



**Guardian BUSINESS** Tanzania receives IMF aid for stabilisation of economy

AfDB, WFP enhance wheat cultivation in war-ravaged Sudan amid soaring hunger

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# IMF in \$900m soft loan, budgetary support



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa makes remarks yesterday shortly before leading mourners in paying their respects to Kilimanjaro regional administrative secretary Tixon Tuyangine Nzunda, who died in a road crash earlier this week. This was at the deceased's residence in Dar es Salaam's Goba suburb. Photo: PMO

Tanzania's economy, which relies on tourism, mining, agriculture and manufacturing, has remained resilient in the face of back-to-back extreme weather events and climate change, driven by a surge in the services sector

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

**T**HE International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board has approved \$935.6m (2.45trn/-) concessional lending for climate change mitigation and budgetary support.

An IMF statement issued yesterday said that \$786.2m (2.06trn/-) will be channelled to climate action and \$149.4m (392.17bn) intended for budget support.

The IMF decided on the package in acknowledging Tanzania's commitment to climate action and economic stability,

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Simba announce Egypt pre-season training camp

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Analysis: Rory McIlroy has 4 majors and a major collapse. Where he goes from here shapes his legacy

## Minister despairs over 5.2m ha forest restoration pledge

By Henry Mwangonde

TANZANIA'S pledge to restore 5.2 million hectares of forest and landscape by 2030 seems to be an uphill task, the government has declared.

Angellah Kairuki, the Natural Resources and Tourism minister, made this remark when closing the 8th African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRI00) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that this initiative faces challenges like financial constraints and the absence of tools to capture data at landscape level even as deadlines loom.

The country has only managed to restore 2.4m hectares through tree planting and nature regeneration interven-

tions, estimated at 46.3 percent of the breadth of what was pledged in 2018, she stated.

The project is a country-led effort to bring 100m hectares of land all over Africa into restoration by 2030, she stated, pointing out that there are intervention opportunities across landscapes which have not been accommodated.

This was due to financial constraints and the absence of tools to capture data at landscape level, in which case a lot has to be done to protect the remaining ecosystem and restore the degraded land. This portion is the key to climate change mitigation and conservation of biodiversity, she explained.

Climate change has increased the cost of restoration, hinder-

ing development efforts of various countries, bringing up the need for financial support and strategies to mitigate climate change effects, she said.

Even with the political will supported by robust policies, Africa faces challenges in the restoration process on account of unpredictable weather and rainfall patterns, while political instability and other impediments undermine the resilience of communities.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has stressed the drive for Tanzania's landscape and vegetation restoration, dedicating her birthday this year to tree planting initiatives. This led to a directive where every district is expected to plant 1.5m trees annually, the minister noted.

The minister said such meetings help to showcase and present reflections of opportunities, experiences and challenges that each country faces in the restoration processes.

Prof Dos Santos Silayo, the Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS) commissioner for conservation, said that Tanzania, like many other countries, face challenges related to climate including deforestation, thus requiring collective interventions. Tanzania is a signatory to various agreements aimed at adapting to climate change effects where in 2018 the country pledged 5.16m hectares on the Mainland and about 25,000 hectares in Zanzibar for stable conservation status, he stated.

## TANESCO fields 700MW surplus as JNHPP switches on turbine #7

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) has started to generate surplus electricity after years of rationing as more turbines are turned on at the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power

Project (JNHPP).

Abubakar Issa, the firm's acting executive director for distribution, made this observation yesterday when briefing members of the company's board of directors who toured the JNHPP. A company statement said that the current na-

tional demand stands at 1,707 megawatts while total generation capacity is pegged at 2,405 megawatts.

JNHPP has turned the page on power rationing with its surplus, at the end of this month turbine number seven will add 235MW when turned

on, taking JNHPP to 705MW capacity attained, he said.

Zuhura Bundala, the board vice chairperson, lauded the project's managers for the speed

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## 'Fast-tracking medical visas would uplift valid medical tourism cases'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government needs to fast-track the processing of medical visas to ease efforts of making the country's top hospital to be accessible as a hub for medical tourism.

Prof Mohamed Janabi, executive director of the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said in a telephone interview yesterday that such a move will

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# 'Fast-track medical visas for uplifting medical tourism'

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help the major hospitals attain that goal rapidly.

Medical visas are specifically designed to facilitate travel for medical purposes and ensure that patients can access the care they need without excessive hurdles, urging the government to work overtime to clear logistics impediments.

Referring to the currently provided ordinary (single entry) visa, business, multiple entry, transit, gratis and student visas, he said that without a specific medical visa, it is difficult to identify who among foreigners treated in the country's health facilities as having entered for medical services.

Patients coming from Comoro can be regarded as medical tourists as they are directed to seek further treatment at Muhimbili and its autonomous wings, he said.

More than 1000 visitors come to the county for medical treatment annually, with the majority coming from the Comoro Islands, he stated, noting that the hospital leadership initiated the promotion of available health services in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan said last year that

massive investment in the health sector would enhance availability of specialised services and make the country a healthcare hub.

During a tour in Kigoma Region, the president said the government would build more zonal hospitals to ease access to specialised services, noting that the health sector projects are in line with the ruling party's 2020/2025 election manifesto.

It is also in line with the third five-year development plan that emphasizes on improving primary and specialised health care, she said, with statistics showing that improvement in the provision of quality health services has cut travel for treatment overseas by upwards of 95 percent, while attracting patients from neighbouring countries.

The president had affirmed the government's determination to make Tanzania a center of excellence in the provision of specialized health services remains intact, as it is pivotal in efforts to transform the sector.

MNH was increasingly a centre of excellence receiving patients from outside the country, which she said is a result of implementing the medical tourism strategy. The key facilities have a major role in reducing the number of Tanzanians patients seeking treatment overseas, she further noted.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a word with his fellow Muslim faithful shortly after prayers at Mushawar Mwembeshauri Mosque in Unguja Urban District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## IMF in \$900m soft loan, budgetary support

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with visible potential to strengthen the country's resilience to such challenges, it said

The package will support Tanzania's ambitious reform efforts to implement climate policy initiatives that address risks and challenges associated with climate change, to enhance the resilience of the Tanzanian economy, the statement in-

dicated.

The Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) billed at roughly \$786m will support efforts to build resilience to climate change, it said, noting that the government is committed to implementing reforms to preserve macro-financial stability.

It similarly seeks to strengthen economic recovery, promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, the statement indicated, high-

lighting that in the past three years, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has undertaken reforms with ambition to return the country's economic growth to pre-pandemic real gross domestic product growth rate of 6 percent to 7 percent, it said.

Tanzania's economic reform programme remains strong as economic growth rebounded in 2023 after slowing down in 2022, it affirmed, asserting that the

current account deficit is narrowing, reflecting fiscal consolidation, easing commodity prices and tight external financing conditions.

While economic recovery is expected to gain momentum going forward it faces headwinds from an unfavourable global economic environment, it further noted.

"Tanzania's economy, which relies on tourism, mining, agriculture and manu-

facturing, has remained resilient in the face of back-to-back extreme weather events and climate change, driven by a surge in the services sector," the World Bank said in its remarks.

Planning and Investment state minister Kitila Mkumbo said in a budgetary presentation last week that the economy is forecast to accelerate to 5.4 percent this year, up from 5.1 percent for 2023.

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Activities in progress at a free health camp at Dar es Salaam city's Kigogo Barafu grounds yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## TANESCO fields 700MW surplus as JNHPP switches on turbine #7

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of implementing the project as it has ended the power rationing.

He urged the public to take pride in the matter as the government has managed this project with great care. This is a big project that will help push the industrial revolution, with reliable en-

ergy for production in factories and domestic activities.

The board members were happy to hear from experts overseeing the project that it has been completed at around 98 percent, encouraging it to maintain the same speed so that the project is completed on schedule, she stated.

Some board members were genuinely surprised with the speed of the work being done on the vast site, with the visit amplifying impressions they were getting from the media, she said.

"I was just looking at the media, but after seeing it with my own eyes I saw that it is a very big job," she said.

Another board member, Dr Mary Mboma said that for a long time Tanzanians were waiting for the project to meet electricity needs in the country, and now the dream has come true.

This was the first visit for board members to the site of the project, at a moment where it is in its last stages, officials said.

## Startup uses AI to add scientific data to boost African agriculture

By Steven Melendez

FARMERS need data to monitor and predict everything that goes into affecting their crops from drought and flood conditions to soil health and temperature fluctuations.

But for many, particularly those in developing nations—such facts and figures aren't readily available. The problem is especially worrisome in Africa, where some 60 percent of the population is engaged in small-scale farming.

"Africa is still the most data-scarce continent," said Kate Kallot, CEO and founder of Amini, a Nairobi-based environmental data startup founded in 2022 and backed by investors like Salesforce Ventures and the Female Founders Fund.

Much of the data is siloed in paper files in government offices or only available through prohibitively expensive satellite providers, she said.

And global data sources and models are often less accurate in Africa than elsewhere on the planet. To fill in the gap, Amini is collecting environmental data in Africa through technologies like satellite imagery, drones, and IoT sensors, as well as from existing studies.

Her company then analyzes the raw data using artificial intelligence, and provides actionable information and recommendations to farmers, crop insurers, farm lenders, and governments to optimize agriculture on the continent.

Amini announced a deal late last year with Aon and the African Development Bank to use its data to promote affordable crop insurance across Africa, but the company also operates infrastructure to send more immediate notifications to individual farmers. Amini can send automated texts to farmers notifying them of situations like impending floods or spreading pest infestations, and it's increasingly using AI to be able to automatically respond to texted queries about weather and other conditions.

"That's the beauty of technology,"

said Kallot. "It's very complex at the back end, but at the front end, the only thing they're getting is a text saying, 'be careful, there will be two weeks of extreme rainfall the next couple of days.'"

The data and guidance can help farmers grow their crops more sustainably—and make it easier for them to obtain crop insurance, loans, and other financial services to make their businesses more sustainable. (It can also be beneficial to crop buyers looking to work with farmers using sustainable agriculture practices.)

Amini has been working with HP and Nvidia (where Kallot previously worked as head of global developer relations), which have provided workstations and GPU processing power that have enabled Amini to build efficient AI systems in Kenya. In one case, using Nvidia's GPUs rather than ordinary CPUs sped up computation by a factor of 23, Amini machine learning engineer Clinton Oduor said in a recent talk.

Building locally, rather than offloading computation to overseas cloud computing systems, saved Amini a lot of money and allowed the company to employ engineers and data scientists on a continent that Kallot says talented developers often feel compelled to leave for better opportunities.

"A lot of them, their grandparents, or their parents, are farmers or pastoralists, so they know exactly the challenges that their parents and their grandparents have been facing," said Kallot.

Working with Amini goes toward HP's efforts to have a sustainable impact, says Jim Nottingham, senior vice president & division president of HP's Advanced Compute & Solutions business. It also offers proof of what HP customers can accomplish with the company's technology, he says, with workstation-based AI not just valuable in places lacking local big data centers or having limited connectivity.

"This is making a difference for the planet, for the people and for the communities," he says. "And we see this as something that can scale."



## NCD indicators survey to start in Zanzibar Monday

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Office of the Chief Government Statistician in Zanzibar and the ministry of Health are set to conduct Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Indicator Survey to establish the status of the challenge for mitigation measures.

Speaking at a news conference here yesterday, Salum Kassim Ali, Chief Government Statistician, said the study has already been conducted in Tanzania Mainland and will be conducted in Zanzibar from Monday next week until next month.

He said that the exercise which will be conducted through gathering information using digital tools, will involve people aged 18 and above.

He said during the research, questions that will be asked will make it possible to get basic results similar to the previous results of the research that was held in September 2023.

Ali mentioned among areas that will be involved in the research as the use of tobacco, the use of alcoholic beverages, consumption of various foods, exercise activities, issues related to diabetes and blood pressure.

He said that residents of a total of 893 households will be interviewed in Zanzibar whereby some households which were interviewed during the previous research will also be involved.

He called upon the public to collaborate, saying the phone that will be used will have a special number which is 0699-998-400.

In September 2023, the office in collaboration with the Ministry of Health -Zanzibar and other stakeholders conducted such a study aimed at assessing the state of health in Zanzibar in relation to indicators and trends of non-communicable diseases.

He said the collection of information for the research was successful to a large extent.



Shahada Kinyaga, Deputy Chief of Party of USAID's Breakthrough Action Tanzania, makes a presentation on the 'Holela-Holela Itakukosti' (literally, Recklessness Will Cost You) campaign at the 14th Best Practices Forum and 30th Directors Joint Consultative Committee Meeting in Arusha earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## EU divulges finance opportunities exclusive for private sector uptake

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) recently conducted a session titled "Grow with the European Union Finance," aimed at empowering Tanzanian businesses to seize numerous financial opportunities offered by the EU and its member states under the Global Gateway strategy.

Building on the successful dialogue with the private sector during the Tanzania-EU Business Forum in February 2023, the session focused on addressing one of the main obstacles identified back then-access to finance for scaling up emerging business trade, and

investment opportunities.

A statement availed to the media yesterday said that during the February forum, several financing deals were signed between European Development Banks and Tanzanian banks, expanding credit opportunities for Tanzanian MSMEs.

Since then, the range of European financing windows dedicated to the private sector has been steadily increasing.

The primary objective of this information session was to provide concrete guidance on the available financing instruments and the process of accessing the funds.

Over 100 representatives from

the banking sector, SMEs, MSMEs, and various corporate enterprises participated, emphasizing the critical demand for local businesses to connect with EU-catalyzed financiers through the Global Gateway financing tools.

Cedric Merel, Head of Cooperation for the EU Delegation to Tanzania, emphasized the EU's comprehensive support for the Tanzanian business environment.

"A conducive business environment is essential for businesses to thrive, and finance is their lifeblood," Merel remarked, adding: "The European Union has provided a 360-degree approach to

investments in Tanzania, from supporting the Blueprint regulatory reform agenda, enhancing Domestic Resources Mobilization, to strengthening Capital Markets and green and alternative finance as well as attracting international finance."

Edward Claessen, Head of the Regional Hub for East Africa at the European Investment Bank (EIB), reinforced this message by highlighting the EIB's significant support for private sector initiatives in Tanzania.

"Last year, Tanzania was largest recipient of EIB support in Sub-Saharan Africa, with 758bn/- (eu-

ros270 million) in new investments to support businesses through partnerships with Tanzanian banks," he said.

The information session provided insights into the EU's Global Gateway strategy, which aims to address global challenges like climate change, health system improvements, and strengthening global supply chains. This strategy includes a variety of financial products, such as grants, loans, equity, and guarantees, designed to benefit businesses of all sizes.

A key part of this strategy is the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), which en-

courages sustainable investments in partner countries by offering risk-sharing tools through partner Financial Development Institutions. With up to 112.340 trillion (EUR 40 billion) in financial commitment, EFSD+ aims to mobilize up to 379.150 trillion (EUR 135bn/-) in public and private financing worldwide to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Gasper Mdee, a representative from the Tanzanian Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said financial opportunities offered by the EU are key in fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Tanzania.

## Experts impressed by campaign against antimicrobial resistance

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

HEALTH experts have lauded Tanzania's recently-launched campaign targeting antimicrobial resistance (AMR), saying it can be emulated by other countries.

The campaign dubbed 'Holela-Holela Itakukosti' (Recklessness Will Cost You) which was launched at the end of May focuses on combating AMR and priority zoonotic diseases.

Speaking in Arusha early mid-week, National Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinator at the Ministry of Health, Emiliana Francis said: "Many countries have expressed interest to emulate Tanzania's campaign as the best practice in addressing antimicrobial resistance through an artistic, yet scientific style of impacting knowledge to ordinary people."

Earlier, Dr Mpoki Ulisubisya, who is an expert medical expert said that with lack of stringent regulations on marketing of antibiotics, many people have been misusing drugs to self-medicate.

"We are heading in the same direction as Chloroquine -a drug which used to

be very effective in curing malaria but is no longer in use due to its misuse that later resulted in resistance," he said.

He said most people use antibiotics to treat viral infections without consulting medical experts while others only use partial dosage and as a result bacteria develop resistance to the drugs.

The campaign highlights the need for actions to prevent antimicrobial resistance and the spread of priority zoonotic diseases across multiple sectors to increase public knowledge and evoke a sense of concern towards the issues.

It is coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with Ministries of Health, Livestock and Fisheries, and the Vice President's Office (Environment) and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Breakthrough ACTION project.

The campaign was unveiled to health experts and officials from the East, Central and Southern African who met in Arusha at the 14th Best Practices Forum and the 30th Directors Joint Consultative Committee (DJCC) meeting.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko (L) exchanges ideas with the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), Jenista Mhagama (C), and Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba in the National Assembly debating chamber in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## WHO confirms global cholera upsurge, records 1,900 deaths

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has announced a spike in cholera in several regions of the world, with almost 195,000 cases and over 1,900 deaths reported in 24 countries since the start of this year.

According to WHO, cases have been reported across countries in Africa, East Asia, America, Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal illness caused by intestine infection with the bacterium "vibrio cholerae". The disease is highly infectious and primarily spreads through contaminated water and food.

The Eastern Mediterranean region reported the highest number of cases, followed by the African region, the Americas, the Southeast Asia, and the European region.

There were no reported

cases in the Western Pacific region, WHO said in a bulletin issued on Wednesday.

Africa has the second-highest cases, with 92,789 cases from 14 countries. A distant margin from what was found in America, where about 3700 cases from one country were recorded as the third highest from an affected region.

The UN health agency said it exhausted its global stockpile of Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV)

by March but was able to exceed "the emergency target of five million doses in early June for the first time in 2024."

This data, WHO said, combines both suspected and confirmed cases of the disease.

In South-East Asia, WHO said, about 1,400 cases have been reported from two countries, and in Europe, 105 cases from one country.

Currently, more than 1,900 death cases have been reported

globally due to the disease outbreak.

For death cases recorded, Africa ranks highest with 1,698 deaths, followed by the Eastern Mediterranean with 256 deaths.

America has recorded 13 deaths, South-East Asia has four deaths, and Europe has reported only one death.

"There were no reported cases in the Western Pacific region," WHO noted in its bul-

letin. In May, the most recent data available, about 46,364 new cholera cases were reported from 19 countries across these regions.

This, WHO noted, is a 58 percent increase from what was obtainable in the previous month.

"In the same period, 185 cholera-related deaths were registered, representing a 37 percent decrease compared with the previous month,"

WHO stated in the bulletin. The highest number of fatalities was recorded in Africa, with 130 deaths from 10 countries.

According to WHO, the highest number of deaths was reported from Comoros, which had 54 deaths; Ethiopia, with 28 deaths; the Democratic Republic of the Congo with 18; Zimbabwe, with 12 death cases; and Tanzania with 10 death cases.





Confederation of Tanzania Industries executive director Leodegar Tenga makes remarks during public-private dialogue on industrial development held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## Ninety unplanned villages in Kyela targeted in survey drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE government through Land Tenure Improvement Project (LTIP) expects to identify, plan and formalise a total of 27,600 plots in seven wards of Kyela District, Mbeya Region.

The initiative will also involve surveying and putting in place better land use plans in 90 villages in the district.

Kyela District Commissioner Josephine Manase unveiled this yesterday here during the opening of a meeting to discuss progress of the project.

She said among other things, LTIP focuses on increasing security of land ownership across the nation through implementation of several interventions towards planning, surveying, registering and issuing right of land occupancy in both urban and rural areas.

"We thank the government for bringing this project because apart from enhancing security of land ownership, the initiative has also helped stimulate economic development by increasing access to financial services through title deeds hence improving livelihoods," she said.

She added that the land formalisation project will also help increase revenue collection.

She said in Kyela, only three

villages had better land use plans but with the project, all the remaining 90 villages will be reached.

Manase urged the district's officials to work cooperatively to ensure that the project is smoothly implemented and achieve intended goals.

Kefa Mwanganda, Ndamalo Ward Councillor thanked the government for the project which he said will improve land security and eliminate conflicts.

"By surveying and formalizing land ownership, we significantly boost our economy. Well-planned and surveyed land increases in value, which in turn, escalates economic activities," he said.

Historically, Tanzania has grappled with issues such as unclear land boundaries, lack of formal land title deeds and disputes over land ownership.

These challenges are exacerbated in rural areas where customary land rights prevail, often without formal recognition, leaving communities vulnerable to land grabs and conflicts.

Moreover, the rapid urbanization in Tanzania has put additional pressure on land resources, leading to increased land conflicts, insecure land tenure for urban poor, and challenges in urban planning.

## EAC gauges activation of regional rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) table-top simulation exercise (TTX) organized by the EAC Secretariat together with partner states and other technical partners has successfully tested activation of the recently established regional rapidly deployable expert pool.

The simulation exercise was part of a three-day workshop

that was opened by a joint training of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO).

Speaking during the closing ceremony of the training in Nairobi on Thursday, Dr Eric Nzeyimana, Principal Health Officer at the EAC said the simulation exercise using lessons learnt and recommenda-

tions, puts the region in a good place and better prepared for outbreaks of epidemics and pandemics in future.

Dr Nzeyimana who spoke on behalf of EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors Andrea Ariik said the key objective of TTX was to identify strengths and areas of improvement for collaboration and coordination at national,

regional and continental level in an outbreak scenarios and to develop a roadmap, including recommendations on how to integrate the EAC rapidly deployable expert pool to allow for joint planning, deployments and capacity development.

A TTX is a facilitated discussion under a low stress environment where participants meet to discuss their roles during an emergency and to

practice, evaluate and identify areas for improvement in their responses to a particular scenario. The training aimed at strengthening capacities and knowledge among partner states' and EAC experts in relation to regional and continental guidelines and mechanisms in place for rapid response, centering around the African Health Volunteers Corps and Strengthening and Utilizing Response Groups for Emer-

gencies (AVoHC-SURGE) initiative, implemented across the continent.

Dr Radjabu Bigirimana, AVoHC Lead at the Africa CDC, highlighted the mutual benefits of the close collaboration between the EAC Secretariat and the Africa CDC through the AVoHC-SURGE initiative. He said: "A collaboration framework is under development that will allow us to join forces in outbreak response

through joint rostering of experts, capacity building and deployments inside the EAC and on the continent."

Dr Arisekola Ademola Jinadu, Technical Officer IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework reminded participants on the importance to follow-up on the outcomes and recommendations of the simulation exercise at all levels to inform other ongoing preparedness and response efforts.

## Alcohol shortage continues as authorities seize 25 containers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ports Corporation (ZPC) has seized 25 liquor containers belonging to three importers without licences from the Zanzibar Liquor Control Board (ZLCB).

Akif Ali Khamis, ZPC Director General said this here yesterday when speaking to journalists, admitting that the incident has also led to scarcity of alcoholic drinks in the islands.

"It is true that three companies namely One stop, Sicoch and ZMMI have imported liquor but up to yesterday we received a letter from ZLCB directing us not to release the drinks as the importers have not been permitted to do so," he said.

However, he said that taxes on the cargo since imported into Zanzibar continue to be paid by the companies, saying the total cost will be determined in accordance with the law when new directive is issued about the consignment.

Regarding the burden of customs duty being charged and subsequently withheld, he said ZPC was not responsible for discussing such matter as it is managed by the Tanzania Revenue

Authority (TRA).

The decision to continue holding the containers goes against a ruling by the High Court of Zanzibar which said the Zanzibar Liquor Act number 9 of 2020 goes against the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984.

Judge Gorge Kazi said in his ruling that article 33 (1) of the Liquor Act breaks the constitution of Zanzibar and the law of competition and protection of consumers number five of 2018 and on that basis all companies importing liquor should be given permits to comply with the requirements of the Constitution of Zanzibar.

One Stop, Sicoch and ZMMI have been in the liquor business for more than 30 years, paying more than 3bn/- in taxes per month, but they have been denied permits to import liquor.

The controversy on the importation of alcohol into Zanzibar was among the reasons for the resignation of the former Minister for Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Simai Mohamed Said a few days after meeting with investors in the tourism sector who complained to him about the shortage of alcohol.



Zanzibar's Deputy Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Ali Abdulgulam Hussein, exchanges greetings with children with sickle cell disease during the commemoration of SCD at Kikwajuni in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Maelezo - Zanzibar

## Call for refinement of quality of goods for AfCFTA market

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has said that implementation of the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) calls for improvement of goods and services in the country that can compete in the market.

This was said yesterday by Dr Hashil Abdallah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade dur-

ing the opening of the 17th AfCFTA Permanent Secretaries' Meeting held in Zanzibar.

The meeting will be followed by the ministerial level meeting that will be held on Monday and Tuesday in Zanzibar where Tanzania hosts the two meetings.

Dr Abdallah said that implementation of AfCFTA in the country will contribute to encouraging industrial growth and improving the

business environment which will in turn produce positive results by increasing employment and national income.

He said it will also contribute to providing better social services to Tanzanians and finally achieve the goals of the National Vision 2025 and Agenda 2063 for a developed Africa. He called on the Tanzanian business community to seize the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA

market with more than 1.3 billion people by producing products with the required quality and standards that can compete in that market.

He said that if they succeed in doing so, they will be implementing in practice the mission of the government by opening up the country economically. "Our colleagues are running, we need to run faster and it is our responsibility to take advantage of the

opportunities available in the AfCFTA market," he said.

Fatma Mabrouk Khamis, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industrial Development -Zanzibar, called on fellow permanent secretaries in the region to fulfil the goals of AfCFTA by creating a prosperous and inclusive Africa so that that the citizens of each country benefit from the market.

She called on all citizens,

especially women and youth in Tanzania to take advantage of the opportunities by selling quality products of Tanzanian origin according to the needs of the market of 54 African countries.

Emily Ndoria, AfCFTA Director of Business Services, Investment, Creative Intellectual Property and Online Business, said AfCFTA has developed various protocols to enable African countries

trade goods and services, increase employment, national GDP and be commercially and economically independent.

She advised member countries to encourage their citizens, especially women and youth, to use the opportunities to produce products with quality and international standards so that they can meet the needs and compete in the African market.



## Niger revokes French firm's permit for big uranium mine

NIAMEY

NIGER's military government has revoked a French fuel producer's permit to operate at one of the world's biggest uranium mines, the company has said.

Orano had been licenced to work on the Imouraren mine in northern Niger, which sits on an estimated 200,000 tonnes of the metal that is vital for producing nuclear energy.

Following years of production delays, the West African nation had warned that Orano's licence would lapse unless work resumed at the site.

On 11 June, roughly a week before the deadline, Orano announced that work had begun.

But on Thursday, Orano said its permit had been withdrawn - a move that comes amid tensions between France and Niger's ruling junta.

Since the Nigerien military took power in last year's coup, it has been reducing its ties to France and establishing closer links with

Russia. Relations with France hit rock bottom in December after the junta expelled French troops deployed to fight Islamist militants in the region.

The military government also vowed to review foreign mining concessions in the country after it took power.

"Orano fears that this decision to withdraw the mining permit for the deposit will have a negative impact on the economic, social and societal development of the region," the company said in a statement.

It reserved the right to take legal measures against the withdrawal and "remains willing to keep all channels of communication open with the Niger authorities on this subject", Orano added.

The government in Niger, which is one of the largest producers of uranium in the world, has not commented on Orano's statement.

However, it had previously warned that it would rescind Orano's licence if development work had not started at Imouraren by June 19.



Visiting World Seventh-day Adventist Church secretary general Pastor Erton Kohler (C, in specs) exchanges greetings with some leaders of the Church in Tanzania at Dar es Salaam's Magomeni Mwembechai SDA Church on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Nile Basin countries now seek equitable distribution

ADDIS ABABA

COUNTRIES that heavily depend on water resources from the African continent's longest river - Nile are seeking urgent solutions on how best to equitably utilise the water resource without any tensions.

The Nile river, which boasts a basin drainage covering 11 countries comprising of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya,

Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda gathered here last weekend at the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to discuss the 3rd Annual Forum for Regional Integration and Reasonable Utilization of the Nile under the theme "Shared resources for shared future and prosperity."

The Basin countries sought to establish a legal framework to help them address critical challenges associated with the growing demand for usage of water for

purposes of crop farming, hydro-electricity, water for both domestic and industrial.

Several scholars that participated called upon the 11 countries that feed from the Nile River water to come together in order to address the question of equitable distribution of the water resource without leaving out other peoples' needs and wants, especially the increasing water demand for food, domestic purposes, energy and industrial.

One of the key issues raised in

the meeting was how best the 11 countries would manage the transboundary water resource for equitable distribution without sidelining other countries.

Another issue of concern was the lack of financial and technical capacities for the 11-member countries in fairly utilising the Nile River water for shared usage such as electricity, agriculture, domestic and industrial.

"The countries in the Nile Basin need to add value to their com-

mon water resources to generate energy, produce food, and deal with climate change," University of Nairobi lecturer Musambayi Katumanga was quoted in the local media.

It has been widely agreed that fair utilisation of the Nile water would see an upsurge of development in the Horn of Africa and countries of the Great Lakes region.

The summit was attended by Ethiopian state minister of foreign

affairs, Mesganu Arga, who urged member states to enforce the Co-operative Framework Agreement in order to realise full benefits of the Nile River for all.

The Nile is a major north-flowing river in northeastern Africa, which flows into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile is the longest river in Africa and has historically been considered the longest river in the world, though this has been contested by research suggesting that the Amazon River is slightly longer.

## WFP increases response to address rising hunger

By Special Correspondent

THE World Food Programme (WFP) will increase its food and nutrition assistance programme this month in West and Central Africa in hopes of reaching 7.3 million people as the June-August lean season is under way at a time when hunger levels are high and food resources are low.

The programme will aid the response plans of national governments in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria.

With the right amount of funding, WFP's initiative can reach 12 million people, but with diminishing resources available, humanitarians working with the programme have reached fewer people than anticipated.

This comes as malnutrition in West and Central Africa is reaching alarming levels along with a projection that 55 million people will face acute hunger during the lean season.

Chris Nikoi, WFP's Regional Director for Western Africa, said that this crisis exposes the need for "transformative solutions" to assist vulnerable families with food and other needs.

"We need to continue prioritising emergency response for those most in need," Nikoi said. "But, we need more investment in sustainable solutions to help strengthen food security, improve agricultural productivity and purchasing power of families at the right time and cushion economic and climate shocks," he said.

Many dealing with acute hunger in West and Central Africa have been left without assistance and risk having their situation worsened since funding for the programme has not kept "pace" with increasing crises in the region.

WFP said this is worrying since the 2024 seasonal forecast reveals weather that could disrupt farming and prolong the next lean season.

"The escalation of humanitarian needs far outstrips available resources," he said. "The only way out of this cycle is to prioritise durable solutions."

Currently, WFP said it is supporting "long-term transformative hunger solutions" and working on improving government systems that increase communities' shock resilience via social protection and investments in inclusive food systems.



Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) Board member Prof Idris Kikula (L) and colleagues pictured during a visit to the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Station site in Rufiji District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## WHO warns of falsified medicines for diabetes treatment, weight loss

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a medical product alert on falsified semaglutides, the type of medicines that are used for treatment of type two diabetes and obesity in some countries.

The alert addresses three falsified batches of product of semaglutide class of medicines (of specific brand Ozempic), which have been detected in Brazil in October 2023, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in October 2023, and the United States of America in December 2023.

The drug is sometimes known as a "skinny jab" despite its main purpose being a treatment for type

2 diabetes. The WHO said the fake medicines could pose a danger to health.

Dr Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for Essential Medicines and Health Products said called on stakeholders to stop any usage of suspicious medicines and report to relevant authorities.

"The WHO advises healthcare professionals, regulatory authorities and the public be aware of these falsified batches of medicines," he said.

WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System (GSMS) has been observing increased reports on falsified semaglutide products in all geographical regions since 2022. This is the first official notice

issued by WHO after confirmation of some of the reports.

The semaglutides, including the specific brand product that has been falsified, are prescribed to people with type 2 diabetes in order to lower their blood sugar levels. Semaglutides also reduce the risk of cardiovascular events. Most semaglutide products must be injected under the skin on a weekly basis but they are also available as tablets taken by mouth daily. These medicines are shown to suppress appetite in addition to lowering blood sugar levels, and therefore are being increasingly prescribed for weight loss in some countries.

WHO has been observing increased demand for these medicines

as well as reports on falsification. These falsified products could have harmful effects to people's health; if the products don't have the necessary raw components, falsified medicines can lead to health complications resulting from unmanaged blood glucose levels or weight.

In other cases, another undeclared active ingredient may be contained in the injection device, e.g. insulin, leading to an unpredictable range of health risks or complications.

Semaglutides are not part of WHO-recommended treatments for diabetes management due to their current high cost. The cost barrier makes these products unsuitable for a public health ap-

proach, which aims to ensure the widest possible access to medicines at the population level and to strike a balance between the best-established standard of care and what is feasible on a large scale in resource-limited settings.

Also, there are more affordable treatments available for diabetes, with similar effects to those of semaglutides on blood sugar and cardiovascular risk.

WHO is currently working on a rapid advice guideline on possible use of GLP-1 RAs, including semaglutides, for treatment of obesity in adults and as part of a more comprehensive model of care.

The term GLP-1 RAs stands for glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor ag-

onists, which include semaglutides, for a class of medicines used for diabetes treatment to lower blood sugar and support weight loss.

To protect themselves from falsified medicines and their harmful effects, patients who are using these products can take actions such as buying medicines with prescriptions from licensed physicians and avoid buying medicines from unfamiliar or unverified sources, such as those that may be found online.

People should always check packaging and expiry dates of medicines when they buy them, and use the products as prescribed. In the case of injectable semaglutides, patients should ensure they are stored in the refrigerator.



## One of world's rarest animals no longer endangered-IUCN

By Special Correspondent

ONE of the world's rarest cats, the Iberian lynx, is no longer classed as endangered, according to a report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

On Thursday, the IUCN which categorises species according to the level of risk they face in a "red list", bumped the Iberian lynx from "endangered" to "vulnerable" after a significant surge in numbers.

Its population grew from 62 mature individuals in 2001 to 648 in 2022. While young and mature lynx combined now have an estimated population of more than 2,000, the IUCN reports.

As the name suggests, the wild cat species calls the Iberian region - Spain and Portugal - home.

According to the latest census data, there were a total of 14 clusters where the animals were stable and reproducing. Of those, 13 were located in Spain and one in Portugal. The wild cat used to be common across the whole of the Iberian Peninsula, but from the 1960s its numbers

plummeted.

Habitat loss, poaching and road accidents all helped to push the species to the brink of extinction.

Now, the cat is coming back.

The increase is largely thanks to conservation efforts that have focused on increasing the abundance of its main food source - the also endangered wild rabbit, known as European rabbit.

Programmes to free hundreds of captive lynxes and restoring scrublands and forests have also played an important role in ensuring the lynx is no longer endangered.

Francisco Javier Salcedo Ortiz, a coordinator responsible for leading the conservation action, described it as the "greatest recovery of a cat species ever achieved through conservation".

Ortiz said there was still "a lot of work to do" to ensure the animals survive and the species can recover. "Looking ahead, there are plans to reintroduce the Iberian lynx to new sites in central and northern Spain," he added.

The area the species occupies is



Manyango Nchimbi (R), an engineer, pictured earlier this week presenting an assortment of items to Lucia Paul, supervisor of 100 needy children from Nyamilangano and Iboja wards in Ushetu, Kahama District, earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

now much larger, according to IUCN, jumping from 449 sq km (173 sq miles) in 2005 to 3,320 sq km today. But the conservation agency has

warned against complacency, as it said the gains could be reversed. Threats include diseases from domestic cats and the wild rabbits it

feeds on, as well as poaching and road kill. Established in 1964, the IUCN's red list of threatened species has evolved to become the world's

most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species.

## WHO congratulates Chad on elimination of sleeping sickness

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has applauded Chad for having eliminated the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness, as a public health problem, marking the first neglected tropical disease to be eliminated in the country.

It is a 51st country to be recognized by WHO for eliminating a neglected tropical disease, surpassing the halfway mark towards the 100-country target set for 2030.

Chad is the first country to

be acknowledged for eliminating a neglected tropical disease in 2024, becoming the 51st country to have achieved such target globally, and marking the first step beyond the midpoint to the global threshold of 100 countries set for 2030. The 100-country target is one of the four global overarching targets set by the Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030.

"I congratulate the government and the people of Chad for this achievement. It is great to see Chad join the growing group of countries that have eliminated at least

one NTD. The 100-country target is nearer and within reach" said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

In eliminating the disease, Chad joining some 50 others globally that have succeeded in this endeavour.

"The 100-country target is nearer and within reach," Tedros added, referring to the target set out in the road map for address neglected tropical diseases by 2030.

Sleeping sickness can cause flu-like symptoms initially but eventually causing behaviour change, confusion, sleep

cycle disturbances or even coma, often leading to death.

Improved access to early diagnosis and treatment, as well as surveillance and response has proven that countries can control and eventually eliminate transmission.

So far, seven countries have been validated by WHO for eliminating the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis: Togo (2020), Benin (2021), Côte d'Ivoire (2021), Uganda (2022), Equatorial Guinea (2022), Ghana (2023), and Chad (2024). The rhodesiense form of the disease has been eliminated as a

public health problem in one country, Rwanda, as validated by WHO in 2022.

"The elimination of the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis in Chad reflects our commitment to improving the health of our people. This achievement results from years of dedicated efforts by our health workers, communities, and partners. We will continue this momentum to tackle other neglected tropical diseases and ensure a healthier future for all Chadians" said Dr Abdel Modjid Abderahim Mahamat, Minister of Health

in Chad.

As of June 2024, across the WHO African region, 20 countries have eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease, with Togo having eliminated 4 diseases and Benin and Ghana having eliminated 3 diseases each.

The main approaches to controlling sleeping sickness include reducing the reservoirs of infection and reducing the presence of the tsetse fly. Screening of people at risk helps identify patients earlier in the disease development. Early diagnosis can help avoid complicated and risky

treatments in the advanced stages, significantly improving the prognosis for a cure.



**The elimination of the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis in Chad reflects our commitment to improving the health of our people**

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## AfDB grants Morocco €84m for water management in forest areas

By Jean Marie Takouleu

IN response to climate change in Morocco, the African Development Bank (AfDB) is releasing \$84 million to support water management in forest areas.

Faced with the drought that has been affecting Moroccan agriculture since 2020, the government is planning concrete responses to counter the cyclical repercussions and strengthen the country's resilience. To support this strategy, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved funding of \$84 million to improve the water cycle, mainly in rural areas.

The funds are being allocated under the Support Project for the Inclusive and Sustainable Development of Forest Areas. Through this initiative, the Moroccan government will invest in rehabilitating forest areas and restoring land degraded by erosion, mainly in the priority catchment areas of Ghiss, Bouregreg, Seksaoua and Sidi Abdallah.

Sustainable forest management

With regard to biodiversity, operations to promote sustainable forest management are planned in

the Al-Hoceima, Souss Massa, Tassamtane and Toubkal national parks. The Moroccan government also wants to promote forest entrepreneurship among young people, by setting up incubation structures. Two business incubators have been identified in the north, in Tétouan, and in the south, in Souss Massa.

Young forestry entrepreneurs will be supported, including financially, to develop the eucalyptus, aromatic and medicinal plants and inland aquaculture sectors. Rabat is expected to invest €100 million to implement its project to support the inclusive and sustainable development of forest areas, as part of the "Forêts du Maroc 2020-2030" strategy, implemented by the Agence nationale des eaux et forêts (Anef).

Until 2028, the project should benefit around 6.5 million people living in rural areas in the regions of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Marrakech-Safi, Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima and Souss-Massa. According to the AfDB, the project will also support the emergence of a rural middle class through the sustainable management of natural resources.



Kinondoni district commissioner Saad Mtambule (3rd-R) checks the receipt printer used by businessman Ali Salm (R) during Thursday's Tanzania Revenue Authority drive meant to rid the Dar es Salaam market of fake products and sensitise traders on the importance of tax compliance. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Concern as nine million displaced by conflict, climate change in W. Africa

DAKAR

THE International Rescue Committee (IRC) has raised alarm for the escalating humanitarian needs of nearly 9 million people in West Africa who are currently displaced due to increasing violence, insecurity, and extreme weather events.

On World Refugee Day, the IRC alerts that urgent action is needed to address the specific challenges presented by the compound cri-

sis of armed conflict and climate change.

Modou Diaw, Regional Vice President for the IRC in West Africa, said people have often become displaced multiple times, exacerbating their hardships.

"Conflict remains a primary driver of displacement, but over the last few decades, climate change has significantly impacted migration decisions across West Africa. The overlap of conflict and climate

disasters underscores the urgent need for comprehensive and coordinated responses to break the cycle of climate change and armed conflict, and to increase humanitarian access and funding that supports resilience and adaptation to climate change," he said.

He said the IRC works to address the root causes of displacement, by enhancing resilience to climate shocks, and ensuring sustainable development are critical to mitigat-

ing the crisis by providing specialized support and protection services, including the safety, well-being, and rights of displaced women and girls, for access to violence prevention and response services, psychosocial support, and livelihoods assistance.

Across the world, changing climate has exacerbated existing challenges. Sixteen countries are caught in the intersection of climate vulnerability and armed

conflict, representing a staggering 44 percent of people impacted by natural disasters and 79 percent of those in humanitarian need. One in four of those countries are in West Africa: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. These communities often lack the resources to adapt or recover, bearing the brunt of climate-induced displacement.

Countries in West Africa are particularly vulnerable to sudden onset events such as floods, alongside

ongoing issues like land degradation, water scarcity, and coastal erosion, which have increased in occurrence and severity due to the adverse effects of climate change.

In 2022, for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa, climate-related disasters caused almost as many internal displacements as conflicts: In Nigeria, most internal displacements were caused by disasters last year. The country experienced the worst floods in a decade, result-



Environmental cleanliness drive well under way along Malamba Mawili Road at Msigani in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Africa urged to embrace AI to drive development empower workforce

ADDISABABA

THE African continent has been urged to harness the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence (AI) to drive economic growth and empower its abundant workforce.

The call was made by the African Union Development Agency in a white paper titled "AI and the Future of Work in Africa," released last week.

It said generative AI presents a powerful tool for shaping a dignified future of work in Africa.

It said by proactively addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities, Africa can leverage AI to drive economic growth, empower its youthful workforce, and become a leader in socially responsible AI development. Africa's young population and vibrant technology ecosystem provide significant opportunities to position the continent as a leader in technological innovation and sustainable development.

The continental development agency further underscored the need to invest in digital infrastructure and human capital, including education initiatives. It stressed the crucial imperative of ensuring that AI development is inclusive and tailored to the continent's unique needs and challenges.

Noting that the impact of AI on the emerging future will be a consequence of many factors, including technological and policy decisions, the agency said getting to a better future will require carefully designed policies and regulations that foster the development of AI while keeping the negative effects in check.

The white paper, among other things, recommended that Africa needs a strong infrastructure and a skilled workforce to maximize the benefits of AI. It called for the essential need to introduce national and regional AI policies focused on inclusive education, worker protection, and stakeholder involvement.

The agency further called for human-centered design, noting that AI should complement human skills, not replace them. It added that training data and AI tools should be developed with African contexts in mind, underscoring that cooperation among stakeholders is key to responsible AI development that respects local knowledge and traditions.

## Refugee entrepreneurs thrive in Kenya's camp

TURKANA

AMID humming noise of her sewing machines, Shukurani Hota takes orders from customers eager to acquire the latest African dresses at a market in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya's northwestern Turkana County.

Hota is among thousands of displaced persons who have found refuge at the refugee camp, Kenya's second-largest, hosting about 288,000 refugees from nine countries, in-

cluding South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

By hand making African dresses in the camp, this 40-year-old mother from the DRC has provided a relatively comfortable life for her two children since fleeing civil strife in her homeland in 2012.

During a recent interview at the Kakuma refugee camp, Hota said that the camp, established in 1992, encourages people to engage in income-generating activities to supplement the monthly stipend provided by

well-wishers.

"My plan is to expand the business so that I can provide employment opportunities to more than the current four workers I have engaged," Hota said.

Nanduri Sateesh, the head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR-Kenya) sub-office in Kakuma, said that enterprises based in the refugee camps provide economic benefits to both refugees and host communities.

The UNHCR is collaborating with other de-

velopment partners to provide seed capital to aspiring people based on their business plans, he said, adding that training in administration, management and financial literacy is provided to ensure the sustainability of businesses established at the refugee camp.

Isaac Niyongere, a 29-year-old Burundian refugee and father of one, also plies his trade in the camp near the Kenya-South Sudan border. He has established a business selling clothes to fellow refugees. "I sell most of my merchandise during the weekends when

most refugees are not working," he said.

Vumilia Kiza Saidi, a 36-year-old refugee from the DRC, has established a hairdressing business specializing in hair and beauty products since 2010. She was inspired to start the business when she realized that women were forced to travel long distances outside the camp for hair and beauty services.

"The large population in the refugee camp has provided the customer base required to sustain my business, which has employed two refugees and one Kenyan," she said.



SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2024

**Taking A New Look  
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## MPs' demand for new revenue sources familiar, skips reforms

SEEING our Members of Parliament calling on the government to stop regular habits of imposing taxes during Budget preparation and instead find new revenue sources to lighten the burden on the supposedly poor taxpayers is not exactly new.

Even more, there will likely be a much similar trend in seeking to deliberate on the matter as witnessed on numerous previous occasions.

It is an issue of choosing what to skip - taxing people or improving social amenities and economic layouts - and the individuals concerned will not hesitate to make a choice.

Nor will they rush to advise the government to remove this or that amenity, facility or privilege on their part, as it is all this that makes up the burden of taxation - and by a familiar method, too.

One MP is on record as having declared that the government has a habit of imposing more and more taxes on all manner of services every year, making such additions a burden directed at a few people.

Apparently, the direction in which the criticism was made was taxes on businesses, which are arguably not targeting a few people as business is a vast activity especially in the urban segments of society.

By definition, taxes don't focus on a few people - as a good tax measure is normally equitable in its criterion and easy to collect partly because of that very equitable criterion, which is hard to fault.

While it is not easy to say if the Treasury was sufficiently innovative in looking for new sources of revenue, it is evident it was innovative in reducing burdens in certain spheres.

By definition, all taxes hurt, but painful taxes can't be introduced in a representative atmosphere.

There have been demonstrations across one of Tanzania's territorial borders against the imposition of some taxes widely viewed as particularly harsh. The background to that, and it is relevant here, is that the governing authorities moved a proposal prior to the Budget that sweeping reforms be carried out to offload loan-prone corporations, as the servicing of debts was seen as too burdensome for comfort.

The opposition then threatened to call strikes and demonstrations against sales of public property, and soon went on to make good on the threats.

Value added tax in East Africa is within the 16 to 18 per cent range, while some free market economies in South Asia and the Far East charge anything up to a lowly eight per cent, never ten per cent.

The UK legislature is for the most part virtually a vocational sort of interest, determined to defend some ideas, while there are countries where an MP can earn 20 times the pay of a medical doctor. Reforms matter for state habits, with taxation among them.

What some people may not wish to hear, and is seldom heard in commonly chaotic states in Africa, is the disorder that 'beloved' new constitutions come with.

Here, instead of having one legislature and one government, there are regional governments and legislatures whose financing is paired not with local councillors but the national edifice.

We are yet to witness - or bear - this burden of administration along with its requisite implication in taxation, so our MPs ought to stand reminded of the importance of their role in injecting sanity into our taxation and other pieces of legislation.

## Kidnap horror, murder linked to what's wrong in social priorities

THERE is faint hope and many expectations that Thursday's directive from the National Assembly in Dodoma city by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa's for effective measures by all concerned to ensure the safety of children with albinism across the country will bear fruit.

Local government authorities have been tasked with carrying out special operations to enhance security for people with albinism. The issue is really how far there will be readiness to notify the relevant agencies on any dangers lurking.

There was some despair seeing the grotesque incident occurring again, after years of an impression that efforts conducted some 20 years ago had changed one or other facet of society.

It is the shock of collective discovery that little progress had been made, that it is still possible to commit such a crime, for little has changed of the social conditions in which such criminality may appear inevitable. We seek to avoid the key issues.

The PM dwelt on the issue in the weekly spot questions hour, with legislators' concerns arising from the kidnapping and brutal murder of a two-year-old child with albinism. The ghastly incident occurred on May 20, while on June 19 the child's mutilated body was found wrapped - minus limbs, hands, tongue and eyes.

Just how far the widespread fear and real anxiety among residents of Lake Victoria Zone regions and beyond will be assuaged by the PM's directive is a different issue.

While the matrix in which the premier issued those directives

may make a difference, it can scarcely affect the core beliefs leading to horrors of this sort.

And it isn't upon the government to bell the cat on this matter as it is inbuilt, with social beliefs often denied in official circles and in their many varieties, practised by portions of society.

These ills can only end after traditional society is no longer existent in the way we know it, as it leads both to discrimination against people with albinism while some people have no qualms about it.

Add expectations of gain and associated sweeteners to that prospect and there is a climate of consensus on what to do about those targeted with the crude violence.

The matter is so ingrained in society that it is apparent that few people are immune from suspicions of wishing or being potentially involved in arranging a grotesque act - and scene - of the kind under discussion.

In a way, the persistence of these incidents is a slap in the face for authorities who keep declaring that progress in life comes from hard work, which means that they skip two things in one leap.

First is that they ignore religious and ancient convictions that sacrifice facilitates gain, and then skip issues relating to how to relate in society in a non-communal manner, such that no one has to murder to earn respect merely because of social success.

Social cohesion based on tradition and collective respect for status make up an electrolytic pairing well nigh impossible to quench. But it just must be quenched.

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## A move to out-manoeuvre US veto on Palestine

By Thalif Deen

The United States—which has continued to use its veto power to block Palestine from UN membership—may be out-manoeuvred by a growing new campaign by some UN member states planning to establish full political and diplomatic relations with Palestine outside the confines of the United Nations.

The latest recognitions of the Palestinian territory as a sovereign State are by Norway, Ireland, Spain and Slovenia, which comes after the General Assembly overwhelmingly voted—with 143 votes in favour to nine votes against—to back Palestine's bid to become a full-fledged member of the United Nations on last month.

But, as expected, the resolution before the Security Council was vetoed by the United States last month—and will continue to be vetoed.

Mercifully, the US does not have a veto power to prevent countries from recognizing Palestine as a sovereign nation state—even though it could threaten to cut off economic and military aid, particularly to developing nations.

"In the midst of a war, with tens of thousands killed and injured, we must keep alive the only alternative that offers a political solution for Israelis and Palestinians alike: Two states, living side by side, in peace and security," Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said.

How many of the remaining 24 European Union (EU) member states will follow Ireland, Spain and Slovenia in establishing diplomatic relations with Palestine?

The 24 include: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and chair of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of San Francisco, told IPS this underscores how, despite the Biden administration's claims that it supports a two-state solution, it has worked hard to prevent the United Nations from recognizing Palestine.

In addition to vetoing the recent UN Security Council resolution admitted Palestine as a member and voting against the General Assembly resolution to upgrade its status, the United States was one of only two countries in the 47-member UN Human Rights Council to vote against a resolution in early April which "reaffirmed its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security."

"It has been U.S. policy since 1990 to withdraw funding from any United Nations agency which grants Palestine full member status and the recently passed 2024 Appropriations bill promises to cut all U.S. funding for the Pal-



Results of the General Assembly's vote on the resolution on the status of the Observer State of Palestine. File photo

estian Authority if "the Palestinians obtain the same standing as member states or full membership as a state in the United Nations or any specialized agency thereof outside an agreement negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians," he pointed out.

The Biden administration and Congress have long taken the position that Palestinian statehood is only acceptable on terms voluntarily agreed to by Israel in bilateral negotiations.

"However, given how there have been no such negotiations since 2015 and the Israeli government categorically rules out allowing any kind of Palestinian state, this appears to simply be a way of continuing to deny Palestine's right to self-determination", declared Zunes.

Among the G20, nine countries Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey have recognized Palestine as a sovereign state.

China, one of the five permanent members of the Security Council has recognized the State of Palestine since 1988 and has declared that it supports Palestine's bid for full UN membership.

Meanwhile, in a statement released June 3, a group of UN human rights experts say, "the State of Palestine was recognized by the vast majority of Member States of the United Nations".

All States must follow the example of the 143 UN Member States, and recognise the State of Palestine, and use all political and diplomatic resources at their disposal to bring about an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the UN experts said.

"This recognition is an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggles and suffering towards freedom and independence," the experts said.

They insisted that Palestine

must be able to enjoy full self-determination, including the ability to exist, determine their destiny and develop freely as a people with safety and security.

"This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East - beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," the experts said.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, a former chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Palestine going back to the 1970s.

Dr Palitha Kohona, former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN, and until recently Ambassador to China, told IPS Sri Lanka has consistently backed the two-state solution to the situation involving Israel and Palestine and to bring peace to the Middle East.

Despite the elimination of the anti-Israeli leaders of Iraq (Saddam Hussein) and Libya (Muammar Gaddafi), the violent changes resulting from the Arab Spring, and the diplomatic efforts at reconciliation between Arab countries and Israel, the situation in the occupied territories remains as dire as ever, he said.

"Consistent with our position", he pointed out, "Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Palestine with a Palestinian ambassador based in Colombo since 1975 whose costs are met by the Government of Sri Lanka".

Sri Lanka maintains a diplomatic presence in Ramallah with a fully-fledged ambassador, and is also the chair of the "UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories".

"During my period as Permanent Representative, we came under intense pressure from Israel to quit as chair of this Committee. Sri

Lanka has consistently supported the call for Palestinian statehood at the United Nations," declared Dr Kohona.

Ian Williams, President of the Foreign Press Association, told IPS the Coalition of the Appalled that supports Palestinian membership is more compelling than the US's Coalition of "the willing" that the US dragooned to support its war in Iraq.

A vote on "recognizing" Palestine is as superfluous as a vote on accepting the gravity - it exists! It should be superfluous to counter the arguments of Israel and its supporters but en passant Israel itself has not had accepted boundaries since its admission.

Micronesia, the Marshalls and Palau, consistent supporters of Israel and the US have no real sovereignty over their foreign policy, while the US and UK fought hard to maintain "Kampuchean" membership of the UN when Pol Pot controlled a tent in Thailand across the border, said Williams, a former president of the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) and author of "The UN For Beginners".

"And many of the Governments who took part in the wartime negotiations on the UN Charter were in exile from their occupied territory. This is not about legal recognition, it is about Palestine, as the ghost of the Naqba, sitting at the table shaking its hoary locks at the Zionist murderers and their accomplices".

Maybe other members should resolve to refuse recognition to the Israeli holders of positions that swell Gilad Erdan's head - like the various vice presidencies and committees or assumed membership of the West European Group that Erdan is so proud of. Time to tweak the desert vulture's feathers, declared Williams.

IPS



By Adonis Byemelwa

ON June 20, 2024, the World Refugee Day was commemorated globally, honouring Tanzania's unwavering commitment to supporting those in need. Over the years, Tanzania has continued to host refugees, asylum-seekers, and other people of concern, with the current number standing at about 237,997.

This journey of resilience and compassion towards comprehensive refugee protection and integration in settlements such as Nyarugusu, Nduta, and Mtendeli in the Northwestern region is rooted in humanitarian principles and enshrined within national policies. Tanzania's vision goes beyond borders to foster social cohesion, and economic development, and safeguard the fundamental rights of all individuals.

This monumental journey is a testament to Tanzania's proactive stance, offering clear guidance on the protection and assistance of asylum seekers, refugees, former refugees, and returnees, ensuring security while championing humanity.

As a country that has consistently adhered to international humanitarian principles and agreements, Tanzania provides access to asylum procedures, protection, and basic services for refugees and asylum-seekers.

As nations celebrate the day, it is important for the media in shaping perceptions and fostering understanding. In commemoration of the 2024 World Refugee Day, journalists from broadcast, print, and multimedia should be trained in the coverage and documentation of refugee stories to popularize the activities in this humanitarian undertaking. This is also a way to make citizens appreciate the peace and tranquility fostered by these efforts.

Additionally, the UN and the Tanzanian government could consider setting up a radio station with broadcasting studios in all refugee settlements to enhance access to information and disseminate details about entrepreneurship activities in these settlements.

Quarterly documentation of refugee stories across all media platforms should be conducted to showcase the strides made by UN agencies like UNHCR, UNICEF, and the government in improving the welfare of individuals in these settlements, such as through the promotion of sports and alternative sources of livelihood.

Tanzania's commitment to hosting and supporting refugees has earned it a well-deserved reputation as one of the world's most generous refugee-hosting countries. Despite the challenges posed by the influx of refugees, Tanzania has shown incredible compassion and resilience, prioritizing the needs and rights of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Since gaining independence in 1961, Tanzania has consistently upheld its commitment to offering refuge to those in need. The country's geographical location makes it a natural destination for individuals seeking safety and protection.

Sharing borders with several volatile regions, including Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania has become a beacon of hope for those forced to flee their homes due to violence, political turmoil, or other threats.

In addition to its compassionate response to the arrival of refugees, Tanzania has implemented innovative strategies to support their integration and self-reliance. Through various programs, refugees are provided with opportunities for education, vocational training, and livelihood initiatives.

These initiatives not only empower individuals to rebuild their lives but also contribute to the local economy, fostering social cohesion and mutual understanding between refugees and host communities.

As of 31 May 2024, Tanzania hosted 237,997 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi and the DRC. Approximately 83 percent of the refugees in Tanzania

# World Refugee Day 2024: Celebrating Tanzania's role in refugee protection



Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni signs repatriation agreement with Theophile Ndarufatiye, Permanent Executive Secretary of Burundi's Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, on June 6, 2024.

live in two camps located in the Northwestern region of Kigoma: Nduta and Nyarugusu Camps. Nyarugusu Camp, the largest, hosts 135,336 refugees, while Nduta Camp accommodates 61,709 refugees. Other smaller settlements include Katumba, Ulyankulu, and Mishamo, among others.

Drawing parallels from Tanzania's efforts, we can see similar humanitarian endeavors globally. For instance, in Tanzania's Lugufu camp, Congolese refugees eagerly celebrated World Refugee Day with song, dance, and performances that highlighted their plight and aspirations. Such events underscore the importance of education, the challenges of restricted movement, and the dire need for adequate food aid.

The theme for this year's World Refugee Day, 'Refugee Youth: Building the Future,' was chosen to highlight the challenges faced by millions of young refugees. Of the estimated 20 million people cared for by UNHCR today, seven million are youngsters between the ages of 12 and 24.

In Lugufu camp, events to mark World Refugee Day began with a parade of thousands of children from nine primary and secondary schools in Lugufu II, which soon turned into a Congolese dance around the large school grounds.

A refugee drama group in the camp underscored the importance of education and the harmful effects of alcoholism, particularly on families. In one skit, performers stressed that education was the key to a better life in exile in Tanzania and also back home, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country many of Lugufu's refugees left in 1997/98. There was a light moment of laughter when the theatre group pointed out that without a good education, one could not marry a Westerner.

Kigoma-born Sunday Manara, a famous footballer in Tanzania, participated in the day's events in Lugufu. A leading sports icon, Manara has played for the Tanzanian national soccer team as well as other small football teams in Austria and the Netherlands.

He encouraged the refugee youth to strive hard to make something of their lives and pleaded with African leaders to stop the wars and conflicts that have ravaged the continent.

When the day's events drew to a close, all participants received prizes for their efforts. These included high-protein biscuits donated by WFP, jerry cans from UNICEF, buckets of water from the European Community Aid Office (ECHO), and T-shirts from UNHCR.

Today, on World Refugee Day, we honor the resilience of the 250,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who have found sanctuary in Tanzania. This East African nation has provided a haven for people fleeing conflict and persecution from countries like Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Comoros, and Eritrea. Tanzania's unwavering commitment to supporting refugees has earned it a well-deserved reputation as one of the world's most generous refugee-hosting countries.

Since gaining independence in 1961, Tanzania has consistently upheld its commitment to offering refuge to those in need. The country adheres to international humanitarian principles, providing access to asylum procedures, protection, and essential services for refugees and asylum-seekers.

The government, in collaboration with organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and various NGOs, tirelessly works to ensure the well-being of those seeking sanctuary.

Tanzania's innovative strategies for supporting refugees include programs that provide education, vocational training, and livelihood initiatives. These efforts empower individuals to rebuild their lives and contribute to the local economy, fostering social cohesion and mutual understanding between refugees and host communities.

"As a refugee myself, the message of World Refugee Day resonates deeply. My family found compassion in the UK after fleeing perse-

cution, allowing us to rebuild our lives and integrate into British society. Today, I strive to give back and show how welcoming others can change lives," says a refugee Rutendo Kyiondere from the DRC.

However, the global reality remains challenging. The number of forcibly displaced people has reached over 120 million, with 43.3 million classified as refugees, according to UNHCR's latest Global Trends report.

Often, the poorest nations bear the brunt of this crisis, hosting 75 percent of the world's refugees. This highlights the urgent need for a "fair share" approach to refugee resettlement. Wealthier nations must do more to share the responsibility and provide support for those fleeing persecution. The current imbalance, where the poorest countries shoulder the heaviest burden, is simply unsustainable.

UNHCR reports highlight that "Tanzania, like Zambia, has shown how refugee-hosting nations can foster hope and resilience among those seeking sanctuary." As of May 31, 2024, Tanzania hosted 237,997 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Burundi and the DRC. Approximately 83 percent of these refugees live in two camps located in the Northwestern region of Kigoma: Nduta and Nyarugusu Camps.

UNHCR supports the Tanzanian government in fulfilling its international obligations, providing refugees with protection, and seeking durable solutions to their situations. In line with the aspirations of the Global Compact for Refugees, UNHCR also supports the United Nations Kigoma Joint Programme, which focuses on supporting host communities and mitigating the negative impacts of refugee presence.

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, often states, "Solidarity and cooperation are our most powerful tools to ensure that refugees and host communities can thrive together." By continuing to showcase and build upon Tanzania's exceptional efforts, we can inspire a global movement towards more equitable and humane refugee policies, ensuring that the dignity and rights of refugees are upheld worldwide.

## World Bank must double its funding for poorest nations to curb hunger crisis

By Simplex Chithyola Banda

AFTER El Niño-induced floods and devastating drought, roughly two in five people in Malawi - a country of some 20 million people - are now facing the looming prospect of acute hunger by the end of the year.

At particular risk is the progress Malawi has made to improve maternal and infant nutrition, especially during the critical window of a child's first 1,000 days.

Yet, facing similar challenges in the past, I have seen with my own eyes how international development aid can uplift and build the resilience of even the most vulnerable communities.

Concessional finance from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), for instance, has previously helped millions of Malawians access food, improve nutrition, and rebuild agricultural livelihoods in the aftermath of shocks. With its focus on addressing the most urgent long- and short-term challenges, the IDA is one of the greatest allies of low-income, climate-vulnerable countries.

However, conditions not of our own making are exacerbating the hunger challenges in Malawi and across the African continent, while simultaneously holding back governments from responding effectively.

Malawi's external debt servicing alone, for example, will take up an estimated US\$ 147 million this year, just over five percent of total government spending. This is money that would better serve the country in the long run as investments into building the resilience of small-holder farmers to safeguard food and income security against rising climate shocks.

In light of these compounding challenges, we urgently need donor governments to double their contributions to the IDA in its upcoming replenishment, without which countries like Malawi will simply lack the resources to break the cycle of crises.

Food systems in the countries receiving support from the IDA, where infrastructure and national resilience is already precarious, have been more acutely affected by recent shocks than elsewhere.



We already know that one in three IDA nations are now poorer than before the Covid-19 pandemic, while the cost of recent climate disasters has doubled over the past decade, and will continue to rise. These

shocks are devastating setbacks to attempts to develop long-term resilience and foster agricultural development for food and nutrition security and rural livelihoods.

Yet, just as these countries are fac-

ing arguably greater challenges than ever before, the amount of funding provided via the IDA has stalled - and in some cases, begun to decline.

For almost a decade, contributions to the IDA have flatlined, which

means financial support from the wealthiest countries in real terms has fallen as many countries have cut aid budgets.

And the results of this downturn in funding are now playing out on the ground. Over the past two replenishment cycles, for example, the number of food insecure people in IDA countries has doubled - a clear sign that donor countries must rapidly reverse course to save lives and economies worldwide.

In the face of mounting challenges, the IDA can still be a driver for positive change in many of the world's most vulnerable contexts, but only with the enhanced support of the foremost donor countries.

Momentum for tackling the hunger crisis - which ultimately spans borders, cultures, and economies - is already growing, with the formation of a Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty ahead of the G20 meetings in Brazil this year.

Donor governments must now make up ground, rising to the scale and urgency of the food security challenge ahead of us by doubling their funding for one of the most potent solutions against hunger and poverty.

The IDA is one of the most proven and effective aid providers the world possesses today and will be vital in delivering the vision of a hunger- and poverty-free world.

With greater funding, the IDA can support the long-term investments needed to strengthen national food systems, while also breaking the cycle of crises that currently hold back the most vulnerable nations.

At the same time, adequately replenishing the IDA will be critical in achieving both the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the World Bank's own mission to end poverty - both of which rely on sustainable agricultural development that allows for healthy people and planet.

Therefore, as the IDA meets in Nepal, Malawi and other IDA countries urgently need donor governments to step up both financially and strategically, directing more funding towards nutrition and food security.

The return on this investment is a world with less hunger, poverty and inequality, the toll of which is ultimately borne by all of us.



By Rupert Wingfield-Hayes

# Taiwan braces for fresh protests against proposed new legislation

TENS of thousands of supporters of Taiwan's ruling party were yesterday expected to gather outside parliament after it pushed ahead with a hugely controversial "contempt of parliament" bill.

The opposition Kuomintang party (KMT) says the new law is badly needed to redress the power imbalance between the legislature and Taiwan's very powerful presidency.

But the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) says it's an unconstitutional power grab, aimed at taking revenge on the DPP government led by President William Lai Ching-te.

The bill will give Taiwan's parliament more power to interrogate and investigate the executive - to subpoena government officials and private individuals, which could force them to hand over sensitive documents to lawmakers.

It also introduces a "contempt of legislature" clause which can impose fines and even a prison term of up to one year for officials who disrespect parliament. The last clause has been heavily criticised by legal scholars, who say it goes far beyond what is normal in other democratic countries.

When the bill was first introduced in May, huge protests sprang to life on the streets of Taipei as tens of thousands surrounded parliament for days. But there was a lull when it went to Mr Lai's office for approval.

Lai returned the bill to parliament for review and it passed again, this time fairly quickly - with the support of a fragile coalition of the KMT, the smaller Taiwan People's Party (TPP) and independents.

But the DPP has been calling for its supporters to turn up, even if it's only a symbolic show of their opposition to the bill. The KMT staged a counter-protest on Friday, but the numbers - in their hundreds - were lower than those the DPP drew last month.

The protests, however, have come to reflect a deep political rift in Taiwan, between supporters of the DPP and the KMT.

For decades, KMT, the party of the Chinese nationalists, ruled Taiwan with an iron fist, brutally suppressing all calls for democracy or independence - many of the older DPP leaders were jailed for being radicals. Now the two parties vie for power through the ballot box. But the old suspicions are now fuelling gridlock in parliament.

It's only one month since President Lai was inaugurated, but already the lack of a majority in a divided parliament means his prospects of getting anything substantial done during his first term are looking bleak.

On the streets outside the legislature there is genuine concern about what's going on inside. The thousands of DPP supporters appear to believe the contempt of parliament bill is an attempted legislative coup d'etat.

"The process is very unjust and has skipped any substantial discussion", says 33-year-old Powei Chang. "The bill itself is very dangerous and lacks clear definition. It is basically a way for legislators to expand their powers without the consent of the people."

The fact that the legislators in question have a parliamentary majority is not good enough for Mr Chang.

The people who have been surrounding parliament are from a cross-section of Taiwan society: young and old, students, professionals, blue-collar workers. They sit patiently on rows of plastic stools. On a make-shift stage, a steady procession of activists take the microphone to decry what is going on inside the chamber.

In May, when a huge afternoon thundershower washed over the city, organisers handed out plastic ponchos, and the better-prepared raised a forest of umbrellas. No-one left.

They are unified by two things: a strong sense of Taiwanese identity and a deep distrust of the motives of the opposition KMT.

"I think what's happening in Taiwan today is something the people need to stand up against," says a young woman named Eden Hsu. "We can't let those



Taiwanese lawmakers holding placards chant slogans

who are trying to sell out Taiwan think they can do whatever they want without opposition."

### Sell out Taiwan to who? To China.

"Many provisions of the bill seem influenced by the Chinese Communist Party," she says. "The Chinese Communist Party plans to... infiltrate Taiwan using both internal and external support."

This is a sentiment that is repeated over and over, on the street and from activists on stage. There is a broadly-held belief among those opposing the bill that the KMT leadership is now firmly in the pocket of Beijing.

Asked for evidence, protesters and activists alike point to the frequent visits senior KMT politicians make to China. Prime among them is Taiwan's ageing former KMT President Ma Ying-jeou. In the last

six months he has made two trips to China. In April he was warmly welcomed to Beijing by President Xi Jinping himself, who has steadfastly refused any dialogue with Mr Lai or his predecessor Tsai Ing-wen.

One well known DPP politician describes ex-president Ma as Beijing's "most important political asset" in Taiwan. Others who are seen as being "very close to Beijing" include the KMT Speaker Han Kuo-yu, who DPP supporters often derisively describe as "the Korean Fish", a homonym on his name in Chinese.

"He is not really blue [the colour of the KMT party flag]," one DPP politician says. "He's red [the colour of the communist party flag]."

Another accused of being "red" is the man in charge of pushing through the "contempt of legislature" bill, KMT caucus leader Fu Kun-chi. Mr Fu is a powerful power broker with a controversial past, including a

spell in prison following a conviction for insider stock dealing and concocting a fraudulent divorce. He too is a frequent visitor to China.

All of this is useful grist to the rumour and innuendo mill. But it is not evidence of collusion between senior KMT leaders and Beijing. Indeed, the KMT leadership has been loudly protesting its innocence and pointing to its long history of opposing the Chinese communist party.

"I have more reason than the DPP to hate Beijing," says Alexander Huang the head of KMT's international department. "The whole idea [of the bill] is to make the executive more accountable - that's it."

But when the KMT controlled the presidency and legislature between 2008 and 2016 it resisted opposition demands to pass a very similar law - the DPP, then on the other side of the aisle, was pushing for it.

The KMT has also suggested it might begin investigating DPP leaders once the bill becomes law.

"For eight years the DPP had a super majority. They could get whatever they wanted. Executive and legislature in coalition to enjoy the resources of Taiwan," Mr Huang says.

Asked for evidence, Mr Huang points to Taiwan's Covid-19 vaccine program. He alleges the DPP government handed tens of millions of dollars to a handful of pharmaceutical companies, none of which managed to develop an effective vaccine.

"That money is gone, but we don't have a vaccine," he says. "So, is there anything under the carpet? Can we look at it? The DPP says no."

The DPP has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. And its supporters say these accusations are baseless, and a repeat of the prosecution of former DPP President Chen Shui-bian, who was convicted of bribery after he left office in 2008.

Now they fear this bill could be used to unleash a string of investigations to cripple Mr Lai's administration.

Beyond the political divide, Taiwan faces a bigger threat in the shape of China. But many worry that its parliament and executive look set to spend the next four years attempting to hurt each other.



Taiwanese lawmakers holding placards chant slogans

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Yes, Ewura should continue working with private sector in bid to enhance efficiency

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

**L**AST week while launching the 2022/23 energy sector performance report, deputy prime minister and minister for energy, Dr Dotto Biteko commended Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority for proper regulation of the vital sector but also urged the authority to continue working with the private sector.

Dr Biteko paid tribute to the vital contributions made by the private sector backed by development partners in advancing the country's energy sector while noting that institutions such as the World Bank have played an important role in ensuring that almost all villages have access to electricity in the country. Indeed since its creation over two decades ago, Ewura has been collaborating well with the private sector hence the notable achievements made in energy supply to consumers.

As regulators, Ewura has ensured that it regularly listens to suggestions from stakeholders to ensure that the country's energy sector delivers the best products and services to consumers hence enabling more Tanzanians, especially those in rural areas to access electricity, clean water and petroleum products. In his address, the deputy PM acknowledged the exemplary performance of the private sector in implementing various

projects.

"The private sector has contributed 222 megawatts of the 1,911 MW current production capacity which clearly demonstrates its critical role in supplementing government efforts in the energy sectors," he said.

Apart from electricity where the private sector has not invested much compared to the public sector, it has played key roles in delivery of petroleum products with the bulk of investment made in retail outlets which serve consumers. Service stations, LPG vending shops and other similar outlets licensed by Ewura are largely owned by the private sector. Operating under the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies, the private sector has collaborated well with the regulatory body hence the deputy PM's acknowledgement.

"The private sector has always worked alongside the government in plugging shortfalls hence helping us achieve targets, especially in areas such as electricity, fuel supply and cooking gas," he underlined. As the country moves towards shifting to clean energy use in domestic chores, it is important that Ewura as a regulatory body take necessary measures including advising the ministry on what should be done to encourage private investment in this vital sector.

As president Samia Suluhu Hassan's government has signalled a



major shift from over-reliance on use of fossil fuels, namely charcoal and firewood, Ewura's collaboration with the private sector is of vital importance to ensure success. Continued provision of a conducive environment to encourage private investment in clean energy services such as establishment of mini off-grid electricity supply projects in rural areas, importation and supply of liquefied petroleum gas and solar system installation, is of paramount importance.

It is therefore very important that the private sector and development partners team up with the public sector to ensure delivery of clean energy solutions as envisioned by the head of state who wants to relieve low income

families especially those in rural areas.

Seconding Dr Biteko's statement, permanent secretary at Ministry of Energy, Engineer Felchesmi Mramba, highlighted the key role played by the World Bank Group in enhancing clean energy supply to rural families in the country. "The World Bank allocated 300 million USD in supporting the government's efforts to electrify rural areas, a decision which followed good collaboration between the state and the Bretton Woods Institution," Eng. Mramba said.

He pointed out that the multilateral lender's decision to provide funding is a result of the government's efforts in investment made in rural electrification. In April 2024, the World

Bank Group and African Development Bank announced a joint initiative to finance provision of electricity to at least 300 million people in Africa by 2030. In order for Tanzania to fully benefit from this latest initiative, Ewura must continue working closely with the private sector as deputy PM Dr Biteko pointed out.

"Access to electricity remains a fundamental human right and is vital for healthcare, education, productivity, digital inclusivity and job creation. Currently, less than 3,000 villages have no access to electricity in the country with the government's target to ensure that all of them get connected to the national grid by end 2025.

**NB: The author is a media consultant based in Dar es Salaam**

## Chimpanzees 'self-medicate' with healing plants

By Special Correspondent

**W**ILD chimpanzees eat plants that have pain-relieving and anti-bacterial properties to heal themselves, according to scientists.

They described their "detective work" in the forests of Uganda - observing animals that appeared injured or sick to work out whether they were self-medicating with plants.

When an injured animal sought out something specific from the forest to eat, the researchers collected samples of that plant and had it analysed. Most of the plants tested turned out to have antibacterial properties.

The scientists, who published their findings in the journal PLOS One, think the chimps could even help in the search for new medicines.

Elodie Freymann A wild chimpanzee holds its arm and appears uncomfortable Elodie Freymann

Chimpanzees that showed signs of injury or illness were the focus of the study

"We can't test everything in these forests for their medicinal properties, lead researcher Dr Elodie Freymann, from the University of Oxford, said. "So why not test the plants that we have this information about - plants the chimps are seeking out?"

Over the past four years, Dr Freymann has spent months at a time following and carefully observing two communities of wild chimpanzees in Budongo Central Forest Reserve. As well as looking for signs of pain - an animal limping or holding its body in an unusual way - she and her colleagues collected samples of droppings and urine to check for illness and infection.

They paid particular attention when an injured or ill chimpanzee sought out something they do not normally eat - such as tree bark or fruit skin. "We were looking for these behavioural clues that the plants might be medicinal," Dr Freymann explained.

She described one particular chimp - a male - that had a badly wounded hand.

Austen Deery A scientist takes a sample of bark from a tree in Budongo Central Forest Reserve, Uganda Austen Deery

Dr Elodie Freymann took samples from the trees and plants that chimpanzees sought out

"He wasn't using the hand to walk, he was limping," she recalled. While the rest of

this animal's group were sitting around eating, the injured chimp limped away looking for ferns. "He was the only chimp to seek out and eat these ferns."

The researchers collected and analysed the fern - a plant called *Christella parasitica*, which turned out to have potent anti-inflammatory properties.

In total, the researchers collected 17 samples from 13 different plant species and sent them to be tested by Dr Fabien Schultz, at the Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

That revealed that almost 90 percent of the extracts inhibited bacterial growth, and a third had natural anti-inflammatory properties, meaning they could reduce

pain and promote healing.

All the injured and ill chimps reported in this study fully recovered, Dr Freymann was happy to report. "The one who ate ferns was using his hand again within the next few days," she explained.

"Of course, we can't 100 percent prove that any of these cases were a direct result of eating these resources," she told BBC News.

"But it highlights the medicinal knowledge that can be gained from observing other species in the wild and underscores the urgent need to preserve these 'forest pharmacies' for future generations."

## Chinese tech to light up homes in South Africa

By Special Correspondent

IN the vast, semiarid region near Postmasburg, in South Africa's Northern Cape Province, construction of one of the country's biggest renewable energy power plants is nearing completion.

The Redstone Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Project is expected to begin trial operations soon, eventually generating enough energy to power 200,000 households in South Africa, and thereby greatly alleviating the country's acute power shortage.

Energy has been a major area of cooperation between China and South Africa over the past years. During President Xi Jinping's visit to South Africa in August, in the presence of Xi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the two countries signed a number of cooperation deals in Pretoria, including agreements on emergency power, investment in renewable energy and the upgrade of South Africa's power grids.

Since Xi's visit, work on the Redstone power plant has accelerated, with the steam generation system and solar receiving system already completed. Trial operations are expected to start this month, and full operation is scheduled before the

end of the year, said Xie Yanjun, deputy director and chief engineer of the project, which is being built by SEPCOIII Electric Power Construction Co, a subsidiary of PowerChina.

Gloria Kgoronyane, a resident of Jroenwatel village, which is located near the project site, said she is eagerly waiting for the Redstone plant to begin operations, and hopes that more power plants can be built to ease the severe power shortage, which has adversely affected her life over the past few years.

"Load shedding has become more frequent since 2022, and nowadays in my village, every day we experience between two and four hours of power cuts," she said. "We cannot watch TV, and sometimes the meat in the fridge rots due to load shedding, so I have to throw it out."

"The power plant uses solar thermal, a very clean source of energy, to generate electricity, which conforms to South Africa's environmental protection strategy," Xie said. "While contributing to reduced carbon emissions, it will also significantly ease the power shortage in South Africa."

South Africa, which relies on coal to meet around 80 percent of its power needs, has been facing a severe power shortage in recent years that has been caused by aging coal-



powered plants, outdated power grids and a lack of alternative energy sources. Frequent load shedding - the distribution of demand for electrical power across multiple power sources - is common across the country.

The nation has vowed to gradually phase out coal-powered plants and seek renewable energy as a major means to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

During Xi's visit last year, which was his fourth state visit to South Africa as China's president, he stressed intensifying bilateral cooperation in various areas, including energy, for mutual benefits. As the first African country to join the Belt and Road Initiative, South Africa signed a new agreement with China during the visit to enhance cooperation under the initiative.

Nandu Bhula, CEO of the Redstone project, said South Africa-China cooperation in energy under the BRI, which was proposed by President Xi in 2013, has strengthened over the past few years and benefited both sides.

"The vision of President Xi (regarding the BRI) is a good one, as it supports all countries in development and infrastructure improvement," he said. "I think it's important to have collaborations with countries such as China that can provide expertise in areas where a country is desperately needy."

Regarding the Redstone project, Bhula said that by cooperating with PowerChina, using cutting-edge technologies to build the power plant, South Africa will improve

its ability to build similar renewable energy projects on its own in the future.

"I think the expertise they bring in terms of concentrated solar power is fantastic. It's a huge learning process for us," he said. "With leading-edge technology, the Redstone project is actually revolutionary. It can provide 12 hours of energy storage, which means it can run for 24 hours, seven days a week, if need be."

Bryce Muller, a quality control engineer for the Redstone project who used to work for coal-powered plants in South Africa, said he hopes such major renewable energy projects will also reduce load shedding in the country.

Xie, the project's chief engineer, said that with the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, he believes more renewable energy projects will be constructed in South Africa and other countries to meet the increasing demand for power and decarbonisation efforts. In addition to renewable energy, China-Africa cooperation has extended to a wide range of areas, including industrial parks and vocational training, to support the industrialization and modernization of the continent.

During his meeting with Ramaphosa in Pretoria in August, Xi said China is willing to make use of various cooperation platforms, such as the China-South Africa Vocational Training Alliance, to intensify bilateral coopera-

tion in vocational training, promote exchanges and cooperation in youth employment, and help South Africa cultivate badly needed talent for economic and social development.

During the meeting, the two presidents also witnessed the signing of cooperation agreements for developing industrial parks and higher education. On Aug 24, during a China-Africa leaders' dialogue co-hosted by President Xi and President Ramaphosa in Johannesburg, Xi said China has been firmly supporting Africa's modernization efforts, and he proposed launching initiatives to support Africa's industrialization and agricultural modernization.

In Atlantis, a town about 50 kilometers north of Cape Town, an industrial park set up more than 10 years ago has transformed the once sleepy town into a major manufacturing base for household electrical appliances. This has created thousands of job opportunities for locals and injected new impetus into industrialization of the country.

Hisense South Africa Industrial Park, invested in by Chinese appliance and electronics manufacturer Hisense Appliance and the China-Africa Development Fund, was established in 2013. A decade later, the industrial park produces enough television sets and refrigerators to meet nearly a third of South Africa's domestic demand, and it exports to countries across Africa and to the United Kingdom.

Jiang Shun, general manager of the industrial park, said that over the past 10 years, the manufacturing base has not only produced high-quality and affordable electrical appliances to meet local demand, but has also cultivated skilled talent, thereby promoting industrial development in Atlantis.







## AfDB, WFP enhance wheat cultivation in war-ravaged Sudan amid soaring hunger

By Guardian Correspondent

AN emergency wheat production project in Sudan financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and executed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has increased wheat production in the country by up to 70 percent in targeted project locations across five states within the past year.

According to a statement issued by AfDB and shared to this journalist, the bank provided a total of \$75 million to WFP for the implementation of the Sudan Emergency Wheat Production Project over the course of two years.

"This development comes at a critical time for Sudan, which is facing a looming hunger catastrophe due to the ongoing conflict, that has slowed down production in the past agricultural season," Nnenna Nwabufu, the Bank's Director General for Eastern Africa region said. "Given the great potential that agriculture offers even under circumstances of active conflict, and with famine in Sudan on the horizon, threatening millions of lives, this project has brought a lot of hope."

She added: "This year alone, 22 percent of the national wheat demand was met through the project. Its impressive performance has demonstrated that there are viable solutions to increasing domestic production to address the rising levels of hunger and acute malnutrition in the country. We are pleased that the scaled-up delivery of certified climate resilient wheat seed varieties and fertilizers to smallholder farmers in the target areas across the country was timely, and saved a number of lives, under the prevailing challenges of conflict."

Mary Monyau, the Bank's Country Manager for Sudan explained the scope of the project. "This wheat production project financed by the African Development Bank became the heart of production at this critical moment in Sudan. It provided food security, yielding 645,000 metric tonnes of wheat this year, and also became a critical crisis response intervention to the internally displaced persons," she stated, adding, "More than 30 percent of the beneficiaries in the Northern State are IDPs".

She went on: "The project was anchored on earlier game-changing wheat production initiatives under the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation project implemented in 2018 to 2021, providing a clear example of

how a longer-term development intervention can meet short-term emergency and humanitarian needs with forward-looking resilience building. We thank our development partner, the World Food Programme, for implementing this project and ensuring positive outcomes in at least 5 states, namely Gezira, Kassala, River Nile, White Nile, and Northern States, despite the active conflict in the country."

For his part, the WFP Sudan Representative and Country Director, Eddie Rowe, said: "The ongoing conflict in Sudan has had a devastating impact on agriculture. Sudan produced merely half the wheat it would have produced in a typical year. Thanks to funding from the African Development Bank, WFP was able to mitigate some of the impacts of this war on wheat production."

The project distributed climate-adapted wheat seeds and fertilizers to over 170,000 smallholder farmers in the five states during the 2023-2024 agricultural season, covering areas largely located in the relatively stable northern and eastern states of Sudan where conflict has not yet spread, as well as conflict-affected areas such as Gezira and White Nile states.

The yield of 645,000 metric tonnes of wheat this year accounted for 22 percent of the total wheat consumption needs of Sudan. On average, farmers reported a 44 percent increase in productivity per hectare as compared to the previous season. Around 16,000 of the farmers who received support had been newly displaced by conflict in the last 13 months. The project offered support and resources for these farmers to rebuild their livelihoods. In addition, 12 harvester machines were provided to farmers' associations in River Nile and Northern states to enable them harvest more efficiently to significantly reduce losses.

Sudan, which is facing an unprecedented hunger catastrophe, risks becoming the world's largest hunger crisis. A new WFP analysis has identified 41 hunger hotspots, noting that about 2.1 million people are at high risk of falling into IPC 5 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) if they do not urgently receive humanitarian assistance.

Investments in agricultural productivity in Sudan are critical to increasing crop yields and food availability in the face of devastating levels of violence and hunger.

# Tanzania receives IMF aid for stabilisation of economy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the third review of the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement (ECF) for Tanzania, which was approved in July 2022 for a total access of SDR 795.58 million (200 percent of quota—about US\$1.0464 billion at the time of program approval).

SDRs are units of account for the IMF, and not a currency per se. They represent a claim to currency held by IMF member countries for which they may be exchanged.

A statement issued by the IMF and shared to this reporter, indicated that the completion of the third review allows the immediate disbursement of about US\$ 149.4 million (SDR 113.37 million), bringing Tanzania's total access under the ECF to about US\$ 606.4 million (SDR 455.47).

IMF also approved a six-month extension of the ECF to May 2026 and a rephrasing of access to give sufficient time to the authorities to implement their reform agenda and realize the program's key objectives.

The ECF aims to preserve macroeconomic stability, strengthen the economic recovery, and promote a sustainable and inclusive growth.

On the other hand, the Board also approved Tanzania's request for an arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) of about US\$786.2 million (SDR 596.7 million, 150 percent of quota).

It is noted that the RSF will support Tanzania's ambitious reform efforts to implement climate policy reforms that address risks and challenges associated with climate change and enhance the resilience of the Tanzanian economy.

The RSF duration will coincide with the period remaining under the ECF, as extended (May 2026).

According to the IMF, the country's economic reform program remained strong. All end-December



President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba in discussion at IMF headquarters in Washington, DC. File Photo

2023 quantitative performance criteria and indicative targets were met. The authorities' structural reform agenda is progressing well, having met two of the three structural benchmarks for end-December 2023 and a structural benchmark for end-January 2024 on time, reflecting their commitment to the reform agenda.

After slowing down in 2022, economic growth rebounded in 2023. Inflation remained well within the Bank of Tanzania's target. A growth-friendly fiscal consolidation is underway and is expected to continue through FY2024/25. The current account deficit is narrowing, reflecting fiscal consolidation, easing commodity prices, and tight external financing conditions.

The economic recovery is expected to gain momentum going forward but faces headwinds from the unfavorable global economic environment. Near-term policy priorities include allowing exchange rate flexibility and implementation of fiscal consol-

idation as envisaged in the budget, while preserving priority social spending. The medium-term outlook is positive subject to steadfast implementation of the authorities' reform agenda, anchored by the ECF.

Following the Executive Board discussion, Bo Li, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, said: "Tanzania's performance under the reform program supported by the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) has been strong. The program focuses on strengthening the economic recovery, preserving macroeconomic stability, and supporting sustainable and inclusive growth. The authorities' strong commitment to their reform agenda will remain important amid downside risks."

Adding: "The ongoing growth-friendly fiscal consolidation will help buttress fiscal and debt sustainability. Efforts should be geared toward enhancing domestic revenue mobilization and strengthening cash management and commitment controls.

Strengthening public financial and investment management will help contain fiscal risks and improve the efficiency of public investment. Closing gaps in Tanzania's human and social development will require prioritizing social spending."

For Li, a flexible and market clearing exchange rate system and a transparent FX intervention policy are key to addressing ongoing pressures in the FX market.

The Acting Chair believes that the recent issuance of the FX intervention policy and the revised Interbank Foreign Exchange Market code of conduct are important steps in this regard.

"In line with the policy, FX interventions should be limited to addressing disorderly market conditions while maintaining adequate foreign exchange reserves. The Bank of Tanzania's plan to publish the results of its FX auctions will enhance transparency," said Li.

"The recent launch of the interest rate-based

monetary policy is an important step toward enhancing the effectiveness of monetary policy. Going forward, the Bank of Tanzania should strengthen its ability to align the operational target with the policy rate and develop the interest rate transmission channel. Launching a comprehensive communication strategy, strengthening the analytical tools and capacity of the central bank, and supporting the development of money markets would also be important steps. Upgrading the financial supervision framework, including by implementing FSAP recommendations, will help to buttress financial sector stability and promote financial deepening and inclusion. Completing the remaining steps to align Tanzania's legal framework with FATF standards will improve the effectiveness of the AML/CFT framework," Li added.

Furthermore, Li noted: "Structural reforms are essential to promote inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth. Business reforms should focus on streamlining bureaucratic procedures, simplifying the regulatory regime, and enhancing regulatory transparency. Implementation and enforcement of the authorities' anti-corruption legislation and strategies is central to enhancing governance."

Adding: "The Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) will support the authorities' effort to implement macro-critical climate reforms and strengthen the resilience of Tanzania's economy to climate change. Reforms supported by the RSF will aim to enhance governance and coordination of climate change policies, strengthen disaster risk management, mainstream climate policies in budget and investment planning, align sectoral climate policies with national policies and commitments, and enhance supervision of financial sector climate-related risks. The RSF can help catalyze official technical and financial assistance and private sector financing."

## Airbus: African airlines miss out as major routes linger unserved



### Nairobi

African airlines are missing out on revenue due to lack of service in potential routes within and outside the region, aerospace manufacturer Airbus found in a study.

Airbus says the uppermost segment of Africa's presently unserved routes are long-haul intercontinental flights to North America, Europe and the Indian Subcontinent.

It sees unserved opportunity for a direct flight between Nairobi-Washington and Nairobi-Abuja.

9 out of the top 15 unserved routes identified in the study start or end in West-Africa.

"With the region's booming population, with its cultural and economic diversity, with the role it plays in international trade and especially when considering the growth forecast for the sub-region, the potential to turn the unserved routes into actual ones is substantial," notes Airbus in the study released in Windhoek, Namibia. "The value of cargo traf-

fic to and from the subregion is

another key factor to consider in truly understanding the potential."

According to the study, a new non-stop service between Nairobi and Washington would only be a further improvement of the connectivity between East Africa and North America and the success of such service appears at least promising.

"The route experiences seasonal traffic variations, with the peak period from June to August averaging around 4 600 non-directional origin and destination (O&D) passengers per month. Many routes to or from Africa that do not reach this level of O&D traffic are in operation today," the researchers said in the study.

The third intra-African regional route with the potential to achieve and sustain a non-stop service in the future is Abuja (Nigeria) - Nairobi (Kenya).

Back in April 2023, Kenya and Nigeria formally announced their commitment to deepen diplomatic and trade ties. Kenya and Nigeria already have a longstanding trade relationship. Both

countries are members of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and they agreed to further enhance their mutual relationship towards economic development and trade.

"A non-stop air service between Abuja and Nairobi aligns perfectly with that plan, and would also reinforce the already existing direct links between West and East Africa," Airbus notes.

Some of the unserved routes include Durban-London, Lagos-Manchester, Entebbe-London, Abidjan-Douala, Dakar-Libreville, Cape town-Brussels, Lagos-North America, Johannesburg-Mumbai, Harare-London among others.

Meanwhile, the continued growth of the aviation sector in Africa is expected to result in 3.3 per cent real GDP growth on the continent, well above the 2.6 per cent global average. This growth is ratified by data from Airbus' Global Services Forecast, which estimates that Africa will need to introduce 15 000 more pilots, 20 000 technicians and 24 000 cabin crew to meet the surge in air travel demand.



# Rwanda-Tanzania crossborder trade seen on the rise

Kigali

EVERY Thursday in Ndego Sector, Kayonza District, the shores of Kibare Lake buzz with activity. Ships unload tonnes of goods from Tanzania, while others load goods bound for Tanzania from Rwanda.

Kibare Lake holds regional importance as the Akagera River flows through it.

After unloading, men and women transport sacks of commodities such as rice, maize, sorghum, beans, cassava, bananas, taro, yams, and chicken to Kibare Market. They also load other goods onto boats for Tanzania.

Tanzanian traders primarily buy construction materials such as iron sheets, cement, and nails, as well as goods like soap, jerry cans, cooking oil, hoes, clothes, furniture, and beer from Kibare Market.

The booming small-scale cross-border trade in this area results from the recently constructed market and maritime transport system on Kibare Lake, benefiting residents of both Rwanda and Tanzania.

An estimated 80 percent of Rwanda's cross-border trade is small-scale, unrecorded, and informal, highlighting its economic potential.

Kibare Market was constructed a few meters from the lake to rehabilitate areas encroached by vendors, which previously led to pollution. The market was built at a cost of Rwf180 million.

Between 17 and 25 boats dock daily, 'each day' transporting around 30 tonnes of commodities, according to Ndego Sector officials.

Trucks and other vehicles transport goods from the market to Kigali and other parts of the country. Elisa Harindintwari, a resident of the Ndego Sector, said, "Traders from Kigali, Kayonza, and other areas, as well as those from Tanzania, flock to purchase goods. Tanzanians sell their goods in Rwanda and buy what they need from Rwanda."

Joseph Murwanashyaka, who transports goods by bicycle, said, "I earn at least Rwf5,000 from transporting commodities to and from Kibare Market."

Lake Kibare, covering 336 hectares, is also home to Nile Tilapia, African Catfish, and Haplochromis fish species. "People come from various areas to Kibare Market for fish harvested from the lake," said Jean Bosco Tuyisenge, another resident of the area.

The business center also offers ac-



Kibare market in Kayonza District where crossborder traders from Tanzania and Rwanda do business. Photo: Michel Nkurunziza

commodation, shops, restaurants, and bars for traders who spend the night.

"Accommodation facilities were constructed due to demand. More lodges are needed as cross-border trade booms," said Tunda Mariko, a Tanzanian trader.

Traders and district officials are calling for a port on the lake and a

border post for customs and immigration due to the increasing trade.

Kayonza District was recently added to the list of secondary cities.

"The market started as a small selling point but is expanding. Tanzanian traders spend eight hours on boats to reach Rwanda and spend the night here. More hospitality infrastructure and standard border

posts are needed. We are also planning to rehabilitate the road to the area and improve electricity and clean water supply," Hope Munganyinka, Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs in Kayonza District said.

Rwandan and Tanzanian traders record Rwf80 million per day on the shores of Kibare Lake, according to area officials. The lake, previously

drying up, has been restored by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

Developing a port on Kibare Lake could significantly boost maritime transport in Rwanda and its neighboring countries. The construction of four cargo and passenger ports on Lake Kivu is also expected to enhance maritime transport, particularly with DR Congo.

In 2018, the government launched a Rwf22 billion project to develop trade, maritime transport, and tourism along Lake Kivu. The ports will be built in Rubavu (Nyamyumba), Rusizi (Bugiki), Karongi (at the Karongi cross-border market), and Rutsiro (Nkora region).

Rwanda also plans to implement the Akagera River Water Navigability Project, linking it to Lake Victoria. This waterway would reduce freight costs, making Rwandan goods more competitive.

The vessels will depart from Kagitumba, a proposed port facility in Eastern Rwanda, before sailing to Lake Victoria ports. Kagitumba was chosen due to its flat terrain and accessibility via a major road connecting to Kigali.

Agencies

## Afreximbank, Africa CDC collaborate to strengthen Africa's health structures

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) entered into a cooperation agreement with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to leverage their strengths in boosting health systems across Africa and improving the livelihoods of African citizens.

A statement issued by the bank and shared to this paper, indicated that the agreement underscores the commitment of both institutions to enhance regional vaccine research, development, and sustainable manufacturing capabilities.

The agreement will see Afreximbank and Africa CDC collaborate on vari-

ous strategic initiatives, including the operationalization of the Africa Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) in close cooperation with UNECA.

The duo will develop and implement priority initiatives to advance Africa's unique healthcare manufacturing sector and promote innovative financing mechanisms to support health research and development initiatives in African countries.

Both institutions aim to leverage gains made in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Recognizing the critical role of Africa CDC in ensuring African health security, Afreximbank

will support Africa CDC in achieving financial sustainability.

In line with the African Union's ambition under the 'New Public Health Order' to produce 60 percent of the continent's vaccine needs in Africa by 2040, up from less than 1 percent today, with interim goals of 10 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030; the expanded partnership will also focus on local manufacturing across all aspects, including financing, market shaping, technology transfers, and talent development.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, said: "Our collaboration



Dr. Jean Kaseya (L), Director General of Africa CDC exchanges signed cooperation agreement documents with Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank. Photo: Courtesy of Afreximbank

with Africa CDC began with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in a short span of time, we have achieved significant progress. Formalizing our collaboration is therefore a natural step to join forces towards the attainment of the socio-economic development of Africa."

Commenting on the signing of the Agreement, Dr. Jean Kaseya, Director General of Africa CDC,

said: "Ensuring Africa's health security depends on our capacity to produce essential health products within our continent. Pillar 2 of the new public health order—Expanded Manufacturing of Vaccines, Diagnostics, and Therapeutics—emphasizes the importance of democratizing access to vital medicines and equipment."

Afreximbank is a Pan-

African multilateral financial institution mandated to finance, facilitate and promote intra and extra-African trade. While Africa CDC is a continental autonomous public health agency of the African Union that supports member states in their efforts to strengthen health systems and improve surveillance, emergency response, and prevention and control of diseases.

## 'Engaging fiscal policy to boost the benefits of AI to humanity'

By Era Dabla-Norris and Ruud de Mooij

NEW generative-AI technologies hold immense potential for boosting productivity and improving the delivery of public services, but the sheer speed and scale of the transformation also raise concerns about job losses and greater inequality. Given uncertainty over the future of AI, governments should take an agile approach that prepares them for highly disruptive scenarios.

A new IMF paper argues that fiscal policy has a major role to play in supporting a more equal distribution of gains and opportunities from generative-AI. But this will require significant upgrades to social-protection and tax systems around the world.

How should social-protection policies be revamped in the face of disruptive technological changes from AI? While AI could eventually boost overall employment and wages, it could put large swaths of the labor force out of work for extended periods, making for a painful transition.

Lessons from past automation waves and the IMF's modeling suggest more generous unemployment insurance could cushion the negative impact of AI on workers, allowing displaced workers to find jobs that better match their skills. Most countries have considerable scope to broaden the coverage and generosity of unemployment insurance, improve portability of entitlements, and consider forms of wage insurance.

At the same time, sector-based training, apprenticeships, and upskilling and reskilling programs could play a greater role in preparing workers for the jobs of the AI age. Comprehensive social-assistance programs will be needed for workers facing long-term unemployment or reduced local labor demand due to automation or industry closures.

To be sure, there will be important differences in how AI impacts emerging-market and developing economies—and thus, how policymakers there should respond. While workers in such countries are less exposed to AI, they are also less protected by formal social-protection programs such as unemployment insurance because of larger informal sectors in their economies. Innovative approaches leveraging digital technologies can facilitate expanded coverage of social-assistance programs in these countries.

Should AI be taxed to mitigate labor-market disruptions and pay for its effects on workers? In the face of similar concerns, some have recommended a robot tax to discourage firms from displacing workers with robots.

Yet, a tax on AI is not advisable. Your AI chatbot or co-pilot wouldn't be able to pay such a tax—only people can do that. A specific tax on AI might instead reduce the speed of investment and innovation, stifling productivity gains. It would also be hard to put into practice and, if ill-targeted, do more harm than good.

So, what can be done to rebalance tax policy in the age of AI? In recent decades, some advanced countries have scaled up corporate tax breaks on software and computer hardware in an effort to drive innovation. However, these incentives also tend to encourage companies to replace workers through automation. Corporate tax systems that inefficiently favor the rapid displacement of human jobs should be reconsidered, given the risk that they could magnify the dislocations from AI.

Agencies

## Uganda gets 78.5 percent EITI score

Kampala

UGANDA has scored 78.5 percent in implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) standards.

The score is based on three areas of outcomes and impact. Uganda scored 85 per cent, stakeholder engagement 82.5 per cent and transparency 65.7 percent.

Uganda joined EITI, a global standard group aimed at promoting the openness and accountable management of oil, gas, and mineral resources, in 2020. The country's application to join the EITI was approved by the organisation's board of directors, making it the 54th member state and the 26th in Africa.

Following its admission, Uganda was set a validation deadline of February 12, 2023, in accordance with the 2019 EITI Standard. Uganda commenced the validation exercise in October 2023 and embarked on the report document process, which was concluded in May 2024.

The report outlines the complete assessment by requirements, including collective actions to enhance the extractive sector for the country.

According to Moses Kaggwa, the



EITI is aimed at promoting the openness and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources. File Photo

chairperson of the Uganda EITI multi-stakeholder group, Uganda made strides in improving transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accountability in the oil and mining sectors by establishing a robust multi-stakeholder platform and undertaking reforms to its Minerals Act.

He noted that more efforts are needed to disclose contracts and beneficial owners, and to ensure that civil society can freely participate in the EITI

process. "Uganda's EITI membership is to strengthen efforts to ensure overall transparency in the extractive sector, enhance tax collection, promote public debate, improve investment in the climate, build trust, and create lasting value from these petroleum and mineral resources," he said.

"I commend Uganda for establishing a robust multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates

public engagement and data-driven debate," EITI board chair Helen Clark said.

"Building on a strong foundation for sector governance, stakeholders should prioritise concrete measures to disclose oil, gas, and mining agreements and beneficial ownership information. Safeguarding the broader civic space will be crucial to sustaining transparent and accountable governance of natural resources in Uganda."

The EITI board urged Uganda to publish financial data on company payments and government revenues disaggregated by company, revenue stream and government beneficiary, and project where payments are levied at a project level. The board further asked Uganda to use the EITI platform to strengthen local stakeholders' understanding of mineral-royalty transfer mechanisms.

Agencies



# Farmers urged to boost sugarcane investments for growth, prosperity

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

FARMERS are encouraged to enhance their investments in sugarcane farming to meet the increasing demand, elevate their standard of living, and play a pivotal role in the country's overall development.

During the launch of a special campaign in Morogoro Region yesterday, Pierre Redinger, the Director for Grower Agriculture at Kilombero Sugar Company, encouraged farmers to ramp up their investments.

He emphasized the importance of expanding fields and establishing new farms to capitalize on opportunities, boost their income, and play a significant role in the country's development.

Redinger explained that the campaign's primary goal is to drive progress among sugarcane farmers by fostering strategic communication and collaboration with stakeholders within the framework of the K4 expansion project.

With the slogan "Reliable market, sustainable income, and improved livelihoods," the campaign aims to invigorate sugarcane farming, drawing more farmers into the industry.

He mentioned that the company, through the Growers' Elevated campaign, is reiterating its commitment to investing in people, training, and technology, thereby establishing a new standard for agriculture in Tanzania.



"Our commitment to the K4 Expansion Project is based on the confidence we have in our growers," expressed Redinger.

He said the K4 expansion project will see construction of a new K-4

factory by 2024 which is expected to process 1.5 million tonnes of sugarcane per year from the current 666,000 tonnes.

Following last season's challenges due to El Niño-induced heavy rains,

Kilombero Sugar has taken proactive steps to reassure cane farmers. The company is nearing 90 percent completion of the K4 Expansion Project, the largest investment ever made by Illovo in Africa. This monumental

project underscores the company's confidence in the local grower community, which will supply 60 percent of the sugarcane required for the expanded operations.

This journey began in 2018 with

the registration of intent by growers, supported by the Kilombero District Office, paving the way for this significant business case.

Redinger also announced that Kilombero Sugar is committed to providing up to 20,000 tonnes of seed cane on a loan basis to growers for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 plantation seasons, further supporting the expansion.

George Gwelle, representing the Director General of the Sugar Board of Tanzania, expressed the government's strong support for the initiative.

"We are very happy and supportive of initiatives that address sugar self-sufficiency," Gwelle said.

Bakari Iddi Mkangama, Chairman of the Kilombero Joint Enterprises Cooperatives Society, which represents 17 AMCOS working directly with Kilombero Sugar, hailed the campaign as a transformative opportunity.

"This initiative is a game-changer for our reliable market, sustainable income, and improved livelihoods," Mkangama remarked.

In his remarks, Kilombero District Commissioner Dunstan Kyobya hailed the company's expansion initiative saying that it will help improve livelihoods for cane farmers in Kilombero Valley.

"The government is committed to creating a favourable environment for business investment and community prosperity," he said.

# Rwanda sees 39 pc progress in formal financial inclusion

Kigali

THE number of Rwandans who have access to formal financial services and products increased by more than 38.8 percent to 7.5 million between 2020 and 2024, a new report published by Access to Finance Rwanda (AFR) on June 20, found.

That implies that 92 percent of Rwandans have access to formal financial services, which the report describes as services offered by institutions that are governed by a legal precedent of any kind.

Those services are offered by banks, mobile money operators, insurance and pension companies, microfinance institutions, Saving and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs), as well as regulated non-deposit taking financial institutions.

The increase in access to formal financial services was driven mainly by mobile money, insurance, and pension.

The report showed that at least 70 percent of Rwandans have access to other formal financial services - those services that are not offered by banks - up from 55 percent in 2020.

Out of those formally included, 91 percent use mobile money, 30 percent use Saving and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs), 25 percent have access to pension, 23 percent use insurance, and 6 percent prefer microfinance institutions (MFIs).

The number of Rwandans who have access to formal financial services increased across the spectrum except those who have access to SACCOs and MFIs, which remained sluggish.

Rwandans with access to mobile money services increased by 56.8 percent to 6.9 million, while those with access to insurance and pension products grew by 100 per cent and 320 percent to 2.2 million and 2.1 million, respectively.

The number of Rwandans who have access to SACCO and MFI services dropped significantly in the same period by 8 percent to 2.3 million and 4.6 percent to 636,000, respectively.

Out of those financially included, only 22 percent have bank accounts. That means that only one in three adults or 2.5 million, representing 31 per cent of the total population in Rwanda, are using banking channels or services, the report found.

People living in urban areas are more likely to be banked. The report found that 39 per cent of the banked population was in urban areas compared to 14 percent in rural areas.

However, more people in rural areas are more likely to use other formal financial services. The report indicated that 76 percent of the Rwandan population who have access to other formal (non-bank) services live in rural areas compared to 56 per cent in urban areas.

Patience Mutesi, Managing Director at BPR Bank Rwanda, attributed the negative trends in limited banking access to the expensive nature of deploying banking services to remote areas.

"Our model is quite expensive for us to go deeper into the villages. As borrowers and customers go towards non-bank formal structures, it becomes more expensive for us to maintain branches in areas where there are no transaction volumes," she observed.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
<b>SATURDAY 15 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu	13:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love	15:45 Igizo: Mizingwe	16:10 Igizo: Hakufuma
17:00 Shansham za Pwani	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:10 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Jungu kuu
20:00 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Hakufuma	21:35 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:45 Art and Lifestyle
22:15 Igizo: Mizingwe	23:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
<b>SUNDAY 16 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo
15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
<b>MONDAY 17 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>TUESDAY 18 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>WEDNESDAY 19 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>THURSDAY 20 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>FRIDAY 21 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>SATURDAY 22 June</b>	5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha	9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo	10:30 Ai Jazeera	11:00 Habari	12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo	15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale	18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe	21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera	
<b>SUNDAY 23 June</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari	8:00 Ai Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:05 Shika Bamba
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:45 Mjuzi Zaidi	13:20 Ukwafiri wako	14:00 Tamasha la Mchezo
15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Mafikiyo ya wiki	19:20 Habari	21:05 Igizo: Mizingwe
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Mchezo Supa	21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi	22:15 Soap: Uzalo rpt	00:30 Ai Jazeera
<b>MONDAY 17 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizingwe rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Eco@Africa
20:00 Jagina	20:30 Out & About rpt	21:00 Dv News Africa	22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>TUESDAY 18 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizingwe rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Eco@Africa
20:00 Jagina	20:30 Out & About rpt	21:00 Dv News Africa	22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>WEDNESDAY 19 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizingwe rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Eco@Africa
20:00 Jagina	20:30 Out & About rpt	21:00 Dv News Africa	22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>THURSDAY 20 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizingwe rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Eco@Africa
20:00 Jagina	20:30 Out & About rpt	21:00 Dv News Africa	22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>FRIDAY 21 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizingwe rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:30 Meza Huru	19:00 Eco@Africa
20:00 Jagina	20:30 Out & About rpt	21:00 Dv News Africa	22:15 Telenovela rpt: In Love With Ramon
22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>SATURDAY 22 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
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22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		
<b>SUNDAY 23 June</b>	01:00 Ai Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Kumekucha Mchezo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt	11:15 Abuu yako	11:30 Rev rpt	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
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22:30 Eco@Africa	23:00 Ai Jazeera		



# WORLD

## Thousands across Kenya protest against tax hikes

NAIROBI

THOUSANDS of people marched on the streets in major cities in Kenya on Thursday to protest against what they termed as punitive taxes introduced by the government in a recent national budget proposal.

The tax hikes are the latest effort by President William Ruto's administration to boost revenue and reduce borrowing, but they have triggered widespread opposition.

Led largely by young Kenyans, the demonstrations began in the capital Nairobi on Tuesday before spreading nationwide on Thursday.

Police hurled tear gas canisters at hundreds of demonstrators on Tuesday, forcing businesses to temporarily close because of fears over looting. At least 335 people have been arrested, according to a consortium of lobby groups, Agence France-Presse reported.

Hours after Tuesday's demonstrations, the cash-strapped government

agreed to make concessions, rolling back several of the tax hikes.

But the government still intends to go ahead with some tax increases and has defended the proposed levies as necessary for filling its coffers and cutting reliance on external borrowing.

On Thursday, protests were held across Kenya, with thousands assembling in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nanyuki.

Ruto defended the proposed taxes last month, saying the country must be financially self-sustaining.

Robinson Makau, an Uber taxi driver and one of the protesters, said the Kenyan government proposed a 2.5 percent annual levy on the value of motor vehicles in the 2024-25 financial budget.

"This means that if my car is valued at \$15,500, the government would take \$390 annually ... That is not fair considering I had to pay taxes to import my car in addition to the fuel levies I pay every time I visit the fueling station," Makau said.



People run for cover in Nairobi on Tuesday, after tear gas fired by police exploded during a demonstration. AFP

Dennis Kabaara, a planning expert and founder of financial management company Fintellect in Kenya, said the government is able to raise revenues by taxing citizens, but the process should not be seen as punitive.

However, Dennis Itumbi, a political strategy consultant to Kenya's ruling party, noted the country's huge debt obligation, saying that to meet its commitments, citizens have to tighten their belts.

"If we have to develop our country,

Kenyans must roll up their sleeves. Our country is not going to be developed by others, by aid or by debt. It is going to be developed by us," Itumbi said. "Other countries are built by their people using their own taxes. Kenya will be built by Kenyans using our own revenue and taxes."

A parliament source told AFP a vote on the proposals was expected on June 27, three days before the deadline for passing the bill.

Agencies

## Medvedev cites facts of Zelensky usurping power

MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Zelensky has been usurping power long before his presidential authority expired on May 21, 2024 by committing a number of political crimes, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said.

"The talentless buffoon and his clique of gangsters had long before stopped giving a damn to the Constitution of their own state, and began joyfully, nostrils flared in drug-induced excitement, greedily grab the power," Medvedev (pictured) wrote on his VKontakte page.

He explained that in 1999, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine stated that the aim of the functional division of state power into legislative, executive and judicial (see Article 6 of the Constitution of Ukraine) was to prevent any of the branches from fully assuming the state power.

Article 75 of the Ukrainian Constitution says that the sole body of legislative power in Ukraine is the Parliament – the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. "Article 106 of the said Constitution states that the head of the state 'signs laws adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,' and 'has the right to veto laws adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with their subsequent return for repeat consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine,'" Medvedev noted, pointing out that, according to the Ukrainian Constitution, the president may not sign a law only when he used his veto right and returned it to the Parliament for reconsideration.

"However, to the head thug of a criminal community zelensky the Base Law is null and void. As his country's president, he neither signed nor 'returned for repeat consideration' (did not veto) as many as 32 laws, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada! Just think: he simply hid them in his drawer thus depriving the people of regulating a huge number of issues.

He began doing it occasionally back in 2020, and then systematically, since February 2022, as Russia started fighting against the Bandera regime," Medvedev stressed.

Agencies



## China condemns US arms sales to Taiwan

BEIJING

BEIJING expressed strong opposition on Thursday to Washington's second sale of arms this month to the Taiwan region, saying that what the United States has done to assist the Democratic Progressive Party authorities' attempt to seek "independence" through military buildup will only backfire.

The remark was made as the US State Department approved on Tuesday the sale to Taiwan of drones and missiles for an estimated \$360 million. It was announced only two weeks after the US administration decided to sell \$80 million worth of F-16 fighter jet spare and repair parts to the island.

Speaking at a regular news briefing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said the US' arms sales to the Taiwan region, regardless of China's opposition, seriously violate the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiques, especially the Aug 17 Communique of 1982.

Such sales gravely undermine China's sovereignty and security interests, harm China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and send a gravely wrong message to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, he said.

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes the US' frequent arms sales to Taiwan, which embolden the DPP authorities as they stick to the 'Taiwan independence' position and make deliberate provocations on the one-China principle."

It shows once again that the biggest threat to cross-



The Taipei 101 skyscraper commands the urban landscape in Taipei, Taiwan. Xinhua

Strait peace and stability, and the biggest source of damage to the cross-Strait status quo, are the separatist moves for "Taiwan independence" and connivance and support for such moves from US-led external forces, Lin said.

Noting that the Taiwan question

is at the core of China's core interests, and the first red line that cannot be crossed in China-US relations, Lin said no one should underestimate China's firm determination and strong ability to oppose "Taiwan independence" and safeguard its sovereignty and ter-

ritorial integrity. "China urges the US to ... stop the dangerous trend of arming Taiwan, stop its connivance and support for 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces, and stop endangering cross-Strait peace and stability." Xinhua

China urges the US to ... stop the dangerous trend of arming Taiwan, stop its connivance and support for 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces, and stop endangering cross-Strait peace and stability." Xinhua

## Xi stresses Yellow River basin ecological conservation, high-quality development

YINCHUAN

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has underscored the ecological conservation and high-quality development of the Yellow River basin during an inspection tour in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, came to Ningxia on Wednesday after wrapping up his inspection in Qinghai Province.

Situated in the Yellow River basin, Ningxia is surrounded by deserts on three sides and faces the daunting task of conserving and restoring ecosystems.

Xi asked Ningxia to coordinate high-quality development with high-level environmental protection, further reform and opening up, advance new urbanization and rural revitalization, and promote ethnic unity and common prosperity.

The autonomous region has a large ethnic minority population. On Wednesday afternoon, Xi visited a multi-ethnic residential community in the regional capital Yinchuan. Of over 18,000 residents in the community, 38 percent belong to ethnic minority groups such as Hui, Manchu, Mongolian and Tibetan.

Xi first went to the community service center and an activity room where he watched residents practice paper-cutting and dancing, and talked with them. He called for thorough, detailed and concrete efforts to address urgent needs and concerns of the residents, and deliver high-quality services to the people.

Xi then visited the home of resident Zhao Shoucheng, where he chatted with the Zhao family to learn more about things related to employment, income, medical insurance reimbursement, and children's education. "I am concerned about the well-being of every family of all ethnic groups," Xi said, extending best wishes to the Zhao family.

Xinhua



## Trump floats idea of giving foreign students graduating in US green cards automatically

WASHINGTON

FORMER US President Donald Trump, who is known for his strong anti-immigration stance, suggested on Thursday (local time) that foreign students who graduate from college in the United States should receive a green card automatically

so they can stay in the country.

He stressed the need to retain the brightest minds in the world, who want to stay in the US and have a plan which can benefit the country.

"You graduate from a college, I think you should get automatically as part of your

diploma a green card to be able to stay in this country, and that includes junior college too," Trump said in an episode on the All-In podcast, which is hosted by several venture capitalists.

He floated the idea after being asked by the host if he would promise to "give us ability to import the best

and brightest around the world to America."

Notably, the former president has used harsh rhetoric about illegal immigration, throughout his campaign. Recently, he criticized President Joe Biden for not being able to decrease the number of migrants crossing the border illegally.

Trump is known for his hardline stance on immigration. He has promised that if he's re-elected he'll carry out mass deportations, end birthright citizenship, and reinstate his prohibition on people entering the US from certain Muslim-majority nations, according to Politico. ANI

## Yoga has reached every corner of world under PM Modi's leadership - JP Nadda

NEW DELHI

ON the 10th International Day of Yoga yesterday, Union Health Minister JP Nadda lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing global recognition towards yoga and said the practice has reached every corner of the world today.

He also appealed to people to include yoga in their daily lives to stay healthy.

"I got the opportunity to perform Yoga with Yoga enthusiasts at Yamuna Sports Complex, on the occasion of International Day of Yoga. PM Modi initiated International Yoga Day in the UN General Assembly for which he got

support from different countries," Nadda told reporters yesterday.

"Under the leadership of PM Modi, the practice of Yoga which was earlier limited to our country has reached every corner of the world. Everybody is becoming a part of it. I want to appeal to everyone to include yoga in their regular lives to remain healthy," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the celebrations of the 10th International Day of Yoga at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar today.

This year's event underscores Yoga's profound im-

pact on young minds and bodies. The celebration aims to unite thousands in the practice of Yoga, promoting health and wellness on a global scale.

This year's theme, "Yoga for Self and Society," emphasizes yoga's vital role in fostering both individual well-being and societal harmony.

Several Union Ministers and other leaders performed yoga in different parts of the country.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju said that yoga has been accepted globally and it is India's gift to the world.

"On 10th International Yoga Day, a new record is being created as people in large numbers are practicing Yoga...The

world has accepted Yoga... Yoga is India's gift to the world..." Rijju said. Union Minister BL Verma urged people to make yoga part of their lives. He also praised Prime Minister Modi for promoting yoga on the international stage.

"International Yoga Day is being celebrated all over the world...PM Modi promoted yoga internationally...I urge people of the nation to practice yoga daily...By practicing yoga in Srinagar, PM Modi is sending a message to the world that we should practice and take yoga forward," said BL Verma.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi stated that today yoga is

being accepted globally.

"2014 onwards, under the leadership of PM Modi, International Yoga Day has started and in various countries, yoga is being practiced... Today, PM Modi will be practicing yoga in Srinagar...The people of Kashmir are also showing their interest in practicing yoga..." expressed Pralhad Joshi.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also performed yoga at an event in the national capital. Stating he does yoga every day, Chouhan urged people to make it an integral part of their lives. He also praised PM Modi for taking yoga at the global stage.

"It is an incredible, peace-giving experience to perform yoga today. Yoga is a science to lead a healthy, happy, and wholesome life. Yoga not only makes the body ailment-free but also makes the mind healthy and sharp, it is a medium through which the human soul moves towards God. This is an incredible practice India has given to the world," the former Madhya Pradesh CM said.

"I want to express heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as under his leadership yoga has reached every corner of the globe. On the occasion of International Yoga Day, I want to appeal to everyone to practice yoga

not just today but every day. Make it an integral part of life. Human beings have unlimited possibilities and to know them yoga must be practiced. I practice yoga every day," he added.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Mansukh Mandaviya also performed yoga at different events.

Since 2015, the Prime Minister has led the International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations at various iconic locations, including Kartavya Path in Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Ranchi, Lucknow, Mysuru and even the United Nations Headquarters in New York. ANI



## Putin's peace initiative is Russia's fourth proposal on Ukraine, says top diplomat

ALMATY

THE peace initiative that Russian President Vladimir Putin outlined on June 14 is Moscow's fourth proposal on settling the Ukraine conflict, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday.

"Now we have come up with the next, actually fourth proposal from Russia [on Ukrainian settlement] in the form of an initiative by President Putin on June 14," the top diplomat said at a press conference after a session of the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) Council of Foreign Ministers.

Had the agreement on the political settlement not been disrupted in February 2014, Ukraine would have now been within the 1991 boundaries that "it dreams so sweetly now," Lavrov said.

Ukraine itself "destroyed its territorial integrity with the hands of those who came to power through a bloody state coup and began to impose Russophobic and Neo-Nazi



rules," Russia's top diplomat stressed.

"Agreements were reached in Minsk in February 2015 and, had they been implemented, Ukraine would have restored its territorial integrity but, of course, already without Crimea.

But Ukraine showed no desire to preserve

its territorial integrity at the cost of providing elementary autonomous rights to Donbass, Lugansk and Donetsk, including the right to speak in their mother tongue," he went on to say.

"The next stage, when a chance was missed again to keep Ukraine's territorial integrity in some form involved the Istanbul accords of April 2022 that also guaranteed Ukraine its territorial integrity but based on the realities that had emerged on the ground by that time," the Russian foreign minister said.

"And again, as you know, Western handlers prohibited [Ukrainian President] Vladimir Zelensky to sign these agreements," Lavrov said.

"I have no doubts that serious politicians, and some have remained there somewhere, understand the need to use some intellectual and diplomatic skills and begin to think about realpolitik instead of concocted illusions," Russia's top diplomat said.

Agencies



## Malawian president appoints Michael Usi as new vice president

LILONGWE

MALAWIAN President Lazarus Chakwera has appointed Michael Usi as the country's vice-president, replacing Saulos Chilima who died in a plane crash on June 10.

The president made the announcement on Thursday through Secretary to the President and Cabinet Colleen Zamba, adding that the new vice president will be sworn in on Friday.

Usi (pictured) was the minister of natural resources and climate change until his appointment as vice president. He is also the vice president of the United Transformation Movement, a political party that Chilima founded and led as president.

Born in 1968, Usi is known for his sig-

nificant contributions to the entertainment industry as an actor, playwright, and filmmaker. He is also known for his development work in Malawi.

In addition to his entertainment career, Usi has extensive experience with non-governmental organizations, focusing on community projects in health, education, and economic development.

Throughout his career, Usi has been an advocate for social justice, education, and community empowerment, earning him widespread respect and popularity among Malawians.

His appointment is reportedly seen as a strategic move to harness his charisma and experience to address the nation's challenges and promote development initiatives.

Agencies

## El Nino rains bring new life, challenges to Kenya's dry regions

NAIROBI

A RABBLE of butterflies hop from one plant to another, seemingly spoiled for choice as they enjoy themselves in Torosei, a vast arid area in Kajiado County, south of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Months ago, they were nowhere to be found in the area, as it was scorched dry and most of the plants and trees withered due to a prolonged drought.

The recent two seasons of heavy rains in Kenya, linked to the El Nino phenomenon, however, have brought life to Torosei, with insects such as butterflies and bees making a return as various plants thrive.

This is one of the surprises of the effects of climate change, which is seeing Kenya's arid areas have their vegetation regenerated to attract various wildlife following heavy rains.

The change of fortunes in Torosei mirrors what is happening in the other parts of the East African country's drylands. Kenya's arid regions have received heavy rains in the last two seasons (October to December 2023 and March to May 2024), which followed the worst drought in 40 years.

Kenya has 23 arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) spread across the country, including Kajiado. The rains were heavier than in other parts of the country, with residents in the arid areas suffering severe flooding.

"Enhanced rainfall received in April led to extreme weather events in most ASAL counties. The rains were characterized by extreme wet conditions and floods in low-lying zones in counties like Garissa, Tana River, Kitui, Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Makueni, and Kajiado," the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) noted in its April report.



Aerial photo taken on April 30, 2024, shows a flood-affected area in the Mathare slums in Nairobi, Kenya. Xinhua

About a month after the rainy season ended, however, residents of the arid areas are enjoying the positive effects of the rains, which include groundwater recharge and vegetation regeneration.

"There is new life in this area," David Nkoriompai, a resident of Torosei, said in a recent interview. "The vegetation is green, and apart from the acacia, new plants have sprung up because of the rains," he added.

In addition to butterflies, other insects that thrive in arid areas following the rains are bees, moths, ants, and crickets. "Hares and dik-diks have also become common because they have something to eat. During the drought last year, you could hardly see them," Nkoriompai said.

With the regeneration of vegetation, Torosei, which

neighbors Amboseli National Park, one of Kenya's largest game parks, has witnessed less human-wildlife conflict as the animals have food within the facility.

According to the Kenya Wildlife Service, a government agency mandated to protect wildlife, the park hosts leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs, buffalos, elephants, giraffes, zebras, lions, crocodiles, mongooses, hyraxes, dik-diks, kudus, and porcupines.

Before the heavy rains, residents of Torosei, as in other arid areas, suffered water shortages due to prolonged drought, with boreholes in the area drying up.

The rains, however, have recharged the groundwater, enabling residents to get plenty of water and saving women the arduous task of looking for it from seasonal rivers.

"Water is not a problem anymore," said Mary Teyia, a resident.

Most residents in arid areas depend on livestock for their livelihood. Therefore, as the grass has regenerated following the rains, residents are happy as they no longer have to trek for miles in search of pasture.

The NDMA noted in its report that livestock production has received a boost in the 23 ASAL counties, as evidenced by "the good body conditions of animals and increasing milk production levels driven by shorter trekking distances to water sources and grazing areas."

Even as the arid areas are green, the downside of the rains is evident in the regions. The heavy surface water flow did not only cause floods but also deep gullies, rills, cavities, and erosion.

Xinhua

## Peace, security in physical world demand new approaches in digital world: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS

DIGITAL technology offers an incredible opportunity to create a more just, equal, sustainable and peaceful future for all, but malicious activity online erodes trust, fuels tensions, and even sows the seeds of violence and conflict, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday.

Breakthroughs in digital technologies are happening "at warp speed," Guterres said in remarks to the UN Security Council's High-Level Debate on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace."

Given the clear and growing links between cyberspace and global peace and security, the UN Security Council can also play a key role by integrating cyber-related considerations into its existing workstreams and resolutions, he said.

"Peace and security in the physical world demand new approaches to peace and security in the digital world," the UN chief stressed. Digital advances are revolutionizing economies and societies; bringing people together; delivering information, news, knowledge, and education at the tap of a screen or click of a mouse; providing citizens with access to government services and institutions; and supercharging economies, trade and financial inclusion, he said.

"But the very quality of seamless, instant connectivity that powers the enormous benefits of cyberspace can also leave people, institutions and entire countries deeply vulnerable," the UN chief warned, stating, "And the perils of weaponizing digital technologies are growing by the year."

According to Guterres, malicious activity in cyberspace is on the rise by both state and non-state actors,



and by outright criminals. He listed as examples breaches of essential public services like healthcare, banking and telecommunications; relentless illicit activity, including by criminal organizations; "a legion of hate merchants" litter-

ing the information superhighway with fear and division; and the increasing use of cyberspace as another weapon in ongoing armed conflicts.

"So-called civilian 'hacktivists' are entering the fray, and in many cases are

blurring the line between combatants and civilians," and the growing integration of digital tools with weapon systems presents new vulnerabilities, Guterres pointed out.

Noting that the misuse of digital technology is becoming more sophisticated and stealthy, the top UN official said "malware, wipers and trojans are proliferating." AI-enabled cyber operations are multiplying the threat, and quantum computing could break down entire systems with its ability to breach encryption, he added.

Software vulnerabilities are being exploited, and supply chains are being actively targeted, with ransomware becoming a huge threat to public and private institutions and the critical infrastructure people depend on, Guterres emphasized.

According to some estimates, total ransomware payments reached 1.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2023.

Beyond the financial costs are the costs to peace, security and stability -- both within countries and among them, he said.

Digital technology offers an incredible opportunity to create a more just, equal, sustainable and peaceful future for all, but "breakthroughs must be oriented towards the good," he noted.

The New Agenda for Peace places prevention at the heart of all peace efforts,

calling for developing strong frameworks in line with international law, human rights and the UN charter, and focusing efforts by all states to prevent the extension and escalation of conflicts within, and through, cyberspace, said the UN chief.

As reflected in the New Vision for the Rule of Law, the rule of law must exist in the digital sphere as it does in the physical world, he said. Welcoming the UN General Assembly's commitment to action in this area, Guterres said states are building on the universally endorsed normative framework of responsible state behaviour in the use of these technologies, and are actively considering the applicability of international law to state activities in this domain.

Under the auspices of the General Assembly, member states are working to reach consensus on a new cybercrime treaty in the coming months, he said.

The pact that will emerge from this September's Summit of the Future represents a pivotal chance to support the maintenance of international peace and security in cyberspace, said Guterres.

According to Guterres, his High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence is completing its final report on how the world body can govern Artificial Intelligence for humanity while addressing its risks and uncertainties.

Xinhua



The Guardian

## SPORT



Rory McIlroy, seen here after missing a par putt on 18, congratulated U.S. Open winner Bryson DeChambeau and vowed resilience after a Sunday collapse at Pinehurst. Agencies

## Analysis: Rory McIlroy has 4 majors and a major collapse. Where he goes from here shapes his legacy

PINEHURST, N.C.

RORY McIlroy had every reason to feel bitterly disappointed.

He was poised to end all those years without winning another major when he couldn't make a birdie over the last 17 holes, couldn't hit a fairway to even give himself a good chance, and he finished one shot behind in the U.S. Open.

That was last year in Los Angeles, and it prompted McIlroy to look ahead and famously say, "I would go through 100 Sundays like this to get my hands on another major championship."

Just not Sunday at Pinehurst No. 2. The indelible images from the 124th U.S. Open share top billing. Yes, there was that 55-yard bunker shot from Bryson DeChambeau that he played expertly to 4 feet for the winning par putt. And there was McIlroy missing par putts from 30 inches on the 16th hole and 3 feet, 9 inches on the 18th hole.

Which will be remembered more? Majors are won and majors are lost, and this was a little of both.

DeChambeau celebrated into the night at Pinehurst No. 2, wanting fans to touch the silver trophy. McIlroy left Pinehurst so quickly that gravel spit out from under the tires on his car. The time between McIlroy dejectedly leaving the scoring area to his plane taking off for home was 52 minutes.

"A tough day, probably the toughest I've had in my nearly 17 years as a professional golfer," McIlroy said, the words coming from a social media post a day later instead of taking questions from print or broadcast media, more typical of a professional golfer over the years.

This was tough to watch, among the great collapses in golf, though not the worst in a U.S. Open or any other major.

"I am such an idiot," Phil Mickelson said after the 2006 U.S. Open.

Already a runner-up three times in the U.S. Open, Mickelson had a one-shot lead going to the 18th hole at Winged Foot. He missed another fairway, took on a heroic shot he didn't need with a 3-iron and made double bogey to lose by one.

"I would rather have blown it yesterday than this way," Sam Snead said in 1947 after the U.S. Open, the major he never won.

Snead had a two-shot lead with three holes left in an 18-hole playoff at St. Louis Country Club. He was tied with Lew Worsham on the 90th hole and needed a 15-foot birdie putt for the win. Snead left it 30 inches short and went to rap it in when Worsham called for a ruling to confirm who was away. It was Snead's turn, as he

thought, and he promptly missed the putt and lost.

Jan Van de Velde losing a three-shot lead with a triple bogey on the final hole at Carnoustie in 1999. Ed Sneed losing a three-shot lead with three holes to play and then losing in a playoff at the 1979 Masters. Scott Hoch missing a 30-inch putt that would have won the 1989 Masters in a playoff.

McIlroy joined a long list. That doesn't make it any easier to take.

He did all the right things – mainly find the fairway in the final round of a U.S. Open – and looked the part by keeping his emotions to a minimum on the five birdies that put him in such a commanding position. Why he missed his shortest putt of the year on the 16th is a mystery.

Where he goes from here is what should have everyone curious.

McIlroy pulled out of the Travelers Championship as part of a three-week break "to process everything and build myself back up."

One more major remains this year, the British Open at Royal Troon.

McIlroy has failed to win majors before. He lost a four-shot lead in the final round of the 2011 Masters with an 80 (that was more a slow bleed, though no less difficult to watch). He shared the lead at St. Andrews in 2022 before two-putting his way to a third-place finish.

If McIlroy has underachieved, it's only because he has had so few chances since his last major at Valhalla in the 2014 PGA Championship. He hasn't played well enough to win. Pinehurst was one that he lost.

To suggest his legacy will be his failure in the majors is to spend too much time on two short putts and to overlook a pair of eight-shot victories at Congressional and Kiawah Island, a clutch moment at Valhalla and going wire-to-wire at Royal Liverpool.

Add to that 36 victories around the world – 26 on the PGA Tour – and he ranks as the most accomplished of his generation.

This was a bad Sunday, made worse by having gone 10 years since his last major title. Mickelson's blunder at Winged Foot cost him three straight majors. Snead's miss at St. Louis was a year after he won at St. Andrews, and he won five more majors after that.

McIlroy is 35, but the scar tissue is starting to accumulate.

"I feel closer to winning my next major championship than I ever have," McIlroy said.

The next major he wins will be the biggest. Because it might be what it takes to forget about the last one he lost.

## Yanga poised for major moves in transfer window to bolster squad

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli.

AS the transfer window officially opened on June 15, Young Africans, the reigning champions of the Premier League, are set to make significant additions to their squad.

Head coach Miguel Gamondi is leading the charge to strengthen the team's attack and defense ahead of the next season.

Young Africans, fresh off their triumph in the 2023/24 Premier League season, are preparing to represent Tanzania in the CAF Champions League. They will be joined in this continental competition by Azam FC, one of Tanzania's wealthiest clubs.

Ally Kamwe, Young Africans' information officer, acknowledged the immense effort required to build a top-tier team capable of competing at the highest levels.

"We will make great signings," Kamwe stated. "We realize that in order to be the best, it is important to have a strong team. Something that is being worked on with great attention. Everything is on the work plan, and our goal is to ensure we are strong for the new season. The more fans support us, the greater our achievements will be," he added.

The club's ambitions for the upcoming season are clear: they aim to continue their dominance in the Premier League and to advance further in the CAF Champions League. Last



Ally Kamwe, Young Africans' information officer. Agencies

season, they reached the quarter-finals but were eliminated by the formidable Mamelodi Sundowns. This year, they aspire to surpass that achievement and make a deeper run in the tournament.

Domestically, Young Africans have been a powerhouse, winning the Premier League title three consecutive times and securing the championship 30 times in the club's history.

Maintaining this level of success while also excelling on the continental stage is a primary objective for Gamondi and his

squad.

Despite their on-field successes, Young Africans face significant financial challenges. The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) recently announced that five Tanzanian teams, including the Jangwani-based side, are currently banned from registering new players until they settle outstanding payments.

The financial hurdle must be cleared swiftly to allow Young Africans to proceed with their planned signings and preparations for the new season.

The TFF's statement empha-

sized the importance of resolving these financial issues promptly. For Young Africans, this means prioritizing player payments to comply with the federation's requirements and secure permission to register new talent. The club's management is undoubtedly under pressure to resolve these matters quickly to avoid disruptions to their transfer plans.

The current transfer window, which opened on June 15, this year, will close on August 31, 2024. This period is critical for the club as they seek to reinforce their squad in preparation for the coming season, which includes competitions in the Premier League, Championship, First League, and the Tanzania Women's League.

With the clock ticking, Young Africans' leadership is working diligently to finalize new signings while addressing the financial constraints imposed by the TFF. The club's commitment to both domestic and continental success hinges on their ability to navigate these challenges efficiently.

Young Africans' success on the field is inextricably linked to the support of their passionate fan base. As the club embarks on this crucial transfer period, the backing of their supporters will be more important than ever.

Kamwe's call for fan support underscores the symbiotic relationship between the team and its followers, whose enthusiasm can provide a significant boost as the club aims for glory.



Dar es Salaam City Council player Hashimu Omary (R) fights for the ball with the National Institute of Transport (NIT) players during their friendly match held at the Jakaya Kikwete grounds in Dar es Salaam recently. NIT won 2-1. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Taifa Stars soar in FIFA rankings after World Cup win

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA national men's football team, Taifa Stars, has climbed up five positions from 119 to 114 in the latest rankings released by the world's soccer governing body, FIFA.

Taifa Stars improved by fifteen points from their previous ranking, and they now have a total of 1174 points on the table.

This positive movement follows their impressive away victory over Zambia in the recent 2026 FIFA World Cup African qualifiers.

Tanzania defeated Zambia 1-0 at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola, in the fourth round

of African qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup early this month.

A fifth-minute strike from debutant striker Waziri Junior set the team on their way to a much-needed away victory.

Zambia tried valiantly to find an equaliser but were denied by stout Taifa Stars defence marshalled by Ibrahim Bacca and Bakari Mwananyeto.

The victory saw Tanzania go second on six points, three behind leaders Morocco who thrashed Congo Brazzaville 6-0 to maintain their perfect record.

It was Taifa Stars' second away victory of the campaign, after the earlier win over Niger.

On the global stage, Argentina retained their top position, reflecting their continued strong performance.

France holds firm in second place, while Belgium climbed up a spot to third. England, however, slipped down to fourth swapping places with Brazil.

Portugal, Netherlands, and Spain maintained their positions in sixth, seventh, and eighth respectively.

Croatia has overtaken Italy to secure ninth place, pushing Italy down to tenth.

Liberia's impressive ten-place rise to 142nd marks the most significant improvement, with the Lone Stars remaining unbeaten

in 2024. At the continental stage, Morocco overtook Senegal as the highest-ranked African nation and moved into 12th position overall after beating Zambia (2-1) and Congo (6-0) in their recent World Cup qualifiers, while Senegal drew 1-1 with Congo DR and beat Mauritania 1-0.

Egypt and Ivory Coast have overtaken Nigeria after the Super Eagles' 1-1 draw with Bafana Bafana and their shock 2-1 loss to Benin.

The rest of the top 10 CAF teams nearly stayed unchanged, apart from Cameroon climbing above Mali after the latter lost 2-1 to Ghana and drew 0-0 with Madagascar.



## With Messi-style dribbling and skills, Lamine Yamal thrills in latest Spain win at Euro 2024

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

AT times, it was like watching Lionel Messi. How about that for a compliment for Lamine Yamal after another thrilling performance at the European Championship that showed just why there is such a buzz around this 16-year-old phenom with blond tinges in his dark hair and magic in his boots.

One moment stood out, in particular, in Spain's 1-0 win over Italy on Thursday.

It was the middle of the first half and Yamal had just started to put on a show – eliciting some “ooohs” and “ahhhs” from a crowd containing Spain's King Felipe VI – when the Barcelona youngster found himself inside off his right wing and with the ball at his feet.

Suddenly, he exploded into life, slaloming through the attempted tackles of two would-be challengers – Federico Dimarco and then Jorginho – while keeping the ball stuck to his left foot. As another tackle came in, he managed to play the ball through to Alvaro Morata to get a shot away.

It really could have been Messi. As it could when he cut back off his wing and lifted the ball deftly over Davide Frattesi's sprawling tackle.

Or when he produced a double drag-back to leave two Italians grasping at thin air. Or when he smashed a fierce left-footed shot that curled slightly and kissed the outside of the post around the hour mark.

Yamal was substituted in the 71st minute to applause from Spain's fans and no doubt sighs of relief from their Italian counterparts. This was his ninth and easily biggest match in the red shirt of Spain and he didn't disappoint.

It's worth repeating that this kid – born near Barcelona to a mother from Equatorial Guinea and a father from Morocco – doesn't turn 17 until July 13, the day before the Euro 2024 final.

The youngest player to debut (at 15 years, 9 months and 16 days) and score in the Spanish league, the youngest player to start in the Champions League and the youngest to score for Spain's national team, Yamal earned the distinction of becoming the youngest player to feature at a European Championship in Spain's 3-0 win over Croatia on Saturday.

He entered the Veltins Arena ahead of the Italy match wearing large earphones and flicking through his cell phone. It was the biggest game of the tournament so far and he clearly wasn't fazed.

This, after all, is a player doing remarkable things at a remarkable age. Heck, he has a buyout clause of 1 billion euros at Barcelona.

Yamal wasn't perfect Thursday. He got an attempted backheel all wrong just before he came off. There was a case to say Nico Williams, the 21-year-old on Spain's left wing, was more of a danger to Italy, with Yamal typically keeping it more simple and not always going for the spectacular.

AP

## The 'Mes-si' chants started more than an hour before Copa America opener, and he sets up both goals

ATLANTA

THE chants of “Mes-si! Mes-si! Mes-si!” started more than an hour before kickoff and kept up throughout Argentina's 2-0 victory over Canada on Thursday night in the Copa America opener.

Lionel Messi set up both goals on a night he played in his record 35th Copa America match. His pass led to Julián Álvarez's goal in the 49th minute and he extended his tournament assists record to 18 when he fed Lautaro Martínez in the 89th.

“You need someone like Leo to make that pass,” Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said.

Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium was transformed into a sea of blue and white jerseys as if it was an Argentina home game. Messi remained at 108 international goals, despite several good scoring opportunities. His 13 career Copa America goals are four shy of the record.

“I feel like we've had a good match plan and we've executed a lot of good things but he's so good,” Canada coach Jesse Marsch said.

The match was Messi's last as a 36 year old. He turns 37 on Monday, and Argentina plays Chile the following day at East Rutherford, New Jersey. The Albiceleste finish the first round against Peru on June 29 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, not far from Messi's club home in Fort Lauderdale with Major League Soccer's Inter Miami. The July 14 final also is at Hard Rock.

Messi failed to convert on a pair of excellent chances. Goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau made a diving stop in the 65th minute and Messi's attempt off the rebound was blocked by the head of defender Derek Cornelius. Messi put a chip wide after he came in alone on Crépeau in the 79th. AP

# Spain advances to knockout round at Euro 2024 with statement win over defending champion Italy

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

EUROPE beware – Spain might just be back.

The three-time European champion advanced to the round of 16 at Euro 2024 after a 1-0 win against holders Italy on Thursday.

A 55th-minute own goal by Riccardo Calafiori settled the Group B game at the Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen. But that didn't begin to tell the full story of a statement performance from Spain, which surely marks it as one of the favorites to win a record-extending fourth European Championship.

“I think it was the best Spain performance I have taken charge of,” coach Luis de la Fuente said. “I don't see a ceiling on this team. The sky is the limit.”

Spain totally dominated defending champion Italy, with 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal further enhancing his reputation as one of soccer's most exciting young stars.

Player of the match Nico Williams also tormented Italy's defenders and was the width of the crossbar away from scoring in the second half.

It took Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to keep the score down with a string of fine saves until inadvertently pushing the ball into the legs of Calafiori, who couldn't prevent it from ricocheting into his own goal.



Italy's Riccardo Calafiori (5) scores an own goal during a Group B match against Spain at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Thursday, June 20, 2024. AP Photo

“They deserved to win and we were never in the game,” Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said. “There was too much of a gulf. We were constantly stretched. We were never able to squeeze the gaps between the various units and they were able to cause us problems. They caused us more problems than the score line suggests, let's not beat around the bush.”

Spain produced a throwback performance that brought to mind the years when it ruled international soccer when winning back-to-back Euros and the World Cup from 2008 through 2012.

Having failed to dominate

possession for the first time in 136 competitive games in its opening 3-0 win over Croatia, Spain was back to its old ways in starving Italy of the ball and dictating play in a largely lop-sided game.

Chances came thick and fast in the first half, with Donnarumma pulling off a number of saves to keep the score goal-less.

For all of Spain's superiority, it took Calafiori's own goal to break the deadlock after half-time.

Donnarumma pushed Alvaro Morata's glancing header into the legs of Calafiori, who could only watch as the ball rebounded into the back of

the net.

Williams was then millimeters away from extending the lead with a curling shot that hit the bar.

“We dominated across the board,” Williams said. “Italy are an excellent side but we played very well and deserved to win.”

Williams is just one of the bright young stars in De la Fuente's team. Yamal is another and the Barcelona teenager, who has a \$1 billion buyout clause, showcased his talents with slaloming runs and tricks.

Barcelona midfielder Pedri looks like the modern-day answer to Spain great Andres Iniesta.

## Could a \$170 high-tech soccer ball be a reason for so many spectacular goals at Euro 2024?

DUESSELDORF, Germany

WITH outrageous goals flying in from all angles, Euro 2024 has started with a bang.

Could a \$170 high-tech soccer ball be to thank for this?

“When you strike it, it stays hit,” England captain Harry Kane said.

The Adidas Fussballliebe, meaning “love of football” in German, is the official match ball of the European Championship. And players appear to have quickly mastered it with a slew of stunning, long-range goals.

“It's quick,” Kane said. “For me, personally, it is better for the strikers or the goal-scorers than it is for the goalkeepers, so I'm not going to complain about that.”

Nor are the fans after so many spectacular strikes.

There was Arda Gul'er's curling effort into the top corner from around 20 meters in Turkey's 3-1 win against Georgia. That was rivaled by his teammate Mert Muldur's volley from the edge of the box in the same game.

Romania's Nicolae Stanciu struck another from distance against Ukraine and nearly scored direct from a corner kick which hit the crossbar.

Xherdan Shaqiri scored a stunner for Switzerland against Scotland, and there were rockets from Italy's Nicolò Barella and Czech Republic's Lukas Provod.



FILE - Scotland's goalkeeper Angus Gunn is unable to stop a shot for a goal by Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri during a Group A match between Scotland and Switzerland at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany, Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

“Any footballs for these tournaments aren't exactly made with goalkeepers in mind,” Denmark keeper Kasper Schmeichel said. “It's a pleasure to strike. You can get good distance. They are certainly not made for the grip for the goalkeeper.”

Official tournament balls have been criticized in the past. Some players complained that adidas' Jabulani ball for the 2010 World Cup was unpredictable.

UEFA says the Fussballliebe has been designed for “accuracy and consistency, supporting fast, precise play with maximum shape and air retention.”

It is made of recycled polyester and more “sustainable bio-based materials” than balls used for

previous tournaments, including corn fibers, sugar cane and wood pulp.

The ball, which was reduced to \$85, sold out on Adidas' online store in

the United States.

How it has contributed to the likes of Gul'er's wonder goal is not clear, but smart technology within the balls assisted VAR officials

in overturning Romelu Lukaku's would-be late equalizer in Belgium's shock 1-0 loss to Slovakia.

UEFA is using connected ball technology, de-

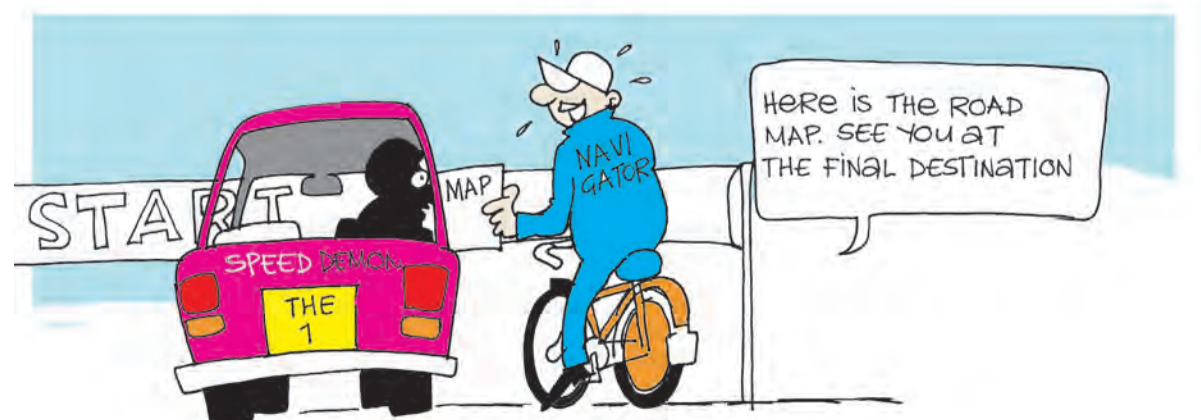
played at the 2022 World Cup, for the first time at a European Championship. It can help identify every touch of the ball and send precise data to video assistant referees. A chip fixed on a gyroscope inside the ball sends data 500 times per second to record the point at which it is kicked.

In combination with AI, it can help determine offsides, but in the case of Belgium it detected a marginal handball from Lois Openda in the buildup to Lukaku's disallowed goal in the 86th minute.

“The sensor in the Adidas connected official match ball was able to accurately record the touch of the hand of the player with the surface of the ball,” UEFA said. “This was the first time the fast and accurate technology supported a refereeing decision during a Euro 2024 match.”

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





## SPORT

Spain advances to knockout round at Euro 2024 with statement win over defending champion Italy

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## Nyasa Big Bullets also withdraw from 2024 CECAFA Kagame Cup

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi &amp; Agencies

MALAWI'S Nyasa Big Bullets have declined the invitation to participate in the 2024 CECAFA Kagame Cup as they aim to keep more focus on domestic competitions.

The competition, scheduled to take place from July 6 to 22 in Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania, will proceed without Bullets, who were invited as one of the guest teams alongside TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambian Super League champions Red Arrows.

Azam FC and TP Mazembe are the first teams to withdraw from the tournament due to their pre-season schedules that fall in line with the Kagame Cup.

In an interview on Wednesday, Bullets chief administration officer Albert Chigoga confirmed the team's decision to prioritize domestic competitions and the CAF Champions League over the Kagame Cup.

"We have not been doing well in the TNM Super League; so, we want to focus on domestic competitions and the CAF Champions League. We believe the decision is in the best interest of the team," Chigoga stated.

This marks the third major withdrawal from this year's CECAFA Cup, with TP Mazembe and Azam also opting out as they are currently on an off-season break.

The Kagame Cup is still expected to feature notable teams such as APR from Rwanda, Gor Mahia from Kenya, and Tanzanian giants Simba SC and Young Africans as well as Coastal Union FC, Gor Mahia FC (Kenya), SC Villa (Uganda), JKU SC (Zanzibar), El Merreikh FC-Bentiu (South Sudan), and Red Arrows FC (Zambia).

The draw for the tournament is scheduled to take place next week.

Bullets' decision to withdraw has sparked mixed reactions among sports analysts and fans. Sherry Msuku, a former footballer and current prominent sports analyst, expressed disappointment over the missed opportunity.

"It was a good opportunity for them to prepare for CAF Champions League matches but I think they are protecting their players from fatigue," Msuku remarked.

Nyasa Big Bullets last participated in the CECAFA Cup in 2021, where they finished as runners-up after a narrow 1-0 defeat to Uganda's Express FC under the then assistant coach Peter Mponda.

This year's focus on the CAF Champions League, which is set to begin in August, underscores the Bullets' commitment to improving their standing in continental competitions.

The Kagame Cup boasts a rich history, with Tanzania's Simba SC holding the record for the most titles at six.

They are followed by archrivals Young Africans (Yanga) SC and Kenya's Tusker FC, with five titles each.

Other notable winners include Rwanda's APR FC, Sudan's Al Merreikh, Uganda's SC Villa, and Kenya's Gor Mahia FC, each with three titles.

# Simba announce Egypt pre-season training camp



Simba's communication manager Ally Ahmed. Agencies

**S**IMBA will travel to Egypt for a training camp as part of their preparations for the 2024/25 domestic and international campaigns, the club have confirmed.

Wekundu wa Msimbazi will be based in Ismailia, a city in north-eastern Egypt that is situated on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

"We hope to set up camp in Egypt, in the city of Ismailia. Our assessment has shown us that the weather is friendly there. Many teams are going to camp in Egypt, especially in the city of Ismailia because it is a lot calmer than Cairo which is too busy," said Simba's communication manager Ally Ahmed.

According to Ahmed, the club is set to leave for Egypt during the first week of July.

"We expect to leave Dar es Salaam in the first week of July to go to Ismailia to set up a camp to prepare for the next season," he added.

As well as working on their fitness ahead of the new season, the team will play several friendlies.

The trip marks Simba's second pre-season training camp in the North African country.

Simba were in Egypt in preparations for the 2022/23 campaign where they played Haras El Hodood, Ismailia, and Abou Hamad.

With the departure of five players so far, Simba have holes in their squad that need addressing and the club's communication manager confirmed they will have sorted all their transfer business by the time the team is ready to leave for Egypt.

It should be noted that Simba have parted ways with Shaban Chilunda, Saido Ntibazonkiza, Luis Miquissone, and Kennedy Juma so far.

They are expected to re-

lease more players as part of their squad overhaul.

Promising centre-back Lameck Lawi from Coastal Union is the only confirmed new arrival at the club so far while it is understood at least five more players will be signed to bolster the squad.

Furthermore, the club is expected to announce their head coach assistant following the departure of Abdelhak Benchikha in early May.

Despite winning the Community Shield and Union Cup, Simba were disappointed in the Premier League, African Football League, and Federation Cup campaigns.

They were expected to challenge Young Africans for the league title but ended up battling and being usurped by Azam for the CAF Champions League spot.

They also suffered their

biggest derby defeat in the last 40 years when they collapsed in the second half to lose 5-1 to their arch-rivals Young Africans.

After three disappointing seasons domestically, Simba will be hoping to get back to the top of the table in the 2024-25 campaign.

Changes are imminent within the team's technical staff, with interim coach Juma Mgunda expected to return to his position at Simba Queens.

A new era abounds, which will be led by a soon-to-be-announced head coach, and with this in mind, some of the older guards have been moving on.

On Thursday, the club released another batch of players, bringing the total number of departures to five as the squad restructuring continues.

The latest set of players to leave the club includes winger Miquissone and centre-back Juma.

For Miquissone it has been a disappointing season after his move from Al Ahly.

After a standout season with Simba in 2020/21, Miquissone was signed by Ahly by coach Pitso Mosimane.

However, he largely failed to live up to expectations in Cairo, scoring five goals in 28 appearances.

He was on loan at Abha Club but only made four appearances in the Saudi Pro League.

Before his stints with Al Ahly and Simba, Miquissone was signed by Mamelodi Sundowns in January 2018 but was loaned out to Chippa United.

Two more loan stints at Royal Eagles and UD Songo in his home country followed.

The Mozambican international returned to Simba for a second spell at the start of last season but had a testing campaign and struggled for form and fitness.

On his part, Juma, who has turned out for Singida United, will look to find another club in the next few days. He spent five seasons with Simba largely as a squad player.

The mass exodus comes after the club finished third in the 2023/24 Premier League campaign.

Simba are also on the lookout for a reliable striker which could cut short Pa Omar Jobe stay at Msimbazi.

The Gambian forward joined the club in January this year but has struggled for game time under both Benchikha and Mgunda.

## Flashnet Strikers now thrash Azania Bank Pak Stars in 2024 TCA Caravans T20 Cup

By Guardian Correspondent

JATIN Darji showcased his batting prowess to propel Flashnet Strikers to a seven-wicket defeat of Azania Bank Pak Stars in the final match of the first week of this year's Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup held in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

Flashnet Strikers limited Azania Bank Pak Stars to 121 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their 20-over quota after the former won the toss and elected to field first.

While both openers departed early, skipper Muzamil Hussain's 32 runs off 29 deliveries helped to stabilize the innings for Azania Bank Pak Stars.

Even though wickets kept falling at regular intervals, low-order batsmen, Sarfaraz Tare, Maqsood Alam, and Dharminder Singh's 29 runs, 26 runs, and 21 runs helped the batting team attain a respectable total.

The 122-run target might have looked intriguing but it was successfully chased down by the resolute Flashnet Strikers in 18.2 overs thanks to an unbeaten 62 off 47 by skipper Darji.



Jatin Darji of Flashnet Strikers (R) receives the Ras Logistics Man of the Match prize from Caravans Cricket Club's Secretary, Nandu GN, after the completion of the 2024 Petrofuel TCA Caravans T20 Cup tie pitting the club versus Azania Bank Pak Stars recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

The experienced performer was ably supported by wicketkeeper/batsman Issa Kikasi who scored 23

runs from 26 deliveries.

Darji was rightly adjudged the Ras Logistics Man of the Match for his

unbeaten 62 runs and a wicket while bowling.

Darpan Jobanputra's boundary to seal the match

was regarded as the Medivoa Moment of the Match.

At the end of the first week, Abhik Patwa is currently leading the standings for the Colourflex Orange Cap and Asuri Rajendra leads the way with the Automark Purple Cap for his five dismissals.

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

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, Jiu-zhou, 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 Seachiff Hotel are also the showpiece's sponsors.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

