the fans who chanted his name, then embraced Pérez and former Madrid player and coach Zinedine Zidane, who invited Mbappé to visit the Spanish club for the first time when he was just a teenager.

"It's an incredible day for me," Mbappé told the crowd, in good Spanish. "Since being a kid I dreamed about playing for Madrid and today I'm here. It means a lot to me."

Mbappé finished his speech by asking the crowd to join him and chant "Hala Madrid," similar to what his childhood idol – and "now friend" – Cristiano Ronaldo did when he arrived at the club. Mbappé then kissed the club's shield and went around the Bernabeu kicking balls to the crowd in the



Kylian Mbappé, of France, stands with his parents, former players Zinedine Zidane, left, and Jose Martinez Pirri, right, and Real Madrid President Florentino Pérez, 2nd right, after being presented to fans as a new Real Madrid player at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Tuesday, July 16, 2024. (AP Photo)

stands.

"Now I have another dream, which is to live up to the history of this club, the best club in the world," he said. "I'll give my life to this club and to this shield."

The record 15 European Cups won by Madrid were on display on the stage where Mbappé was introduced. His relatives, club officials and several former players were also by the stage.

"I see my family happy, I see my mother crying," said Mbappé, who earlier Tuesday underwent his physical with Madrid's doctors.

The message "Welcome, Mbappé" was shown on the large video boards at the newly revamped Bernabeu, which had its roof closed for the midday ceremony in the Spanish capital.

Some of the club's most iconic moments were also shown while the song "Nessun Dorma" was played on the loudspeakers. Images of Mbappé's career were also displayed, as well as photos including Mbappé wearing Madrid's uniform as a kid and posing alongside former club star Ronaldo.

"It's a historic day for me and my family," Mbappé said later in his news conference, already wearing a suit and tie. "It was even greater than I had expected it to be. It's a privilege and an honor to be a Real Madrid player."

Pérez called Mbappé's presentation a "historic act" for the club.

"Today we welcome an exceptional player who today is fulfilling his childhood dream," Pérez

said. "Today you are here because it's something that you wanted. Thank you for making a great effort to be able to wear this white jersey."

Kids linked to Mbappé's foundation were also on hand and Mbappé made a point to send a message to children everywhere.

"With passion and a dream, you can achieve anything you want," he said. "I'm the one here today, maybe next time it can be one of you."

Mbappé is a World Cup winner with France but is yet to win a Champions League, the club competition in which Madrid has been dominant in the last decade.

"There's no better place to win titles than at Real Madrid," he said. "My priority is to get back to training and get

adapted to the squad so I can help the team win."

Mbappé met with coach Carlo Ancelotti and many of his new teammates before being introduced to the fans at the Bernabeu.

He said his France teammates who play for Madrid and Brazil forward Vinicius Júnior had been among those trying to get him to join the Spanish club.

"I'm excited to get to play with everyone," Mbappé said. "I'll play wherever the coach wants me to play. I don't care about the position."

Mbappé's presentation came after he played at the 2024 European Championship, where France lost to eventual champion Spain in the semifinals.

After years trying to sign the young player,

Madrid finally reached a deal with him in June when he opted not to stay with Paris Saint-Germain and became a free agent.

Mbappé had played club soccer only for French teams – first at Monaco before joining PSG and staying there for the past seven seasons.

Pérez made signing Mbappé a strategic club priority since the powerhouse failed to lock him up when he visited the club's facilities as a young teenager and instead joined Monaco's youth academy.

In 2021, Madrid was rejected after offering PSG a bid of 180 million euros, the same amount PSG paid Monaco for a teenage Mbappé years earlier.

AP

French federation files complaint after 'racist and discriminatory remarks' by Argentina players

PARIS

THE French soccer federation pledged Tuesday to file a complaint with FIFA over "racist and discriminatory remarks" by Argentina players in post-match chants about France's team after their Copa America title win.

Argentina beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday at Miami Gardens, Florida. A video posted on Instagram by Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez, who plays for Chelsea, and widely viewed on X showed Argentina players appearing to sing about French players with African heritage.

One of Fernandez's Chelsea teammates, France defender Wesley Fofana, posted the Argentina team video on his social media accounts Tuesday and called it "uninhibited racism."

Fofana, who has family ties to Ivory Coast, is among several French players who are Black in the Chelsea first-team squad.

The same chants – by some Argentina fans – emerged before France and Argentina met in the World Cup final two years ago, which Argentina won.

"Given the serious-



Argentina kitman Mario De Stefano holds up the trophy as he celebrates with players after defeating Colombia in the Copa America final soccer match in Miami Gardens, Fla., Monday, July 15, 2024. (AP Photo)

ness of these shocking remarks, which are contrary to the values of sport and human rights, the FFF president has decided to contact its Argentinian counterpart and FIFA directly to file a legal complaint for racist and discriminatory remarks," the French soccer federation said in a statement on Tuesday.

The derogatory chants single out France players of African heritage, from several countries, and holding a French passport.

"The president of the French Football Federation, Philippe Diallo, condemns in the strongest terms the unacceptable racist and discrimi-

natory remarks made against the players of

the France team as part of a song sung by play-

ers and supporters of the Argentina team," the

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

On 'incredible day,' Kylian Mbappé welcomed by Real Madrid fans at packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium

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Aisha Masaka now signs for Brighton & Hove Albion

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIAN forward Aisha Masaka has joined English Women's Super League side Brighton and Hove Albion.

Aisha (pictured) has put pen to paper to serve the English topflight side on undisclosed terms as she signs from Swedish side BK Häcken, a club she spent two and half years with.

A Brighton and Hove Albion statement read: "We are delighted to announce the signing of striker Aisha Masaka from BK Hacken on undisclosed terms, subject to the usual regulatory processes."

Zoe Johnson, managing director of Brighton and Hove Albion women's and girls' football, said, "We're really excited to welcome Aisha to Brighton. "She's competed at a high and testing level in Sweden and represented Hacken in the Champions League.

"She's a physical striker who is dominant on the ball and a natural goalscorer. We're looking forward to welcoming her to Albion ahead of the new season."

The 20-year-old joined Hacken in 2022 from Young Africans in Tanzania, having previously played for Alliance FC of Mwanza.

In her two seasons at Hacken, the forward helped them finish second in the Swedish Women's League and they reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League last season before losing to PSG.

Upon leaving BK Häcken, Aisha said: "I am very sad to leave BK Häcken, but now I have an opportunity to gather new experiences. I am leaving BK Häcken now but it will be my club forever.

"It is a fantastic club where we have the same conditions and facilities as the men. We have played good football and it is a professional club where I have really felt at home."

During her time in the Tanzanian Premier League, Aisha won 'Best Goal Scorer' in the 2020/21 campaign after netting 35 goals in 20 matches for Young Africans.

At international level she has won 15 caps for Tanzania, scoring nine goals since making her Twiga Stars debut in 2021.

Aisha also played for Tanzania at the under-17 COSAFA Cup when Serengeti Girls won the tournament and she finished top goal scorer.

She was also part of the Tanzania squad that qualified for AWCON 2024 and will head to Morocco next year.

The 2024/25 English Women's Super League season will start across the weekend of September 21-22.

Yanga lodge application for extension of time for Trustees case review



Young Africans Sports Club's Legal Director, Simon Patrick, speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans have acknowledged receiving a judgement regarding the non-recognition of the club's Board of Trustees following the decision issued on August 2, 2023, by the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court.

The judgement stems from a case filed on August 4, 2022, by plaintiffs Juma Ally and

Geoffrey Mwaipopo, challenging the legitimacy of the Board of Trustees appointed under the 2010 constitution, which they claim lacks legal qualifications.

Young Africans' Legal Director, Simon Patrick, stated that the club has requested an extension from the Kisumu

Resident Magistrate's Court to file an application for a review of the judgement.

"On November 6, 2022, two individuals, Juma Ally and Geoffrey Mwaipopo, who identified themselves as Young Africans members, filed a case in the Kisumu

Resident Magistrate's Court against Board of Trustees members Mama Fatma Karume, Abeid Mohamed Abeid, and Mzee Jabir Katundu," said Patrick.

"They alleged non-recognition of the Board of Trustees of the Young Africans SC Club.

"Due to not recognizing the 2010 constitution, they claim that the Board of Trustees members are invalid, and consequently, all club leaders and their memberships are invalid.

"This includes the club president, vice president, members of the Executive Committee, and all other officials employed based on their memberships.

"They are also demanding the handover of financial reports and assets.

"We have verified that the complainants are indeed legitimate members of our club. If we had known earlier, we would have taken steps to defend the club.

"Currently, we are making efforts to gather more details. Since the plaintiffs have returned to court to seek enforcement of the judgement, we will request a review because the club was not aware of the proceedings and deserves the right to be heard."

CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 semi-final line-up complete

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE semifinal line-up is complete at the CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 after the final matches in Group C were played on Tuesday, leaving two tasty ties in the last four clashes to be staged tomorrow.

Rwanda's APR will take on Sudan's Al Hilal in the first game at 4 pm, before another Sudanese side Hay Al Wadi FC battle with guest side Red Arrows from Zambia in the second game at 7 pm.

Both matches will be played at the Azam Chamazi Complex.

Al Hilal defeated Kenya's Gor Mahia 2-0 to keep their perfect winning record in the regional tournament.

After a goalless first half, Salah Eldin Adil gave Al Hilal the lead in the 56th minute.

In-form striker Mohamed Abdelrhman Yousif then netted a second for the Sudanese two minutes before normal stoppage time.

It was his fifth goal of the campaign, two more than his closest challenger in the top scorer race.

Red Arrows needed a win to ensure they would advance to the last four as the best second-placed team ahead of Uganda's SC Villa who finished with five points.

This comes after they beat Djibouti Telecom 1-0 to finish second in Group B with six points behind Sudanese side Al Hilal who topped the group with nine points after winning all their group games.

Anthony Shipanuka scored the only goal of the game in the 21st minute off a Godfrey Ngunwenya corner.

Shipanuka was also named



Sudan's Al Hilal and Kenya's Gor Mahia players fight for the ball during their CECAFA Dar Port Cup 2024 match at Azam Chamazi Complex in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Al Hilal won 2-0. Photo: Courtesy of TFF

the player of the match and walked away with Tsh 300,000.

APR FC were the first team to qualify for the semi-finals after picking a 1-1 draw against SC Villa to top Group C on Monday.

Hay Al Wadi topped Group A after picking a 1-1 draw against Coastal Union in a match played at the Azam Complex, Chamazi on Monday.

Mohamed Hassan gave the Sudanese team the lead immediately after the break before

Abdallah Dennis equalized for Wagosi wa Kaya five minutes later.

The draw moved Hay Al Wadi to seven points, three more than second placed Coastal Union.

Clubs are using the regional tournament as preparation for the upcoming season, where Al Hilal, APR and Red Arrows will represent their countries in the CAF Champions League while Hay Al Wadi FC will play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

