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The government's mission is to ensure that all citizens attain improved lives by strengthening social services in all areas of the country

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE the noticeable accent for agricultural sector growth, the government has ardent plans to improve other sectors such as health, education, water, energy, infrastructure and the business environment, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has declared.

Speaking to residents of Litama, Chinongwe, Likwachu, Lucheleghwa and Nandanga villages

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Minister rattled as police hunt for killer of consort

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

A CABINET minister has been rattled while police headquarters moved into action in the wake of the death of Beatrice Minja (47), a Rombo resident in Kilimanjaro Region, who died at midweek from wounds due to multiple stabbings.

SACP David Misime, the spokesman at police force headquarters, relayed this move in a statement yesterday, following social media reports, that the victim was allegedly stabbed 25 times by a former consort, Lucas Tarimo, saying the police are going to investigate the matter.

The late Beatrice died when receiving treatment at the Kilimanjaro Christians Medical Centre (KCMC), with the shocking news bringing police headquarters to tell the public what it knows on the incident.

The statement said that the police had seen the information on social media platforms and was already on its trail to investigate, with the presumed culprit going into hiding.

The woman died on Wednesday December 27 at the referral hospital, he said, noting that investigation efforts started by getting information from some women who were with the deceased during the incident.

The police are on the hunt for the suspect

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks at an event to initiate the 'month of gratitude and happiness to taxpayers of Zanzibar 2023' at a State House event yesterday. Photo: State House

Deaths from malaria rising again in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MALARIA deaths are on the increase in Zanzibar as 36 people died from the disease during this November and December, the government has stated.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, the Health minister, said in an interview yesterday that malaria is now spreading at an alarming speed, linking the trend with increased mosquito breeding sites and higher frequencies of visitors from the Mainland. Zanzibar recorded 12,000 malaria patients this year, much higher compared to 4,000 patients in 2022, he affirmed.

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, in his capacity as Ruangwa MP, speaks to people who came to get treatment at Chinongwe dispensary Ruangwa, Lindi Region, yesterday. Photo: PMO



PRESS RELEASE ON THE CROCODILE HUNTED BY AN AMERICAN HUNTER

MR JOSH BOWMAR AND ENSUING PUBLIC DEBATE IN SOCIAL MEDIA

The current emotional public debate about a crocodile that was hunted by American citizen Mr Josh Bowmar, was triggered by a video posted by the said hunter and has been fueled by irresponsible and emotional publications in the media without first verifying the facts with the responsible authority that is TAWA and needlessly tarnishing the image of the Government and conservation efforts.

Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) has confirmed that the Crocodile was legally hunted by the American hunter Joshua Bowmar using hunting permit MP0001792 in Lake Rukwa, in adherence to the Laws and Regulation governing Tourist hunting and outfitted by a reputable hunting company accompanied by a qualified Professional Hunter and supervision of a TAWA Wildlife Officer.

The Tanzania Tourist Hunting industry is over 130 years old and it is a very well-regulated over the period it has been in existence. It is recognized and only viable form of land use in game reserves and areas with wildlife outside National Parks and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

The hunting industry plays the main role in conservation of Wildlife resources outside of National Parks in Tanzania, as the hunting concession comprise of a larger area than National Parks, where most of the wildlife in Tanzania are found in these hunting areas and conservation funding is dependent on hunting revenue.

The hunting Concessions of Tanzania comprise of Game Reserves, Game Controlled Areas, Wildlife Managed Areas offer no viable alternative land use when you consider that out of 21 National parks in Tanzania (where hunting is not permitted) only 5 of those get enough visitors to be profitable and fund the remaining 16 National Parks that do not receive enough visitors annually to fund their operational costs. Therefore the notion to substitute hunting with photo safaris is not currently a viable or realistic option or in the foreseeable future.

The majority of wildlife and wilderness areas of Tanzania depend on hunting revenue for both their land use justification and survival of the wildlife within, therefore the current misinformation campaign on social media is actually damaging to conservation efforts.

It is important to understand that trophy hunting

only aims at harvesting older male animals past prime reproduction, to qualify as a true trophy and avoid any negative impact on population growth or genetic diversity.

To maintain healthy populations of wildlife while generating needed revenue to conserve the wildlife resources, the annual quotas of game set by TAWA for hunting is normally between 0.5% to 2% of the population depending on the species. In the case of Crocodile only 100 are issued annually to tourist hunting and on average only 32 harvested per year, while the

number of people killed and eaten by crocodile in the last 5 years is 387 and a further 214 injured in Crocodile attacks. Lake Rukwa where this crocodile was hunted is one of the highest in man eating Crocodile incidences.

While the crocodile on the video clip may indeed be a world record being hunted by Bow because very few crocodile are hunted by bow as its very challenging form of hunting and very difficult to get within the short effective range of a Bow to a Crocodile. This is certainly not the largest or oldest crocodile in Tanzania as is being reported, so for those wishing to see much larger crocodile please visit the Mara and Grumeti River in Serengeti or the Rufiji River in Nyerere National Parks.

The article published in the Citizen news paper and the current uproar on the social media are based on misinformation and fueled by emotional reactions of anti-hunting activists who neither understand or care about the benefits of hunting or wildlife conservation outside of National Parks.

Lastly, I wish to Thank TAWA and the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources for their strong conservation efforts to safeguard our Nations Wildlife Resources. I also congratulate the Professional Hunter and Outfitter for the superb and old trophy Crocodile that will hopefully attract more hunters to Tanzania and create more revenue for conservation and Nation building.

Michel Mantheakis
Chairman - Tanzania Hunting Operators Association



Museveni offers to help Sudan factions end war

By Busein Samilu

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni has offered to support peace talks between the warring parties in Sudan to put an end to the civil war that broke out on April 15, claiming about 10,000 lives and injuring more than 12,000 people.

This was revealed by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the leader of Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia, shortly after meeting President Museveni at his country home in Rwakitura, Kiruhura District.

Two armed forces, one led by Gen Dagalo and another by the army chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, also the chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council, have been fighting for close to eight months. The former attempted to overthrow the latter with whom they seized power together from the former president al-Bashir through a coup in 2021.

Gen Dagalo said in the statement that President Museveni tasked him to explain the genesis of the war, which he did.

"I provided His Excellency President Museveni with a detailed explanation about the reasons for the outbreak of the war, which was ignited by the remnants with the help of their leaders in the armed forces and the parties that obstruct the solution and support the continuation of the war," reads part of the statement.

Gen Dagalo said Museveni affirmed his full support to the people of Sudan and promised to work towards advancing efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability.

"He said he will harness all his capabilities and relationships to help the Sudanese people overcome this difficult stage in their history," Gen Dagalo added.

A few minutes after Museveni confirmed his meeting with Gen Dagalo via his X-platform, the State House released a statement where it explained that the two leaders discussed numerous issues, including bilateral ties and most importantly, putting an end to the war among them.

Neither Gen Dagalo nor State House explained whether the President's intended support towards peace talks is being done under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad) where the two countries are members.

When asked, the deputy presidential press secretary, Faruk Kirunda, said: "None of us attended the meeting. We were just briefed on what took place, which we have released in the statement."

Both the State Minister for Regional Corporation, John Mulimba, and his ICT and Information counterpart, Dr Chris Baryomunsi, who is the official government spokesperson, were unavailable for comment as their known phone contacts were off by press time.

This particular meeting came barely two months after Museveni met Gen al-Burhan on September 16 in another closed-door meeting at State House Entebbe where only deliberations on bilateral and regional issues were brought to light that day.

The two warring leaders were yesterday expected to meet in Djibouti for the first face-to-face peace talks but Gen Dagalo did not appear, prompting Djibouti, which currently holds the Igad mantle, to postpone the meeting to early January.

Without giving exact dates, Djibouti's ministry of foreign affairs in a letter to its member states, said the meeting between Gen Dagalo and al-Burhan that had been re-scheduled for "December 28 has been postponed to early January 2024 for technical reasons.



Songwe Police Commander ACP Theopista Mallya speaks to passengers shortly after carrying out an inspection of passenger vehicles at Chimbuya and Mahenje area in Mbozi District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Issa Mwadangala

'Govt keen on agriculture, roads, service delivery'

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during a working tour of his Ruangwa constituency in Lindi Region, he said President Samia Suluhu Hassan has increased funding for the Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) where Ruangwa District will now receive 4bn/-.

That is four times higher from the 1bn/- for road construction which it was receiving in previous years, he said, noting that this was area where the government is working to ensure that people in various parts of the country can improve their lives.

The government has invested heavily in

the development of agriculture especially the production of food crops to guarantee food security, he said, noting that the aim is to ensure the country remains food secure.

Those who are involved in agriculture need to benefit from their efforts, thus improvements in the sector guarantee the development of individual farmers and the country's economy, he said.

The president is committed to seeing that Tanzania is food secure and it becomes a bread basket for the region and further beyond, he said, urging the public to support the president in her efforts to develop the agriculture sector.

He pointed at the flagship Building a Bet-

ter Tomorrow (BBT), a youth initiative for agriculture (YIA) meant to promote the engagement of educated youths in commercial agriculture for sustainable development and improved livelihoods.

BBT engages youths in the BBT programme where they are directly involved in agricultural activities such as fish farming and agriculture value chains in beekeeping, livestock keeping and agro-processing.

The program is about modernisation and commercialisation of agriculture in a wide ranging youth-attracting initiative, via heavy investments in mechanisation, irrigation, agro-processing and digital platforms in agro-sector engagement.

"The government's mission is to ensure that all citizens attain improved lives by strengthening social services in all areas of the country," he told the audiences

While at Chinongwe village, the premier visited the village dispensary, having improved infrastructure, instructing the district medical officer to make sure more health workers are assigned to the facility to improve service provision.

He similarly instructed the district education officer to transfer teachers from schools with many teachers to those reporting acute shortages, citing Litama primary school which has only four teachers and in need of at least eight teachers.

Minister rattled as police hunt for killer of consort

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who fled away after committing the brutal crime, he said, noting that the suspect was engaged in building houses in various parts, once arrested other legal measures will be taken as there is no one who is above the law, he affirmed.

He asked members of the public to cooperate with law enforcers by offering information wherever the suspect will be noticed, cautioning against hiding the man as it is likely to attract stern measures.

He said the brutal action on another human being and a Tanzanian citizen should be condemned by everyone. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the suspect should cooperate as the police are working hard to catch him, he emphasised.

Prof Adolph Mkenda, the Rombo MP doubling up as Education, Science and Technology minister, denied rumours that the suspect was one of his domestic labourers, cautioning people bent on ruining his image in politics to stop those theatrics.

"The police have been working to search for the culprit," he stated, affirming that he was following the case very closely. "I condemn this incident, these are brutal killings which should not be entertained in anyway," he said, also appealing to those who are spreading false information on social media to stop the habit.

Even if the suspect had been in his household labour team and commits crimes he would never work at his home again, he added.



Serengeti National Park conservator Robert Masobeji (R) explaining to Serengeti District Commissioner Fauzia Katumbura (L) and her team on how to use beekeeping facilities as an economic opportunity for various entrepreneurship groups. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Court returns Sh400 million online company to Rwandan investor

NAIROBI

The High Court in Nairobi has declared Rwandan investor Desire Muhinyuza the owner of a Sh400 million online company he was defrauded of in April 2023 by Kenyan businessman Kirimi Koome.

As a result, Stay Online Limited (SOL) should be vested in Muhinyuza, Justice Alfred Mabeya, who heads the High Court's commercial division, ruled.

"I find and hold that Mr Muhinyuza is the beneficial owner of Stay On Line (SOL). Kirimi Koome committed fraud by not filling (out) the form of beneficial ownership property at the time of incorporation of the company," ruled the judge.

Immediately after the decision was delivered virtually, Muhinyuza through his lawyer Danstan Omari, said, "This High Court judgement has restored the confidence of investors who are de-

frauded (of) their property by Kenyans who are hell-bent."

The investor thanked the judiciary for saving his company and investment, which had almost slipped away.

Justice Mabeya ordered Koome to pay back about \$100,000 (Sh15.6 million) that he had received from Muhinyuza for tax purposes but instead pocketed it without paying a single penny to the taxman.

"The demand and pocketing

of USD (\$100,000 was without basis. No tax was paid out of the money. The same is recoverable from Koome (the first defendant)," said Justice Mabeya.

The judge noted that the investor had complained to the Registrar of Companies about the actions of Koome, whom he had appointed to register the company while he regularised his immigration status. Muhinyuza has since been granted a work permit.

Agencies

Deaths from malaria rising again in Z'bar

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affirming that there was a steady rise in malaria patients.

More patients are admitted in hospitals as efforts are pursued to control the situation, with outdoor spraying of insecticides to cut out adult insects and larval sources, he said, noting that the spraying exercise has helped to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

He appealed for greater precautions against the disease to prevent it from spreading; urging residents to make sure they sleep under treated bed nets as well as cleaning their surroundings to kill larval sources.

"Malaria exists and has killed many patients at our hospitals and health centres," he said, appealing to Zanzibaris to seek proper medication whenever they feel symptoms of fever. This will help reduce the number of deaths related to the disease, he stated.

Malaria-bearing mosquitoes attack the human body, injecting microbes capable of damaging the brain, liver or kidneys, with those affected facing certain death, while a random survey by this paper at different health facilities in Unguja showed that there are many malaria patients seeking treatment.

An interviewed medical staffer who opted for anonymity said most malaria patients are young people, with the health facility there receiving upwards of 15 malaria patients a day.

This year's world malaria report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicates an increase in global malaria cases, rising to 249m in 2022, up by five million compared to 2021.

Global deaths from the disease stood at 608,000 for 2022, nearly six percent increase from 2019, with the high burden of malaria in Africa reaching alarming levels. The report pointed at climate change as a critical factor curbing progress in the fight against malaria.

Climate-related disruptions like periods of extreme weather have exacerbated the spread of the disease, the report intoned.

Zanzibar: Digital payment systems help to prevent revenue leakage

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Finance and Planning, Zanzibar Saada Mkuya Salum said yesterday that the digital payment system has helped to control loss of government revenue.

She expressed the sentiments when speaking to journalists on the achievements by the ministry as part of celebrations to mark 60 years of the Revolution of Zanzibar.

She said Zanzibar's economy has grown due to various strategies put in place by the government which has also included strengthening systems to avoid revenue losses.

She noted that Zanzibar's economy has grown by 6-per cent which is far above some other countries whose economies have been hardly affected by global challenges.

She said despite global challenges ranging from science and technology, Zanzibar has managed to make the economy grow by such a rate.

"It is possible that the newly installed digital systems have led to increased revenue and economic growth here in Zanzibar," she said.

She said it is expected that in 2024 the economy

will reach 6.5 per cent due to various strategies that the government has put in place aimed at stimulating the economy.

She also said that the government's tax collection policy is based on the blue economy and within that policy, the ministry has set guidelines through long-term goals of 50 years and medium-term goals 2021 to 2026.

She noted that Zanzibar depends on imports saying that the government put in place plans which will help to develop local production and they will ensure that they manage the issue and reduce the dependence on food from abroad.

She said Zanzibar is the first in Africa to succeed in paying pensions to the elderly starting at 70 years of age at the rate of 50,000/-.



It is possible that the newly installed digital systems have led to increased revenue and economic growth here in Zanzibar



A caterpillar picks rubble at Gerezani - Gongo la Mboto DART construction site along Nyerere Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

DCEA urged to educate people on identification of narcotics

THE Prisons Service has started the

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

RESIDENTS in Kahama district have requested the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) to train the public on ways to identify packets of narcotics following a recent bust by the authority where 3,182 kilograms of illicit drugs were seized during a special operation that took place in the re-

gions of Dar es Salaam and Iringa.

They said after receiving a report by the Authority's Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo, that some drugs were packed in Kahama using packets branded as tea leaves, the situation has brought worry among residents who have been using the tea products on many occasions.

"There are various tea leaves packets. If we are trained on how to identify the fake packets, we

will become ambassadors in helping the government to apprehend drug dealers who have been using tea packets," said Juma Ally, a resident of Majengo in Kahama.

Ally added that it is high time for Tanzanians to gain awareness and understanding how to identify narcotics hidden in various products consumed on a daily basis including biscuits which have been detrimental to the youth.

Masanja Maduka, thanked the

government for the job well done while requesting the state to expand drug control operations to the district level pointing out that some young children have been engaging in smoking glue which is dangerous and causes them to dose off.

However, the public wanted the government to continue hunting for drug trafficking suspects and arraign them, calling for the authority to educate people on im-

pacts of using Methamphetamine as an alternative to drugs since it has already posed serious health impacts to youth.

The residents also requested the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to be cautious when dealing with products mentioned by the DCEA so that the people can continue having confidence in the goods authorized by the bureau.

Researchers chart ways to address malnutrition in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

RESEARCHERS participating in the Urban Food Environment for Transitioning Economies (FETE) have met to plan for robust research strategies that will help strengthen the food environment and reduce all forms of malnutrition in Africa.

Principal Investigator of the project on Tanzania's part, Prof. Joyce Kinabo, told journalists recently that the project will be implemented in five countries which are Tanzania, Ghana, South Africa, Malaysia and Germany with the funding from Federal Agency for Food and Agriculture (BLE), German.

"Many of you will agree with me that we have serious problems with malnutrition. For example, overweight and obesity are becoming a challenge for many people here in Tanzania, a challenge that is contributed by inadequate food and other challenges," Prof. Kinabo said.

She noted: "Many of the foods that we see in our food stores and supermarkets are processed and most of them contain a lot of sugar and fat causing the consumer to consume more carbohydrates or sugar than the

body needs. This in turn causes rapid weight gain leading to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart diseases," Prof. Kinabo added.

He said the FETE research aims to improve the environment of markets and all places where food is sold in order to provide consumer with all types of good and good nutrition such as fruits, vegetables and legumes and not foods that will increase nutritional problems, especially foods that are highly processed with high sugar and fat content.

Prof Kinabo added that the research will provide lessons and solutions for what should be done on the part of stakeholders, policy, and food traders so that jointly, they can provide the community with foods that will help promote healthy diets.

On the part of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the benefits are mainly through capacity building of employees to get scholarships for PhD degrees, but also educate researchers on the project to get a chance to network with colleagues from other countries and increase experience and research collaboration," she said.

Dr. Daniella Weible from the Thunen Institute of Market Analysis in Germany said high prevalence of malnutrition and increased incidences of non-communicable diseases especially those affecting economic growth caused by major changes in dietary habits are what motivated them to carry out the research project, said the Project Coordinator for the five countries.

"The main goal is to share experiences, challenges and opportunities and bring solutions to create a better food environment, provide a reference model of how the methods established and the results obtained can be used more widely in the South or emerging economies by targeting people in the lowest income quintiles living in cities," Dr. Daniella said.

Opening the workshop, Director of the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research, Technology Transfer and Consultancy (DPRTC) at SUA, Prof. Eson Karimuribo congratulated the selection of the research topic as it has come at the right time when there has been a great challenge of the increase in non-communicable diseases associated with poor nutrition.

they take back to the public.

He said the centre has established Gender Based Violence (GBV) clubs in which 30 are children protection-based clubs.

"We are doing various things including dealing with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) but through this we work on creating awareness on the public to stop the malpractice," he said.

He said in Ilala and Ubungo municipalities, the centre has been taken as an icon of hope in the fight against GBV and other inhumane activities.

Bishagazi said, the government's move to recognize the center's activities is a matter of pride, and that they

are using that opportunity to continue doing greater work to combat female genital mutilation.

"We received training through the Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) Gender and Development seminars, and we have decided to build an office worth 11m/- through our sources of income, and now it provides legal aid, the community gets that service closely.

The head of the department for Social development Dar es Salaam city, Francisca Makoye, said Ilala has many groups, one of which is doing well being the Kipunguni Community Voice Center.



Request for proposal- Architectural services

The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) deliver research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Alliance solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation.

With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people.

The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research consortium for a food-secure future. This includes the Arusha office located within TARI Selian Center, along Dodoma Road.

The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is in the process of engaging an architect who will provide architectural services- Structural fabrication that will include **design preparation, drawings, development of bill of quantities, quality check, finishing and delivery, assembly, and installation.**

The selected firm will work with the Alliance's operations team to evaluate current needs, gather input, and analyze available options for the facilities. Please contact +255784725470 to arrange a site visit if you are interested.

To allow sufficient time for meetings, the Alliance anticipates this concept design phase to be concluded within a week from the date of agreement.

Interested companies must provide information indicating that they are qualified to do such consultancy and should provide their experience in handling similar assignments, complete with the references, contact details (address, telephone, email, and names of contact persons) of firms they have worked for, nature and value of supplies and services performed. Provision of photos for projects carried out will be an added advantage.

They should also include a brief organizational profile and a copy of their Business Registration Certificate, a copy of Tax Identification Number (TIN), and copy of certificate for necessary registration in respective boards clearly indicating the category for which they are registered in.

The Expressions of Interest and all relevant support documentation, enclosed in plain sealed envelopes should be dropped at Alliance/CIAT-Offices at TARI Selian Center by 5th January 2024.

The envelopes should be dully addressed to:

The Construction Committee, the Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture - Arusha, Tanzania.

Alternatively, you can share your EOI by email to the email address: L.Tango@cgiar.org with copy to V.Delahaye@cgiar.org, D.Guerena@cgiar.org, S.Kalemera@cgiar.org, VMwalwisi@cgiar.org, and FKasubiri@cgiar.org

NGO trains over 5000 people on entrepreneurship, business skills

By Guardian Correspondent

A total of 5,842 people have received entrepreneurship training in the last eight years since 2016 by a non-governmental organisation 'Community Voice Centre' Kipunguni in Dar es Salaam.

The training ranged from agriculture, food production, cosmetics and others where 2,700 women were trained while men were 510.

Speaking to this paper in Dar es Salaam, when explaining about the centre's activities in the last eight years, director Seleman Bishagazi said the training was part of the activities that



Judex Contractor Ltd casual workers seated outside the Regional Commissioner's office in Dodoma appeal to the government to urge their employer to pay them overdue claims totalling 39m/-after digging ditches stretching 25 km for the Haneti Village water project, Chamwino District. The project is contracted to the company. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



A city suburb street in Goba in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, extensively damaged by current rains, causing inconvenience to residents as captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Dodoma residents queuing to enter Mwalimu Nyerere Square amid pools of rain water at the entrance causing inconvenience to passers-by as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Timms Drinks director Moses Tullo of Muheza District (R) presents cold drinks to Shabilu Hatibu to distribute to the community to welcome the New Year 2024. Photo: Correspondent Steve William



Asnath Jeremia, district secretary for the CCM Women's Wing in Muheza, speaks at a recent meeting. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



A traffic police officer takes breath to test intoxication level of a commuter bus driver at Banana Ukonga in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Hamisi Mwinjuma, the Muheza MP doubling up as the Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister speaks at a public meeting recently. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Samwel Hhayuma (3rd L), the MP for Hanang, hands over a cow to motorbike drivers for slaughter as part of the festive season - New Year. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Government lauds agricultural stakeholders' support to Hanang landslide victims

By Guardian Correspondent,

Hanang

THE government in Hanang District has acknowledged the seed assistance given to Katesh landslide victims by agricultural stakeholders, saying it will help ensure food security.

Athman Likeyekeye, Hanang District Administrative Secretary made the remarks yesterday when receiving the donation from Seed Co Tanzania Sales Manager for Manyara, Singida and Dodoma regions. He assured the company the provided seeds will be used for intended purposes.

Likeyekeye received 5 tonnes of maize seeds from Seed Co Tanzania to help the mudslide victims to engage in agriculture this farming season.

"On behalf of the District Commissioner, I would like to thank you for assist farmers. What you have done is commendable; we are grateful," said Likeyekeye, adding the donation serves as a support to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's effort to ensure food security.

Manyara agricultural officer, Samwel Dahaye said since the seeds will take a short period to reach harvest time, they are of great help to farmers who were impacted by the floods.

Dahaye added that every farmer will have access to the seeds citing that Hanang District plans to cultivate more than 100,000 hectares of food crops in which a total of 90,000 hectares of maize are supposed to be cultivated.

Speaking during the handover event, Seed Co Tanzania Northern Zone Sales Manager, Eliya Kituye said they donated the seeds after being moved by the impacts caused by the mudslides, and that many of the victims of the devastating tragedy were farmers.

Kituye said if the beneficiaries follow the right principles in utilizing the seeds they will be able to produce between 40 to 45 sacks of maize per acre. He expressed confidence that the good harvests to be made would ensure food security.

John Sarwath, a victim of the tragic disaster, thanked stakeholders for donating the seeds, saying the donation will lower the burden of seeking money to buy seeds.

Neema Nada, a resident of Katesh expressed her gratitude for the donation and supplies citing that the kind gesture is a display of sympathy which shows them that the society and the government cares about them despite the loss of their loved ones.



Dodoma District Commissioner Jabir Shekimweri (in tie) speaks to Ntyuka residents who are supposed to be removed from road reserve to pave the way for road construction yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Dr Mwinyi assures strengthening development sectors in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has assured that the government will continue strengthening development sectors in order to bring economic transformation to its people and the nation.

He made the statement during the opening of a district hospital in Mbuzini area in West "A" Unguja as part of the celebrations of 60th anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution, Dr Mwinyi said that the health sector has greatly been improved

and now citizens are enjoying access to friendly and quality services.

According to him, the government has spent a lot of funds to strengthen the sector which include construction of new regional and district hospitals, hiring more doctors in order to ensure that people are reached with quality and affordable health services.

"This has greatly reduced congestion in referral hospitals, especially the Mnazimojo hospital," he said.

Dr Mwinyi said the launch of the new

hospital was among his first promises in the 2020 General Election campaigns.

He wanted citizens to honour and protect the fruits of the Revolution in order to achieve the ambition of the first President of Zanzibar, Abeid Amani Karume, to provide best health treatment to the Zanzibaris.

"The government has honored and protected these fruits by implementing development projects including the construction of district and regional hospitals, paving roads, school buildings and

modern markets," he said.

Dr Amour Selemani, acting principal secretary and director of the Ministry of Health said that a total of 8.5bn/- has been spent in the construction of the hospital.

He said that the hospital provides various services including maternal and child health services, emergency and diagnosis of various diseases.

He said the hospital has capacity to admit 100 patients and so far it has provided services to over 300,000 citizens.



United Nations Population Fund Communication manager Dr Warren Bright holds a toddler whose mother is refugee from The Democratic Republic of Congo. She gave birth at the Nyarusu Kigoma Refugee camp health centre rehabilitated and equipped with medical equipment under the sponsorship of the organisation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Turmeric cultivation: Emerging lucrative venture among Central Kenya farmers

By Zablon Oyugi

FOR many years farmers in the central region of Kenya have relied on coffee farming as their mainstay crop with the region accounting for over 60 per cent of its production in the country.

However, since the industry started facing serious challenges such as urbanisation which has seen coffee bushes cleared to pave way for real estate development, theft of the berries and poor pricing, farmers have been shifting to horticulture and herbs and spices

to boost their income.

One such farmer is George Njoya Wango, a small-scale farmer from Maragua in Murang'a County who is laying ground for commercial production of turmeric after coffee disappointments.

As the CEO of Peasant Coffee Farmers Association (PCFA) in 2016, Njoya who is also a masters graduate in Transformation Leadership from Makerere University in Uganda got frustrated by the ever occurring problems of coffee farmers even after a task force was formed by President Uhuru Keny-

atta to look into the ailing sector.

"I remember we mobilised our farmers to do organic coffee production which could fetch Sh300 per kilo of coffee berries compared to Sh30 a kilo of those by conventional farming but the whole system was hacked by cartels causing poor prices, increased thefts of berries in addition to threats to farmers' leadership," said Njoya.

On seeing that coffee was never a safe venture, he left with other farmers to join the now-lucrative avocado farming in 2017.

After planting his over 400

trees of hass variety of avocado which takes 3-4 years to mature, there arose an urge in him and other growers as to which high value short-term plants that can be intercropped with the avocados to keep them earning as they wait for the first fruits.

"We had several options such as strawberries, garlic, ginger, indigenous vegetables and onions that could do well in between avocado trees spaces," said Njoya.

Through friends, he would later towards end of 2018 meet Mr. Oliver Ndegwa who had already start-

ed Turmeric Kenya Ltd and was looking for willing farmers to grow turmeric commercially.

Ndegwa introduced him to turmeric farming through his main idea of mobilising farmers to grow turmeric, venture into value addition for ready and well-paying local and international markets.

It became an impressive idea and the two agreed to give it a programme approach by starting some companies to separately deal with farmers mobilisation, production and marketing of the produce.

TGNP: 'Include gender issues in national development plans'

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has advised the government to incorporate gender issues in all development plans, policies and budgets in order to ensure that all groups are reached fairly and effectively.

Project and research analyst at TGNP, Wilfred Kulwa made the call on Thursday here at a training session organized for officials from 13 sectoral ministries.

According to him, it was important for the government to prioritize the issue of gender when planning in order to ensure that all groups of people in society benefit from the country's development.

He said the training was aimed to capacitate the officers with skills to enable them recognize the groups and be able to incorporate them when planning for the country.

According to him, apart from other issues, the ministries need to continue making development plans by considering findings in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

"This training will help the officers in the sectoral ministries to wider understanding on gender issues and thus be able to include them in various plans, policies and budgets for the country's development," he said.

Kulwa said that currently,

many officers in the ministries have been failing to utilize the available research findings and analysis when planning for the country's development thus leaving behind important areas.

Dr. Geoffrey Chambua, a gender consultant said in order for the gender issues to be well known and accepted in the society, should not focus on women alone.

He urged leaders in the ministries to shun away from negative thinking that gender issues were about women only which is not true.

"The global vision currently insist on not leaving no one behind, this means that all types of people's groups in the society should be incorporated in development plans, we need to bury this and work hard in bringing development to people, we cannot go forward if there are some people who still walking miles away to seek for water or a girl child walking long distance to reach school," he explained.

Dr Chambua also underscored the need for the government through heads of institutions to set aside budgets for the improvement of various buildings in order for them to be friendly to people with disabilities (PWDs).

According to him, currently many public buildings were not friendly to PwDs, especially toilets, something which denies the group access to various services.

ASA intensifies seed production capacity

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE agricultural seed Agency (ASA) has 5000 more hectares of new seed farmlands making a total of 17,000 hectares contributing to the increase in seed production to ensure the country's food security.

This was revealed yesterday by the ASA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge, while addressing journalists on the annual progress and strategies for refining the country's agricultural sector where he mentioned that more changes are expected to be made in seed production because the government has invested heavily in 2023 and the results will be evident in 2024.

Dr Kashenge also said they have managed to purchase nine new tractors making a total of 21 tractors whereas in 2020 there were only four tractors thus invoking major changes in 2023 because the key matter was to ensure seed production goes in sync with the available infrastructure and machinery for production.

On the other hand, Dr Kashenge said they accomplished the growth in production of seeds from 3,170 tonnes in 2020 to 3,552 in 2023 which were produced by the agency reaching 12,000 tonnes, an increase which resulted from the involvement of the private sector in production and creating more than 42 percent seed availability in the country.

"When you look at the overall availability

of seeds in the country, we stand at 61,000 tonnes, therefore the internal availability in total and seeds from abroad. But the internal accessibility alone ranges at 42,000 tonnes and we have managed to reduce importation of foreign seeds whereby 70 percent of seeds are produced internally. With a large quantity of seeds produced in the country, we are confident on the status of our food security and we laud the government for that," said Dr Kashenge.

He also stated that despite reaching 50 percent in seed production the production goal of 124,000 tonnes has not been attained, where he welcomed the private sector to add their support into the production capacity.

He also revealed that farmers have been responding positively in terms of their demand for seeds produced by the agency whereby in 2022 they supplied sunflower seed subsidies and in 2023 a total of 1.1 million tons of seeds were produced from the previous 400,000 tonnes.

On his part, ASA Production Director, Dr Justine Ringo said they have prepared themselves to upsurge seed production in the coming season producing more than 3000 tonnes this year reaching more than 6000 tonnes in 2024.

He also said that they will utilize modern equipment to spray pesticides properly in farms to increase production capacity while applying the skills gained from training on improving crop production in the farms.



Tanzania Traffic Police Commander Ramadhan Ng'anzi (2nd L) inspects motorbikes impounded in Morogoro on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

59 households in Harare affected by flash floods

HARARE

FIFTY-NINE households in Harare's Budiro 5B Extension and the paddocks area of Kuwadzana have been affected by flash flooding along the Marimba River caused by the ongoing rains, with the river draining most of the western half of Harare.

Of the affected houses, one was extensively damaged in Budiro while some of the houses are flooded and consequently uninhabitable.

Families have lost food, utensils, blankets, household furniture and clothes due to the flooding.

Most roads leading in and out of Budiro are covered by water and residents have to plough through water to access their houses. Those residents affected by the heavy flooding have since been moved to evacuation camps for their safety.

The Marimba River is one of the two major tributaries of the Manyame River that drain the

major built up area of the city, with the dense urban development meaning that most of the rainfall in its catchment is not absorbed by the ground but runs off, so heavy rain results in large flows and, on the fairly flat land of the lower Marimba, in serious flooding.

The latest disaster comes barely a week after a six-year-old girl was swept away by the angry Marimba River following heavy rains. Her body was retrieved this Tuesday, about 5km down-

stream from the family home. The body now awaits post-mortem.

Budiro 5B residents' representative Pasipanodya Nyamayaro said the body was discovered by someone who was checking on his crops. "The body was already in a state of decomposition and we immediately informed the police and the body was later taken to the mortuary," he said.

On the continued flooding in the area, Nyamayaro criticised the Harare City Council for fail-

ing to address the cause of flooding, which occurs every rainy season.

He called for the allocation of new stands so they build on land that is not susceptible to flooding.

"Moving out of our houses every year as if we don't pay rates to council is unbearable. Of course, we value the establishment of evacuation centres, but it is time we leave this place. They set up evacuation camps every rainy season since 2017, but we now

need long-term solutions to our problems because we are likely going to experience the same challenge next year," he said.

Nyamayaro said the Harare City Council told them that the problem of flooding could be addressed but they cannot do it owing to lack of resources. Residents have since approached independent engineers to help them out.

Any civil engineering that would allow the regularly flooded land to remain as building

land would almost certainly involve the canalisation of the river that is diverting it into a deep wide ditch that could hold the water without it spreading over the land. This has been done by the city council in the past in several of the older suburbs, the Avondale Stream, a major tributary of the Marimba now flowing in a concrete canal for example, and several sections of the Mukuvisi having been modified by digging.



Chief Conservator of Serengeti National Park Moronda Moronda plants a tree at Bukore village at Kunzugu Ward in Bunda District, Mara Region for environmental conservation on Thursday. Serengeti National Park has provided 13,000 tree seedlings to many groups in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mt Hanang mudflow victims receive humanitarian support

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Manyara

THE Lions Club International has moved to assist the victims of the Mount Hanang avalanche in Manyara with a truckload of humanitarian donations, including foodstuffs, medicine, sanitary wares, soaps and bedding materials.

Consignments of humanitarian donations from the Lions Club of Arusha City (D411-C) were officially presented to the Hanang District Commissioner Janeth Mayanja, by the Second vice District Governor of the Lions Club, Manish Chavda.

The donations were delivered at the Katesh primary school where most of the humanitarian support consignments are

being received by the state and distributed to the beneficiaries on behalf of the surviving victims of the December 2023 massive landslides.

"On behalf of the President and government of Tanzania I would like to convey heartfelt gratitude to the Lions Club International for the support," said the Hanang District Commissioner, DC Mayanja, adding that the victims of the Mount Hanang landslide are still in dire straits needing more assistance especially now that, schools are about to open and many of them had taken shelters in school buildings.

The Lions Club had presented to the District Commissioner more than 50

sleeping mattresses, in addition to medicinal drugs, food consignments and sanitary wares.

"The Lion Club is always ready to assist should we be required to do so," said the Second vice District Governor, Manish Chavda, who also promised to organize free health services, especially eye camps for the residents of Katesh Township in the course of 2024.

The Second District Governor also took time to visit some of the affected villages at the foot of Mount Hanang.

The Hanang District Medical Officer, Dr Mohammed Kodi expressed gratitude to the Members of the Lions Club for thoughtfully including medicinal drugs in

the consignment of the humanitarian aid delivered to Katesh.

"We have been getting various forms of donation but few have been including medicine which is very important considering that many people were injured during the colossal mudflow," pointed out the District Medical Officer.

The early morning avalanche that occurred in Hanang District, Manyara Region in the first week of December 2023 destroyed hundreds of households, killing more than 100 people and injuring thousands making it the biggest natural disaster to occur in the country in recent years.

Tanzanian firm builds 19bn/- new gas facility in Mombasa

By Willis Oketch

THE Tanzanian-owned firm 'Taifa Gas' has begun to construct a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage in Mombasa.

Taifa Gas SEZ Kenya Ltd is putting up a facility with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes at the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone.

"This is a substantial investment that will not only address a gap in Kenya and the regional gas market but will also create many jobs and sustain livelihoods in the region," said Managing Director Veneranda Masoum.

"We expect 90,000 direct and indirect jobs would be created by this investment when we start the downstream retail operations."

Taifa Gas operates in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, DRC, Tanzania, and South Africa. Its entry into the Kenyan market was delayed by controversy over approvals and a tussle with squatters and landowners.

The Kenya Ports Authority Managing Director William Ruto said the project, four kilometres from the port, was among the investments given the green light.

"A recent visit to Dongo Kundu showed a beehive of activities with one investor already on the ground building an ultra-modern 30,000 tonnes LPG facility, which will be constructed underwater from KOT II to their storage facility 4 kilometres away from the port," said Ruto.

He said that KPA has already awarded a tender to a Japanese company to start the construc-

tion of the Dongo Kundu multipurpose berth for Sh42 billion.

The Japanese Government under JICA has been funding several projects at the port, including a 570-metre quay with 550,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) capacity berths 20 and 21.

Japan also funded the construction of berth 22 with a quay of 300 metres long with 450,000 TEU capacity. The SEZ project, implemented under KPA, was mooted in 2002 by the late President Mwai Kibaki government.

"The construction of Dongo Kundu multipurpose berth is expected to start early next year and will open up the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone, which has attracted many investors who want to build factories and other industries," said Ruto.

Other companies that have shown interest in the Dongo Kundu Special Economic Zone include those that tendered to run services at the ports of Mombasa, Lamu and Kisumu.

KPA said other investors in the area are expected to move on the ground early next year as more companies have shown more interest in the area.

At the same time, Ruto said tenders for leasing out some services at the port, which were to be opened after December 16, have been put in abeyance.

Ruto said KPA was partnering with shipping lines for the export of horticulture as opposed to using the expensive air transport, and would also support the International Maritime Organization in reducing carbon footprint emissions.

Farmers in Morocco on track for a bumper avocado harvest

RABAT

MOROCCO'S climate has proved perfect for avocado growers, with the fruit's widespread popularity and ability to command high market prices seeing exports increase year on year.

The country has become a significant player in the global avocado market since their introduction.

Mohamed Lakchouch owns an avocado farm of some 10 hectares in Larache, north western Morocco, with some 5-thousand avocado trees.

He produces three varieties of avocado namely, Hass, Fuerté and Zutano, with the Hass variety representing some 80 percent of the avocado trees on this farm.

Lakchouch says this year he's produced 90 tonnes of Hass avocados, a 30 percent increase in comparison to the last three years. But he says he's mindful that avocados are a thirsty crop.

"Each avocado tree can consume approximately 30 litres per hour, and the amount can change according to the seasons. We can use only half that amount, almost 15 litres per hour, and it can reach as much as 60 litres per hour."

He says extreme temperatures and wind "can cause major losses to avocado trees because they are very sensitive".

Lakchouch's farm utilises an irrigation system with sensors to reduce water wastage.

Abdellah Elyamlahi, President of the Moroccan Association of Avocado Exporters, says Morocco's northern regions have important water reserves which have boosted agricultural production.

"The northern region of Morocco experiences rainfall and there are important water reserves, unlike southern Morocco, such as Agadir and the Sahara. 20 percent of the increase in production is due to the growth of farms."

Morocco has recently endured a severe drought due to a reduction in rain-

fall and an increase in temperatures, especially during the summer months. This has had a very negative impact on the water table and led to low water levels in dams.

Despite water scarcity issues, the country's avocado industry has shown resilience.

Mustapha Laissate, an environment researcher in Rabat, says it is important to regulate farms so they are not in water scarce areas.

"The state has now developed a strategy to confront water scarcity. In this context, it is necessary to regulate the cultivation of these types of trees, as well as watermelons, which must be in areas characterized by abundant water, such as the Lookkos Basin and the Gharb region. However, their presence is difficult in areas where we need drinking water and where livestock and factories are located, in order to avoid an imbalance in water resources that should cover other areas."

Lakchouch says production has increased on his farm as the trees have matured.

"I had young trees. So, it is normal for the production to increase with each year. There are other factors that play a role in increasing the production, for example, the absence of both ice and high temperatures and wind as well. So, with the presence of suitable climatic conditions the production increases."

Avocado production across the country for this season could reach 60,000 tons, says Elyamlahi of the Moroccan Association of Avocado Exporters.

Last year general production reached 40,000 tons, he says, with 90 percent the Hass variety.

Every year, Morocco exports almost all the avocados it grows. They began exporting to Spain, but later added countries such as Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Russia to the list of importers.



Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Zanzibar Permanent Secretary Abeida Rashid Abdallah (L) presents a certificate of appreciation to capacity building training coordinator of Banaty group, Raya Hamad Mchele in Unguja recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Tackling energy challenges in the country in the offing

By Guardian Reporter

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy Doto Biteko has said that with 94.78 per cent of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) completed, Tanzanians are likely to start enjoying reliable power services.

In a statement issued by the ministry on Thursday, Biteko emphasised that the project aligns with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vision of tackling energy challenges in the country.

He said two mighty power generation machines, each capable of generating 470 megawatts, a significant boost to the national grid, bringing

reliable electricity to nearly two millions Tanzanians.

The two power generation machines stand poised to deliver on this promise, injecting 470MW into the national grid, he added.

Biteko noted that by January 2nd, 2024, turbine number 9 will complete its dry testing, paving the way for wet testing by February 19th, 2024. He said turbine number 8 is expected to follow suit, completing testing by February 2024.

He said that the water reservoir stands brimming, ready to fuel the turbines, with a level exceeding 166.65 cubic meters above sea level. He said

the water level surpasses the minimum requirement of 163 cubic meters. The Deputy PM acknowledged the on-going electricity challenges, insisting the government is committed to securing reliable power services.

Biteko directed the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) to participate in environmental conservation initiatives which includes addressing the issue of river diversion and environmental damage.

"Collaboration between TANESCO and stakeholders is vital in safeguarding the country's natural resources," said DPM, as he applauded the dedication of the JNHPP team and urged

them to accelerate their efforts, recognizing that approximately 63 million Tanzanians rely on TANESCO for electricity services.

Biteko called upon the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy to work with TANESCO, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and the Department of Policy and Planning to develop a comprehensive 20-30 year plan for energy security, including electricity.

According to him, the plan will involve collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to ensure robust distribution networks and accessibility.



Mara Regional Commissioner Said Mtanda speaks during a special prayer for the country organised by New Life Gospel Community Church at Nyakato in Musoma District on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida RC calls upon district council leaders to ensure timely completion of development projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner, Peter Serukamba has called upon district council leaders to ensure timely completion of development projects including construction of school classrooms to be able to accommodate all pupils selected to join secondary education in January 2024.

He made the call yesterday when addressing leaders, parents and guardians in Ikungi District, the meeting that was held at Kitandaa primary school. Serukamba was in the district to inspect im-

plementation of development projects at Iriya, Msimii, Kipunda and Kitandaa villages.

"District Executive Directors should make sure the school construction projects are completed by December 31st this year. All selected Form One students should be able to join schools next year," he insisted.

The RC also inspected progress implementation of a health centre project at Iriya village whereas he directed the Ikungi District chairman, Alli Mwanga to make sure more funds are released to complete the project's implementation.

He added that such projects are meant to improve services provision as well as bringing health care services closer to the people.

"Leaders should closely monitor its implementation to ensure value for money; schools as well as dispensaries must be constructed at required standards for them to last longer," said the RC.

Earlier, Ikungi District chairman, Alli Mwanga commended the government for disbursing funds for construction of health centres, dispensaries and schools. He said Ikungi has also received funds for implementing road projects.

"We are thankful to the government for bringing development to our area, we have health facilities, schools and better roads," said Mwanga as he commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for ensuring improvement of social services in the country.

He called upon the residents to continue supporting government efforts towards sustainable development.

The Regional Commissioner is on a tour to inspect implementation of development projects in all the 441 villages in Singida Region.

Malaria: WHO prequalifies the second vaccine, major milestone in prevention of the disease

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has added the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine to its list of prequalified vaccines.

In October 2023, WHO recommended its use for the prevention of malaria in children following the advice of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunisation and the Malaria Policy Advisory Group. The prequalification means larger access to vaccines as a key tool to prevent malaria in children with it being a prerequisite for vaccine procurement by UNICEF and funding support for deployment by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The R21 vaccine is the second malaria vaccine prequalified by WHO, following the RTS, s/AS01 vaccine which obtained prequalification status in July 2022.

Both vaccines are shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials, for preventing malaria in children. When implemented broadly, along with other recommended malaria control interventions, they are expected to have a high public health impact.

Dr Rogério Gaspar, Director of the Department of Regulation and Prequalification at WHO said: "Achieving WHO vaccine prequalification ensures that vaccines used in global immunization programmes are safe and effective within their conditions of use in the targeted health systems. WHO evaluates multiple products for prequalification each year and core to this work is ensuring greater access to safe, effective and quality health products."

Dr Kate O'Brien, Director of WHO's Department of Immunisation, Vaccines and Biological, said: "Today marks a huge stride in global health as we welcome

the prequalification of R21/Matrix-M, the second malaria vaccine recommended for children in malaria endemic areas. This achievement underscores our relentless commitment to wiping out malaria which remains a formidable foe causing child suffering and death."

O'Brien said the approval is another step towards ensuring a healthier, more resilient future for those who have lived for too long in fear of what malaria could do to their children.

He added: "Together with our partners we are united in the pursuit of a malaria-free future, where every life is shielded from the threat of this disease."

Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease, places a particularly high burden on children in the African Region, where nearly half a million children die from the disease each year. Globally, in 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases and 608 000 malaria deaths across 85 countries.

The prequalification of the world's second malaria vaccine, developed by Oxford University and manufactured by Serum Institute of India, is poised to expand access to malaria prevention through vaccination.

Demand for malaria vaccines is high but the supply has thus far been limited. The availability of two WHO recommended and prequalified malaria vaccines is expected to increase supply to meet the high demand from African countries and result in sufficient vaccine doses to benefit all children living in areas where malaria is a significant public health risk.

WHO applies international standards to comprehensively evaluate and determine whether vaccines are safe, effective and manufactured to international standards.

Development calls for gauging of the past, planning for the future

In Africa today, only one in five workers finds employment in the wage economy. The rest are forced to settle for low-paying jobs, often through self-employment or in the services sector, where output per person is only about twice that in agriculture.

The Sustainable Development Goals, which took over from the MDGs, also suggest how to grow good jobs. Goal 9 of the SDGs sets as an objective to "by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product".

Industry is singled out because it is a high productivity sector capable of absorbing large numbers of moderately skilled workers. Between 1950 and 2006, about half of the catch-up by developing countries to advanced-economy levels of output per worker was explained by labour moving out of agriculture and into manufacturing, combined with rising productivity within industry. In Africa, manufacturing output per worker is six times that in agriculture.

The international community has a new set of development goals. They reflect Africa's aspirations much more closely than the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to a maintained focus on the eradication of poverty, their single most important contribution is to recognise that sustainable development, especially in Africa, means creating good jobs - jobs that pay living wages and offer a chance to develop new skills.

For more than 40 years Africa's industrial development has been disappointing. In 2013 the average share of manufacturing in GDP in sub-Saharan Africa was about 10 per cent - the same as in the 1970s. Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen from about 3 per cent in 1970 to less than 2 per cent in 2013. Manufacturing output per person is about a third of the average for all developing

countries and manufactured exports per person, a key measure of success in global markets, are about 10 per cent of the global average for low-income countries. Clearly, Africa needs more industry to create more good jobs.

Most of the heavy lifting in terms of public action will need to be done by African governments. To industrialise successfully, Africa will need to revisit the policy orthodoxy and break new ground. The "investment climate reforms" of the World Bank, supported by some bilateral donors, have not and will not bring industry to Africa on their own. Industrialisation cannot succeed without the development "basics" that include infrastructure, skills and institutions. But these building blocks, while necessary, are not enough.

Three closely related drivers of firm-level productivity - exports, agglomeration and firm capabilities - have been largely responsible for East Asia's industrial success, and their absence also helps to explain Africa's lack of industrial dynamism. These three drivers of productivity and industrial location are fundamentally interrelated. Progress in one area cannot succeed in the absence of progress in the others. In short, a strategy for industrial development is needed, and an active and committed government to implement it is indispensable. To compete in the global market for manufacturers, African governments need to develop new policies to promote industrial exports, build the capabilities of domestic firms and foster industrial clusters. These policy initiatives need to be coordinated and contemporaneous.

In this regard, we could learn crucial lessons from this piece of wisdom by American astronaut Kalpana Chawla (March 17, 1962 - February 1, 2003), the first woman of Indian origin in space: "The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on to it, and the perseverance to follow it."

Keeping the hope for health alive

Peace means societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.

Psychological peace such as peaceful thinking and emotions is less well-defined, yet perhaps a necessary precursor to establishing behavioural peace. Peaceful behaviour sometimes results from a peaceful inner disposition. It has been argued by some that inner qualities such as tranquility, patience, respect, compassion, kindness, self-control, courage, moderation, forgiveness, equanimity, and the ability to see the big picture can promote peace within an individual, regardless of the external circumstances of their life.

Although peace is the usual translation, it is an incomplete one, because shalom, which is also cognate with the Arabic salaam, has multiple other meanings in addition to peace, including justice, good health, safety, well-being, prosperity, equity, security, good fortune, and friendliness, as well as simply the greetings, "hello" and "goodbye".

On a personal level, peaceful behaviours are kind, considerate, respectful, just, and tolerant of others' beliefs and behaviours - tending to manifest goodwill.

In many languages, the word 'peace' is also used as a greeting or a farewell, for example the Hawaiian word aloha, as well as the Arabic word salaam. In English the word peace is occasionally used as a farewell, especially for the dead, as in the phrases "rest in peace" or "peace out".

2023 was a year of milestones and

challenges in global public health.

In May, this year the World Health Organisation declared an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern.

This marked a turning point for the world following three years of crisis, pain and loss for people everywhere.

We are glad to see that life has returned to normal.

WHO also announced the M-POX outbreak no longer represented a global health emergency.

And WHO approved new vaccines for malaria, dengue and meningitis, diseases that threaten millions around the world, mainly the most vulnerable.

Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Belize were declared malaria free, and a range of neglected tropical diseases were eliminated in multiple countries, including sleeping sickness in Ghana, trachoma in Benin, Mali and Iraq, and lymphatic filariasis in Bangladesh and Lao. The path to eradicating another vaccine-preventable disease - polio - has reached its last mile.

Thirty more countries introduced the HPV vaccine as the world advances toward eliminating cervical cancer.

The need to address the health impacts of the climate crisis were elevated to the highest political levels, with governments, scientists and advocates putting health, for the first time, prominently on the COP28 agenda, and issuing a global declaration on climate and health.

Heads of state at the United Nations General Assembly committed to advance universal health coverage, end tuberculosis and protect the world from future pandemics.

Each of these achievements, and many more, demonstrated the power of science, solutions and solidarity to protect and promote health.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts	Newsdesk	Advertising
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0677020701 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



Traffic enforcement helps, but drivers must respond

By Special Correspondent

The fall in road accidents and road deaths so far this festive season is good news and shows that the major effort by the police, the Zimbabwe Traffic Safety Council and the Vehicle Inspection Department has had some effect, although the numbers are still high and the campaigns need to be continued.

Between December 15 and December 26 last year there were 1 480 accidents with 102 people killed. This dropped for the same 12 days to 1 194 accidents and 87 people killed, a drop of almost 20 percent in the number of accidents and almost 15 percent in the number of road deaths.

This would have been with what was almost certainly a rise in the number of journeys, and so the volume of traffic.

For a start all Covid-19 restrictions have gone, more people have bought cars, and the way the public holidays worked this year saw a five-day holiday for many from National Unity Day to Boxing Day, so more people could get away for a decent break.

The police accident statistics were not all a description of progress. The number of injured in the road accidents jumped alarmingly, from 289 last year to 424, a jump of almost 47 percent.

But this, though, coupled with the fall in the number killed still suggests that more drivers were being more careful and were able to take action that made the accidents less severe, or certainly more survivable. Much better progress would be reducing injuries as well as accidents.

This is important as the road network gets better and the quality of highways improves with the Government catching up on maintenance and putting in general improvements. It is much easier on a decent road to break the speed limits and drive less safely. The potholes and broken surfaces were a nuisance, but they did tend to limit speeds. Now more and more we need drivers to do this voluntarily, as they are obliged to do under the law and the Highway Code.

Which brings us back to the main problem, the standard of driving. While mechanical faults and the like can generate accidents, the police have found that most are the result of driver error and bad driving and deliberate breaches of the road traffic laws, and of the Highway Code.

When the police investigate an accident they do have to assign responsibility and get from the drivers and witnesses a fairly detailed description of what happened.



From this they can make a reasonable determination of whose bad driving caused the accident in the first place, and the fact that in almost every accident someone is charged suggests that almost every accident is caused by human error, rather than some of the explanations that drivers at fault try and offer.

In any case the worst mechanical problems are normally identified at the checkpoints, where it is easy to see if a vehicle has functional tyres, and if the windscreen wipers work in the rain, for example.

And if a vehicle looks dubious the VID staff can do a more thorough check. Most drivers do check out their vehicles before making longer trips since the last thing they want is to be broken down at the side of the road. And that brings up another point about vehicles in poor condition.

Almost all mechanical faults do not cause accidents. What they do is stop the vehicle moving, so it has to be parked on the side of the road while repairs are made.

So once again we are down to drivers, not their vehicles.

While improved police patrols, better assessment at check points and the like can help, a lot, we have to recognise that the police cannot be everywhere.

Even on a long trip most drivers will go for fairly lengthy periods where they will not see a police car or a police check point, and it is on these unmonitored stages that most accidents occur. Few drivers defy the law in front of a police officer.

The general education of drivers, and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development in conjunc-

tion with the Zimbabwe Traffic Safety Council has been making a determined effort to improve this, is important. But it does mean that drivers are willing to at least read the advice and then accept the advice.

So although a few good safety pointers are made, such as not driving at night unless absolutely necessary, most drivers have either not heard the advice or simply ignore it if they do.

Yet those same drivers would accept advice in other matters from experts, such as from doctors and nurses when their health is at stake.

Many drivers, regrettably, study the Highway Code once in their lives, when they are swotting up for a learner's licence. Once they have that important document their copy of the code is dumped, or at least allowed to gather dust at the back of a cupboard.

Revisions and new editions are neither bought nor read, and the code is under continual improvement and updating, so its writers and publishers are doing their job. Unfortunately, the targeted readers are not.

The professional drivers, those who drive trucks, buses and cars for a living, working eight hours a day every day, do tend to keep up to date. For a start their employers insist on this, and make arrangements for staff to undergo defensive driving instruction.

This is one reason why these drivers tend to be better, often a lot better, than average. It goes beyond experience and includes maintaining their standards.

During the festive season the proportion of professional drivers falls. While bus drivers are kept busy, fewer trucks are on the road. So much more the festive traffic comprises private

cars and pick-ups, and they are abroad in far larger numbers. This adds to the number of accidents. When we look at the police reports we see that the professionals rarely appear, it is ordinary drivers making mistakes who build up the lists. The police have identified two major causes of accidents, speeding and drinking.

But they are under-resourced when it comes to enforcement. Speed traps these days are now very easy to use and in some countries are even automatic and unmanned, just taking a picture of the vehicle and its registration plate as it speeds past.

Breathalysers are becoming ever more cheaper and convenient, and surely one of our more innovative manufacturers could obtain the technology and a licence and make them in Zimbabwe, so that with a modest budget the police could have this most useful tool to gather evidence when they have grounds of suspecting a driver has been indulging.

Again countries that go to some lengths to enforce speed limits and maximum-permitted alcohol levels have seen dramatic falls in their accident rates. But in the end, a zero accident rate or a very low accident rate requires a commitment by all drivers to drive safely and not take chances, and a recognition that none of us are either perfect or immortal, and so need to drive properly.

The police, VID and Zimbabwe Traffic Safety Council have shown this festive season that their extra enforcement and educational work pays dividends, but the high accident and death rates still show that all drivers need to respond.

Over 170 people left homeless by river flood in northern Angola



At least 175 people have been left homeless in Noqui municipality, northern Zaire province, following the Zaire River flooding, the Provincial Civil Protection Commission led by local governor Adriano Mendes de Carvalho has said.

The commission has assessed the damage caused by the opening of the floodgates at the Inga hydroelectric power station located at Matadi region, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The governor of Zaire province said he is closely monitoring the work being carried out by the civil protection commission and its partners, especially in the riverside villages that are under water to seek possible solutions.

Adriano Mendes de Carvalho expressed his disappointment at the situation, given that the provincial government had not been informed by the authorities of the Central Congo region (DRC) that they were going to open the floodgates of the Inga dam, the largest in that neighboring country.

Zaire River is bathed by both neighboring territories (Angola and the DRC), whose inhabitants of the riverside villages use this channel as a source of livelihood.

With an estimated population of over 20,000, the municipality of Noqui is 175 kilometres

Luanda, has been badly affected after a month's worth of rain fell in just over 24 hours [Ampe Rogerio/AFP]

away from Mbanza Kongo city and is subdivided into three communes: Mpala, Lufico and Sede.

Economist Francisco Tavares today considered Angola's exit from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a wise decision, which will attract more investors in the sector in the country and allow greater revenue collection by the State.

In an interview with ANGOP, the expert said that, until then, Angola had benefited little from the production limits imposed by the cartel, so the departure, as of January 1, 2024, will allow to increase production levels and the profits for companies operating in the sector, and consequently the increase in foreign exchange for the country.

He said that the measure was too late, arguing that Angola's membership of OPEC was a disadvantage in attracting new investors, given the production quota established by the organization of 1.110 million barrels of crude oil per day.

The same view is shared by the specialist in Financial Markets, Filipe Bondo, who stressed that the decision will give autonomy to the country and ensure production that can be advantageous.

On the other hand, he expressed his concern about the fragility of the intercontinental protection that OPEC had been conferring on the country in the crude oil market.



It should be recalled that Angola protested, at the beginning of the month, the decision of the 36th ministerial meeting of OPEC+ to allocate a production quota of 1.110 million barrels of crude oil per day, while the Angolan proposal suggested 1.180 million barrels per day.

OPEC is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations, founded on September 15, 1960

in Baghdad by the five founding members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela).

It has been headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria, and as of September 2018, the 14 member countries accounted for 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's proven reserves.

OPEC enjoys a great deal of influence on global oil prices,

previously determined by the so-called 'Seven Sisters' grouping of multinational oil companies

In the framework of the "Operation Christmas 2023", created with the aim to prevent fraud and penalise commercial offenders in Angola, so far were identified 733 offences in the provinces of Luanda, Bengo, Cuanza Norte and Benguela.

The action of the National Au-

thority for Economic Inspection and Food Safety (ANIESA), which started on 15 November of the current year, made it possible also to check 360 commercial establishments in approximately 30 days.

Among the offences identified, the most notable is price gouging on products such as Gulkis milk, chicken thighs, cooking oil and black beans.

ANIESA clarifies, however, that not all price changes are part of speculation, as there are fixed, monitored and free price regimes in Angola.

Fixed prices are limited to goods and services with a major social impact, such as kerosene, piped water, electricity and urban public transport fares.

The system of controlled prices covers products and services linked to the basic food basket, such as sugar, rice, meat, fish, wheat flour, beans, cornflour and cassava flour, milk, pasta, cooking oil, palm oil, bar soap, salt, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, onions, carrots, peppers, cabbage, garlic, lettuce, cassava, bread, bananas, oranges, among other goods.

According to ANIESA, for the monitored price system, traders have up to a 20 percent profit margin to apply to the calculation structure. As a result, whenever a trader changes the price of a particular product, they must reflect this change in the price calculation structure, otherwise they incur the offence of price gouging.

On the other hand, the free price regime is the one established by the market itself, which means that it depends on the demand for and supply of goods and services (market self-regulation).

However, ANIESA is calling on consumers to report traders who are changing prices by contacting 949851565 / 949851271 on whatsapp or email: aniesa@aniesa.gov.ao, on the social networks facebook and instagram as well as the 111 mobile phone number of the National Police's Integrated Public Security Centre.

The government body also warns citizens to verify the expiry date, the date of manufacture and the composition of the products before they are purchased, especially during the festive season, warning consumers to demand for the correct fixed prices of the products, services and the receipt.

The "Operation Christmas 2023" will last until 5 January 2024 across the country and includes major importers, medium-sized companies and distributors of products of most consumers of the basic basket. The data of this initiative presented so far are still preliminary, and the final results will be known at the end of the operation.

Meanwhile, ANIESA has scheduled a press conference for Tuesday, in Luanda Province, with the aim of providing more information and clarifications.



Changing the engine offshore

More than ten thousand illegal foreigners expelled from Cabinda

CABINDA

A Total of 10,861 illegal foreign citizens, who resided in an irregular migratory situation in the province of Cabinda, were expelled to their countries during the current year.

Of this number, 96 percent are citizens of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), followed by Congolese from Brazzaville and West Africans.

The police commander in Cabinda, commissioner Francisco Noticia, said, this Wednesday, in his annual report that this number tends to decrease, without providing comparative data to the previous period, highlighting that it is the result of joint operational actions by the defence forces and security in combating illegal immigration and border violations of illegal foreigners who at all costs try to reach the cities and towns of the province.

He also highlighted that, during the year, coordinated actions were also carried out to raise awareness among the foreign population, through the dissemination of informative booklets that allowed 8,900 illegal foreigners from the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo to voluntarily leave the province.

Francisco Noticia referred to the perpetrators of this evil, indicating that they are not only people with low economic conditions, but also individuals from various social strata, who act as reception committees and shelters for illegals for profit, defying the assumptions of Law 2/07 of August 31st, on the Legal Regime of Foreigners in the national territory.

To stop this flow, Francisco Noticia urged its personnel, especially from the Migration and Foreigners Service (SME) and the Border

Guard Police, (PGF), to commit to combating illegal immigration.

"We have to be a constant with an irreversible and exemplary attitude in the fight against illegal immigration", he urged.

The province of Cabinda shares land, river and maritime borders to the North with the Republic of Congo (RC) and to the Northeast, Southeast and South with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Its international border posts are Massabi (Cacongo), to the north, with the Republic of Congo (RC), and to the south, Yema, with the DRC.

It also has crossing points in the towns of Zenza do Lucula, Chiobo (Mbaka Kossi), Tendequela and Yabi, in the south of Cabinda, and Necuto, Miconje in the municipalities of North, Buco-Zau and Belize. PL/SC/CF

Organic farming, environmental care, a top priority in agriculture colleges

By **Getrude Mbago**

ORGANIC farming which for many years has been termed as a type of agriculture which has no value or profit, is now turning to be a golden potential to many communities.

Organisations, companies, stakeholders and the government are currently putting efforts to promote organic farming due to its marvelous potential in human health, soil and the environment.

With support of the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) under the Curriculum Implementation Support for Training Institutes (CISTI) which is executed in close collaboration with the government in 29 agricultural institutes (ATIs) in the country, a number of people, students and tutors have changed their mindsets and are currently investing in conservation organic.

Eng Swertbert Yakusola, training coordinator at Mamre Agriculture and Livestock College owned by the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Njombe, in Wanging'ombe District said organic farming knowledge is now becoming wider and important not only in the school community but farmers in surrounding villages.

He said in these days where the World has greatly changed in terms of technology and other innovations, it was hard to believe that someone can practice organic farming and still reap profit from it but it is true that there are some people who are reaping big from it.

"When SAT introduced us to or-

ganic farming through CISTI, we thought that it could be hard to inject, fortunately, since we started training students and practicing it practically, we have attracted a lot of farmers in the surrounding villages to come to learn after witnessing the quality and tasteful products that we are producing," he said.

Eng Yakusola said the journey started in 2020, when SAT took a number of tutors and a garden attendant to a number of training which were also conducted in phases to educate them on changes of curriculum which focuses on stimulating agro-ecological practices and entrepreneurship in agricultural colleges.

"From there, the college's staff changed and started to work hard to ensure that we produce competent graduates who will be able to add value in the agriculture sector while conserving the environment, our garden attendants and farm managers spent their time in fields transforming from the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides to organically produced fertilizers and have been performing well to date," he explained.

Apart from receiving training from SAT, the college also got a new screen house which will facilitate production of various horticultural products organically.

"We have been producing a lot of products such as vegetables and fruits which are farmed and taken care using organic fertilizers, boosters and pesticides, apart from producing tasteful products which are loved by many from the college and surrounding society, the college has



Nicholous Anthony, a student at MAMRE Agriculture and Livestock College shows a well organically grown vanilla.

been also producing organic fertilizers selling it to farmers," he said.

Agatha Mng'ong'o, a horticulture tutor at Mamre said that the project has greatly helped her to improve teaching while increasing production of quality and organically produced horticulture products.

She said that through the CISTI project, tutors have received certificates of Competency-Based Education Training (CBET) having best

teaching practices.

"I also grow vegetables at home, they are so tasty, my neighbours knocking at home seeking for veggies, I also use my free time to teach them how to grow them in their houses," she said.

Cesilia Mbwala, a tutor at the college said that through CISTI, tutors and students are benefiting with new skills and knowledge to support them to conduct sustainable organic

farming.

"In the past, the vegetable production yield was very poor and sometimes total loss caused by pests and diseases; high usage of synthetic pesticides to control pests and diseases increasing the cost of production and long term effects to workers and consumers," she said.

Enock Ng'ande, garden attendant at Mamre said the project hasn't only ended reviewing curriculum to

incorporate organic farming but also broadened the understanding of staff, students and farmers on the importance of organic farming.

"I am one of the beneficiaries of the implementation of the project because I attended training on organic farming in Morogoro four times, and now I have a broader understanding on its importance and I am practicing it here at the college but also home," Mamba said recently when journalists visited the college to witness progress of the CISTI project.

The project's purpose is to support public and private training institutions to produce graduates who are in line with the needs of the country through successfully integrating and implementing organic agriculture, gender, environmental management, cooperatives and communication skills through the new training curriculum for agriculture on certificate and diploma levels.

Supported by LED-Liechtenstein Development Service and coordinated by the government, the project has helped integrate several areas such as organic agriculture, gender, environmental management, cooperatives and communication skills that is based on the new training curriculum for agriculture at certificate and diploma levels.

The long-term impact goal of the CISTI project is to have competent technical personnel who work effectively to meet the demand of Tanzania's agriculture sector, increase climate resilience and strengthen livelihoods of small holder farmers, thus alleviating poverty and food insecurity for sustainable development.

WFP launches new operating model for distribution of food to vulnerable Ethiopians

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is activating its revamped approach to operations in Ethiopia, a major step to reach 3.2 million people with food assistance for the first time since June 2023.

WFP food aid was suspended nationwide following reports of large-scale diversions earlier this year.

This is the culmination of a complete evaluation and reset of WFP operations in Ethiopia focused on transparency, evidence, and operational independence.

A statement by WFP said the new approach is underpinned by a robust set of safeguards and controls that have been extensively tested which include, using clear criteria to identify and digitally register the most vulnerable households and people, working with local communities to verify those in greatest need, reinforced commodity tracking to follow food movements from warehouses to beneficiaries and increased monitoring and community feedback and reporting mechanisms that will unearth and quickly escalate potential misuse of food aid.

Cindy McCain, WFP Executive Director said: "WFP teams and our partners have been working around the clock to get to this point. This approach, supported by both the Government and partners, sets a new standard for humanitarian assistance in the country. We are now fully focused on getting food aid into the hands of Ethiopians who have gone too long without it."

Following the success of limited-scale distributions carried out in Ethiopia's Tigray region to test the new systems, WFP will roll out food distributions for drought- and conflict-affected people in Afar, Amhara, Somali, and Tigray regions.

Food assistance will then expand to more of the most vulnerable populations once the new controls and measures are implemented at the regional level.

Last month, WFP resumed food assistance to nearly 900,000 refugees in camps across five regions in the country, after making major reforms to refugee programmes.

Ethiopia hosts refugees mostly from Somalia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, as well as about 35,000 people who have fled from Sudan in recent months - and WFP works closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other partners to provide food and other support.

While initially drawing upon in-country food stocks, WFP urgently needs \$178 million to keep reaching and delivering food assistance to the most vulnerable people in Ethiopia until April 2024.



TASAF interventions in Njombe Region help to improve learning environment in primary schools

By **Felister Peter**

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) has been doing various interventions aimed at improving the learning environment at different primary schools in Njombe Region.

The interventions include construction of classrooms, teachers' offices and toilets. Such improvements have contributed to motivate pupils to go to school as well as reducing congestion in classrooms.

At the Itunduma primary school in Mtwango ward, Njombe District, absenteeism is now an history as children enjoy learning in a conducive environment following construction of three classrooms at cost of 66m/- from TASAF.

Itunduma primary school Head Teacher, Sara Mkini, told visiting journalists that the classroom construction project implemented by TASAF in Itunduma village was proposed by villagers for purposes of reducing pupil's congestion in classrooms.

She said that previously, a classroom was accommodating over 100 pupils, thus becoming difficult for them to concentrate on their studies.

"We have 629 pupils, of whom 320 are boys and 309 girls. We had a shortage of six classrooms, but after this support from TASAF, we only need three more classrooms," said the Head Teacher as she appeals to other stakeholders to also assist in construction of a dining hall because pupils find it difficult to eat along corridors during rains.

Itunduma Village Executive Officer, Tabia Mkonkola said that villagers suggested the project and supported by providing construction materials including sand and bricks.

"Villagers are happy with the project and are ready to protect and maintain the buildings so that more pupils can benefit from the constructed classrooms," said Mkonkola.

Secretary of the Community Management Committee in Itunduma village, Shaban Lukelema said that villagers proposed two projects including construction of three classrooms and toilets.

"We received more than 60m/- from the central government; we started implementing the project last year and we expected to complete it on April 30, 2023, but due to challenges including rains that damaged

roads, it was difficult to transport construction materials," he said.

In Chalowe village, Igwachanya ward, Wanging'ombe District, Njombe Region, TASAF has provided 268m/- for construction of an English medium primary school.

Chalowe Village Executive Officer, Felister Mwakifwamba acknowledged the support from TASAF saying it has largely contributed in ensuring that the set goals are achieved.

According to Mwakifwamba, villagers contributed 10 percent through direct participation in construction activities.

"We wanted to have an English medium primary school because parents are paying a lot of money (fees) for their children enrolled at private schools. With this school, our children will no longer go to Njombe town and other regions for studies," said the VEO, adding the school project also includes construction of an office, two dormitories and six toilets.

She said that presence of the school will help stimulate development in the education sector as low-income earners will manage to take their children to the school.

"We are thankful to President Samia Suruhu Hassan for providing us with funds for implementation of the school project. Its completion would bring changes in the education sector," she added.

Some of the villagers of Chalowe have thanked the government for providing them with money for the construction of the school.

One of the villagers, Flora Daudi commended TASAF for supporting construction of the school saying villagers are anxiously waiting for its completion.

"We were in need of an English medium primary school because most of us are low-income earners and cannot afford to take our children to private schools," said Daudi.

Another villager, Rehema Jackson said: "TASAF has helped to improve her welfare through its conditional cash transfer plan. She said the monies provided have enabled her to establish small businesses, thus generate an income.

TASAF Coordinator in Njombe Region, Mussa Selemani said that since the region started to implement the TASAF III there have been notable

improvements in provision of social services including the health sectors where dispensaries and doctors' houses have been constructed.

Selemani, who is an economist at Regional Commissioner's office, said they started to implement the TASAF III in 2015, adding that they have so far registered 25,865 households as beneficiaries under the conditional cash transfer plan.

Selemani added that under the Tanzania Poverty Reduction Programme (TPRP) which is part of the TASAF III, Njombe Region is implementing the projects that includes, income generating activities, public works programme and targeting infrastructure.

He said they are also supporting youth from registered families whereas they are provided with technical education. He said the youth are trained for between one and six months at Ulembe FDC, Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) in Makete and Njombe as well as Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO)-Njombe.

A total of 35 young people have so far benefitted with the training, he added.

Beyond the Wike-Fubara feud

By Jideofor Adibe

THE current feud in Rivers State could further hurt the image of President Bola Tinubu, who has not sufficiently recovered from the controversies that dogged his candidacy during and after the elections.

...there are fears that the audacity with which Wike is going after Fubara so soon after the elections may be a signpost of the return of the more crude form of godfatherism, which characterised the early years of this cycle of liberal democracy in the country (1999-2007). That form of godfatherism, which can best be described as 'machine politics', is a form of politics characterised by tight organisation and a strong centralised leadership, typically in the form of a "boss"...

The feud between former governor of Rivers State and current Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, and Governor Siminalayi Fubara has dominated the headlines over the past couple of weeks, with no solution in sight. The political dogfight has led to moves to impeach Governor Fubara, the decamping of 27 PDP members of the state legislature to APC and the consequent declaration of their seats vacant by a factional Speaker of the State House of Assembly loyal to Governor Fubara, the demolition of the State House of Assembly complex, and fears that the conflict is increasingly assuming an ethnic dimension. Attempts by President Tinubu to mediate in the conflict have failed to douse the tension.

There are several issues raised by the Wike-Fubara political dogfight:

One, keen observers of Rivers State politics do not feel surprised at the pernicious falling out between Nyesom Wike and his political godson, Siminalayi Fubara. In fact what is happening between Wike and Fubara seems to be part of the DNA of Rivers State's politics, especially in the relationship between political godfathers and godsons in the state where, since 1999, political godsons have always succeeded in running their erstwhile political godfathers out of town. For instance Dr Peter Odili, the first civilian governor of Rivers State in this current cycle of liberal democracy, managed to neutralise his erstwhile godfather, the late Harry Marshall, just as he was driven out of town after his tenure by Rotimi Amaechi, who was his political godson. Nyesom Wike, an erstwhile chief of staff and political enforcer for Rotimi Amaechi, also fought and neutralised Amaechi, his former political godfather, in a bitter feud that has lingered for over eight years.

Another seeming trait in the DNA of Rivers politics is that all the governors of the State since 1999 (apart from Celestine Omehia who had a brief rule from 29 May 2007 to 25 October 2007) nursed the ambition of being president of the country and



Siminalayi Fubara (right)

spent lavishly to achieve that ambition.

Two, strictly speaking, the issue of godfatherism (or 'my oga at the top' phenomenon) is not alien to the various indigenous cultures in the country. While the terminology in our various indigenous languages will be coterminous with a 'mentor' or 'guardian', in Nigerian politics it is about power brokers, a patron-client and transactional relationship, in which the main goal is for both the client and the patron to use each other to attain selfish goals that have little to do with the general societal good. Like any business deal, political godfathers invest in their 'godsons', deliver their own part of the bargain (usually elective or appointive offices) and expect returns on investment. Across the country, political godfather versus godson feud has hardly favoured the godfather. The epic godfather versus godson dogfights since 1999 include those involving Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu State and his political godfather, Senator Jim Nwobodo; Governor Mala Kachallah of Borno State and his godfather, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff (popularly known as 'SAS'); Governor Chris Ngige and his political godfather, Andy Uba in Anambra State; Governor Willie Obiano and his political godfather, Peter Obi, in Anambra State; former Governor Rauf Aregbesola and his political godson, Gboyega Oyetola, in Osun State; Governor Babatunde Fashola and his political godfa-

ther, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (who also stopped another political godson, Akinwunmi Ambode from getting a second term in Lagos State); former Governor Godswill Akpabio and his political godson, Emmanuel Udom; and Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia State and his former godson, Theodore Orji.

Also, there have been the contentions between Chimaroke Nnamani and his political godson, Sullivan Chime, in Enugu State; Rabiu Kwankwaso and his former political protégé, Abdul-lahi Ganduje, in Kano State; Adams Oshiomhole and his former political godson, Godwin Obaseki, in Edo State; former Governor Wamakko and his former political boy, Aminu Tambuwal, in Sokoto State; former Governor Liyel Imoke and his former political scion, Ben Ayade, in Cross Rivers State; former Governor George Akume and his political godson, Gabriel Suswam, in Benue State; and the late Governor Mbadinuju and his political godfather, Emeka Offor, in Anambra State. With the exception of Tinubu in Lagos, nearly all the other fights between political godfathers and political godson ended in favour of the latter. Of course, some political godfathers who could not remove their 'recalcitrant' political godsons outright, aligned with other forces either to thwart their former scion's second term ambitions or to get them removed through election petition tribunals.

Having used the networks he

created as godfather of Lagos politics to expand his influence beyond Lagos to some other parts of the country and eventually to become the president of Nigeria, it is possible that some ambitious politicians may be thinking of replicating the Tinubu template in their domain, with the hope of using it to also achieve national political power. If this assumption is correct, we may likely see an increasing 'mafianisation' of Nigerian politics...

Given that the godfather versus godson political dogfight is almost inevitable, and that the godson as governor almost always wins, why do people still want to play the role of godfathers? In particular why will governors who are about to conclude their tenures be hell bent on selecting and installing successors, when the history of the relationship between the political godfather and the political godson rarely favours the former after the election? One possible explanation is that governors concluding their tenure must have figured out that it may be riskier for someone they did not anoint or install to succeed them, than someone they handpicked turning against them with time. The short term benefits of installing a successor by a departing governor may include covering the backside of the departing governor from anti-graft agencies like the EFCC or giving such a governor at least temporary relief from damaging revelations.

Three, there are fears that the

audacity with which Wike is going after Fubara so soon after the elections may be a signpost of the return of the more crude form of godfatherism, which characterised the early years of this cycle of liberal democracy in the country (1999-2007). That form of godfatherism, which can best be described as 'machine politics', is a form of politics characterised by tight organisation and a strong centralised leadership, typically in the form of a "boss", with the organisation/network dominating the landscape, mafia-style.

Tinubu is arguably Nigeria's most successful political godfather, having been responsible for choosing all the governors of Lagos State since he completed his tenure as governor in 2007, and having also played a significant role in the emergence of most of the governors in the South-west and beyond. Having used the networks he created as godfather of Lagos politics to expand his influence beyond Lagos to some other parts of the country and eventually to become the president of Nigeria, it is possible that some ambitious politicians may be thinking of replicating the Tinubu template in their domain, with the hope of using it to also achieve national political power. If this assumption is correct, we may likely see an increasing 'mafianisation' of Nigerian politics by moneybags and former political office holders, especially former governors, as the new groups compete for influence and networks in their domains and be-

yond.

...the current feud in Rivers State could further hurt the image of President Tinubu, who has not sufficiently recovered from the controversies that dogged his candidacy during and after the elections. Given the controversy over the role of Wike in the electoral umpire's declaration that Tinubu won Rivers State, popular grapevine and social media talks is that Wike was given the powerful FCT ministry not just to compensate him for his role in Tinubu's winning of the last election but also...

Four, what is the impact of godfatherism in Nigerian politics? Besides the possible 'mafianisation' of Nigerian politics and all it portends, the cost of 'oiling' the structure of the political godfather (usually by the political godson's thieving of state resources), could be prohibitive and undermining of development efforts. Similarly, since political godfathers are people who not only have tremendous resources to fund elections but also folks who claim to know how to 'win' elections, Nigerian-style, and how to manage the violence that often attends electoral competition in the country, the seeming return of 'machine politics' could accelerate the current alienation of citizens from the state and its politics. It will also further discourage otherwise competent professionals from getting involved in elective offices.

Five, the current feud in Rivers State could further hurt the image of President Tinubu, who has not sufficiently recovered from the controversies that dogged his candidacy during and after the elections. Given the controversy over the role of Wike in the electoral umpire's declaration that Tinubu won Rivers State, popular grapevine and social media talks is that Wike was given the powerful FCT ministry not just to compensate him for his role in Tinubu's winning of the last election but also to ensure that he uses the Rivers State template to ensure that the APC wins the FCT in 2027 (to avoid the embarrassment of not winning or securing 25 per cent of the votes in the FCT, which was one of the grounds of the petitions against him at the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal). It is also believed that the Tinubu government is tacitly supporting his bid to retain the control of the political structures of both the PDP and the APC in Rivers State for the same reason. All these are likely to derogate from the already narrow legitimacy base of the president, especially if the current hardship persists and the myth about his competence continues to wane.

Jideofor Adibe is a professor of Political Science and International Relations at Nasarawa State University, Keffi and Extraordinary Professor of Government Studies at North Western University, Mafikeng South Africa. He is also the founder of Adonis & Abbey Publishers and can be reached at 0705 807 8841 (Text or WhatsApp only).

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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

Market cheers as social security fund widens investment range

YIWU

WITH the expansion in the national social security fund's investment range, more long-term capital will be available in the A-share market, facilitating the development of key industries and aiding China's high-quality economic growth, officials and experts said.

The National Council for Social Security Fund, the managing authority, is stepping up efforts to participate in the non-public offerings of listed companies as a strategic investor. This will inject long-term capital into the market, Wang Zhibin, director of the equity management department of the NCSF, said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on Thursday.

According to experts at brokerage firm SDIC Securities, bringing in a strategic investor for non-public offerings of listed companies can be seen as private placement in the primary market. The national social security fund, which is both able and willing to hold a large number of shares of public companies for the longer term, will bring in more capital to facilitate the technology advancement, innovation and market exploration of the companies, they said.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index gained 1.38 percent to touch 2954.70 points on Thursday, while the Shenzhen Component Index jumped 2.71 percent to 9441.05 points following the NCSF announcement. The technology-focused ChiNext in Shenzhen surged 3.85 percent. Photovoltaic companies led the Thursday rally by spiking 9.85 percent on average.

The northbound capital, the value that overseas investors buy into the A-share market via the stock connect program linking the Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong bourses, reported a net purchase of 13.5 billion yuan (\$1.9 billion), the highest daily



A woman buys lanterns at the Yiwu International Trade Market in Yiwu, East China's Zhejiang province.

net purchase in five months.

On Dec 6, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security had released the draft measures for the administration of domestic investments of the national social security fund, which will be open for public opinion till Jan 5.

According to the measures, stocks and equity assets can account for a maximum 40 percent and 30 percent, respectively, in the national social security fund's investment

portfolio, said Yang Delong, chief economist of First Seafont Fund. This will give the national security fund, which is a long-term investment by nature, more flexibility, boost confidence of investors and stabilize market performance, he added.

Liu Youhua, a senior researcher from private equity market tracker Simuwang.com, said the national social security fund is more inclined toward investing in companies with stable long-term growth

prospects. Therefore, A-share computer, biomedicine and food and beverage companies may benefit more from the new measures, he said.

More investment will be directed to key technologies, industrial and supply chain stability, food and energy security, strategic emerging industries, green and low-carbon transformation and digital economy as the maximum investment ratio of equity assets in the national social security fund will be elevated according to the new

measures, said Wang of NCSF.

By including eligible direct equity investment, industrial funds and venture capital as investment targets, more long-term capital will be created to facilitate scientific and technological innovation as well as the construction of a modern industrial system, he said.

Zhao Jun, head of NCSF's asset allocation and research department, said that relatively novel products gaining increasing market attention, such as the infrastructure real estate investment trusts, as well as hedging tools such as stock index futures, government bond futures and stock option futures, have also been included.

The enriched portfolio will help diversify the fund's investment and risks, eventually optimizing the fund's overall returns, said Zhao.

According to the Central Financial Work Conference held in October, the capital market should be further invigorated, and this can be achieved with more diversified equity financing and an optimized overall financing structure.

Nie Haijun, director of the NCSF's legal and compliance department, said the current management regulations of the national social security fund have been in place for more than a decade, and are inadequate to address the needs of the capital market now. The forward-looking institutional design in the new measures will help preserve and increase the value of the fund by advancing the standardized and regulated operation of the capital, he said.

According to market tracker Wind Info, the national social security fund has actively adjusted its investments between Oct 17 and Dec 19, increasing its exposure to A-share companies specializing in computers, telecommunications and equipment manufacturing.

ZA Bank rolls out tax loan, offers cash rewards

HONG KONG

ZA Bank has rolled out a tax loan, offering up to a 60 month-tenor as well as cash rewards.

Until 31 January, ZA Bank users who apply for a tax season loan with the promo code "TAX-LOAN", and who successfully apply for a tax loan of HK\$200,000 or above with a 24-month tenor or longer, will get HK\$2,800 in cash rewards after a 7-day cooling-off period.

Tax loan customers who choose to make ZA Bank their payroll account can earn up to HK\$100 per month, or a maximum of HK\$1,200 in total, for 12 consecutive months.

ZA Bank promises a speedy approval process for the tax loan, with existing users getting a result in as fast as 30 seconds, and new users possibly as fast as 90 seconds.

For unsuccessful loan applicants, users can still receive a reward of HK\$188, so long as they make the application before 31 January 2024 and maintain a valid and active ZA Bank account.

The bank has already announced plans to roll out stock trading services in the US.

This follows after the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) has lifted the previous conditions on the bank's license registration of Type 1 (dealing in securities), under which ZA Bank can only carry on business of dealing in collective investment schemes.

With this ZA Bank users will soon access a broader range of investment opportunities, from stocks and ETFs to ADRs in the US markets, in their ZA Bank app.

ZA Bank CEO Ronald Lu expressed the bank's excitement for their upcoming plans.

"We are excited to add US stock trading services to our product suite in due course. With exposure to the world's largest stock market in terms of capitalization, users can capture the growth potential in some of the most valuable and influential companies across the globe," Lu said.



Looking at Rwanda's 2023 mineral returns

KIGALI

MINERAL export earnings from January to September 2023 totalled \$851.6 million (approx. Rwf1.6 trillion), up from \$584.8 million (approx. Rwf731.24 billion) in the same period of 2022, representing a growth of 45.6 per cent, a report by Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) has indicated.

The government targets \$1.5 billion (approx. Rwf1.8 trillion) in annual mineral export revenues by 2024.

The nine months means three quarters among four of 2023. The figures for the fourth quarter will be released towards the end of January 2024, according to the board.

The mineral export revenues for the first quarter of 2023, covering the period from January to March generated \$247.4 million (approx. Rwf309.43 billion) from 5,925,199 kilogrammes.

Cassiterite generated 316,093 kilogrammes worth \$5.4 million (approx. Rwf6.7 billion) in January, 320,555 kilogrammes worth \$5.3 million (approx. Rwf6.5 billion) in February, and 363,701 kilogrammes worth \$5.9 million (approx. Rwf7.3 billion) in March.

Coltan has demonstrated a substantial increase in export revenues, reaching 124,514 kilogrammes worth \$5.9 million (approx. Rwf7.3 billion) in January, and 138,205 kilogrammes worth \$6.9 million (approx. Rwf8.6 billion) in February, and 213,065 kilogrammes worth \$11.4 million (approx. Rwf14.2 billion) in March.

Wolfram generated 129,407 kilogrammes worth \$1.7 million (approx. Rwf2.1 billion) in January, 211,449 kilogrammes worth \$2.9 million (approx. Rwf3.6 billion) in February, and 231,844 kilogrammes



Workers at LuNa Smelter mining factory, the sole producer and exporter of tin in both Eastern and Central Africa in Gasabo district in Kigali.

worth \$3.2 million (approx. Rwf4 billion) in March.

Gold generated 870 kilogrammes worth \$53.2 million (approx. Rwf66.5 billion) in January, 745 kilogrammes worth \$46.5 million (approx. Rwf58.1 billion) in February, and 1,465 kilogrammes worth \$90 million (approx. Rwf112.5 billion) in March. Other minerals contributed 2,545,274 kilogrammes worth \$5.1 million (approx. Rwf6.3 billion) in January, 500,971 kilogrammes worth \$872,302 (approx. Rwf1 bil-

lion) in February, and 827,041 kilogrammes worth \$2.2 million (approx. Rwf2.7 billion) in March.

From April to June 2023, Rwanda exported 6,638,538 kilogrammes worth \$362 million (approx. Rwf452.8 billion).

Gold generated \$97.5 million (approx. Rwf121.9 billion) in April, \$99 million in May (approx. Rwf123.8 billion), and \$106 million (approx. Rwf132.5 billion) in June.

Cassiterite generated \$6.2 million (approx. Rwf7.7 billion) in April,

\$5.2 million (approx. Rwf6.5 billion) in May and \$7.4 million (approx. Rwf9.2 billion) in June

Coltan generated \$6.2 million (approx. Rwf7.7 billion) in April \$9.5 million (approx. Rwf11.8 billion) in May, and \$11.9 million (approx. Rwf14.8 billion) in June.

Wolfram generated \$1.5 million (approx. Rwf1.8 billion) in April, \$3.3 million (approx. Rwf4.1 billion) in May and \$3.5 million (approx. Rwf4.3 billion) in June.

The drop in mineral prices in the

third quarter is primarily due to two factors according to the mining board.

"These include an oversupply of commodities and a decrease in demand. The oversupply was caused by a period of high prices, which encouraged producers to increase production."

However, the board noted, this led to a build-up of inventory, which eventually drove prices down.

The decrease in demand is largely due to the global economic recession. As industries cut back production, they are purchasing fewer minerals. This has further pressured prices to fall.

"Many mineral trading suppliers do not have supply contracts, and those who do have contracts are experiencing delayed payments from buyers. This is further squeezing the profitability of the sector and contributing to the downward pressure on prices," reads part of the report.

Over the past three months, gold prices have been unfavourable, leading gold dealers to hold onto their stock until prices stabilise.

Now, with the improvement in gold prices, there has been an increase in gold exports.

Due to ongoing conflicts, many businesses are opting to maintain their wealth in gold reserves. As a result, gold prices are projected to continue their upward trend.

On November 28, the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) and Trinity Metals Group, launched a lithium exploration project worth Rwf3 billion beneath the rolling hills of Musha sector, Rwamagana District.

After two years of negotiations, three locally registered mining companies have merged to create the largest mining firm in the country, Trinity Metals Group.

The merger is expected to significantly scale up the production of tin, tantalite, and tungsten minerals

in Rwanda.

The merger involves Rutongo Mines Ltd, Eurotrade International Ltd, and Piran Rwanda Ltd, which are already mining the three minerals as well as the exploration of lithium.

The new firm announced it would be investing up to \$30m (approx. Rwf37bn) which will be used to open new mining concessions, purchase mining equipment and improve infrastructure, among others.

Rwanda is looking for investment to add value (processing) to minerals mined in the country. The country presents opportunities to establish other processing plants such as tungsten, lithium, and gemstones cutting and polishing and other mineral processing.

At least \$50 million (approx. Rwf62 billion) is needed to establish other processing plants. RDB noted that there are currently 1,439,602 tonnes of tin, tantalum, and tungsten (3Ts) reserves for a few recently explored sites showing the potential for value addition.

Rwanda is one of the world's largest producers of tin, tantalum, and tungsten (3Ts).

In only a few recently mapped sites, RDB added, there are also 22 tonnes of gold reserves as well as 110,633,610 tonnes of rare earth minerals, lithium, beryllium, uranium, and iron ore.

Rwanda's mineral reserves present an economic potential of \$150 billion (approx. Rwf186 trillion) that can be realised by employing modern exploration and exploitation techniques.

An inventory carried out by the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) has revealed that there are over 1,200 sources of industrial minerals and quarries for construction materials in Kigali City, satellite cities, and secondary cities, calling for proper management of the resources while developing cities master plans.

Alibaba forecasts 2024 emerging trends of digital foreign trading

HANGZHOU

EIGHT emerging trends in digital foreign trade for 2024 were outlined in a new report released by Alibaba.com, Chinese tech heavyweight Alibaba Group's business-to-business platform that helps facilitate foreign trade, on Dec 27.

The report identifies new energy vehicles, niche sports, smart hardware, home automation, green and eco-friendly products, green energy equipment, hardware tools, and flexible production of small machinery as the top trends.

The rankings also highlight new energy, green and eco-friendly, personalization, and smart as the four keywords driving said trends. Brand substitution, enjoying oneself at home, green and eco-friendly, and cutting-edge technology emerged as major themes for overseas consumers throughout the year.

In the new energy sector, Chinese NEVs are surging ahead in the global market, having achieved remarkable progress in the industrial chain and technology. Chinese domestic brands now boast product capabilities surpassing those of traditional giants in Europe and the United States.

According to the report, sales of NEVs manufactured in China have seen a year-on-year growth of 97 percent. New energy passenger cars, golf carts, electric motorcycles, and electric tricycles are expected to be popular product categories in 2024.

In terms of personalization, overseas consumers have driven niche sports to the forefront, turning pickleball, baseball, and badminton into international favorites. With pickleball designated as a demonstration sport for the 2024 Paris Olympics, sales of rackets have surged by 209 percent. Emerging outdoor leisure products related to camping and mountaineering have also maintained strong sales over the past two years.

The report also shows that wearable devices, virtual reality glasses, smart speakers, and pet-related products have seen growth rates of over 30 percent.

Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province, was recognized as the most livable city in China at the 2023 China Happy City Forum organized by the Oriental Outlook magazine on Nov 24.

The Hangzhou districts of Fuyang,



A man shakes a bionic hand at the second Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, East China's Zhejiang province.

Gongshu, and Lin'an were honored as the most livable urban areas. This marks the 17th year that Hangzhou has received the honorary title.

Hangzhou integrates natural scenery with cultural landscapes, creating a juxtaposition of economic prosperity and human development.

The views in Hangzhou feature West Lake, Qiantang River, Tianmu Mountain, and Jiangnan-style water towns. Behind the vibrant scenery is the city's environmental conservation efforts, adhering to the philosophy that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets".

Moreover, Hangzhou, with its three UNESCO World Heritage sites and 52 museums, has emerged as a cultural hub with landmarks like the Hangzhou branch of the China National Archives of Publications and Culture and the Deshou Palace Museum.

The recent Asian Games were not just any sporting event, they were also a cultural feast, conveying a message of shared understanding and cultural richness deeply rooted in Hangzhou. After the Games, major events like the Chinese Drama Festival and Cultural and Creative

Industry Expo have followed suit, extending Hangzhou's culture to even more distant places.

Hangzhou is a city steeped in history and culture, coupled with an international flair and technological sophistication. It has been selected as the "most attractive Chinese city for foreign talent" for 13 years in a row and had the highest number of entries among the "Top 500 Private Enterprises" for 21 years in a row. It is a city of innovation and vitality that continues to achieve glory.

As of Dec 11, Zhejiang province's airports have achieved a record-breaking yearly passenger throughput of 70.24 million. According to current data projections, Hangzhou International Airport's passenger throughput is expected to exceed 40 million by the end of this year, propelling it back into the ranks of the world's busiest airports.

Leveraging the opportunities brought about by the Asian Games, Hangzhou Airport opened the first

fifth freedom passenger route in Zhejiang province this year, and its annual inbound and outbound passenger throughput reached 2.21 million as of November.

"The airport is not only a landmark building in Hangzhou but also the city's window to the world," said a director at the airport. "In the post-Asian Games era, we will continue to make the most of the Games, focusing on enhancing its international hub capabilities."

The number of international and regional flights has increased from 54 flights per week at the beginning of the year to 216 flights per week. The number of flights outside Asia has reached nearly five times that of the beginning of the year.

The airport's cargo business has also continued to increase this year. Statistics show that the cumulative cargo and mail throughput from January to November reached 315,100 metric tons, a year-on-year increase of 15.47 percent, making it one of only three airports among China's top 10 airports to register positive growth in cargo throughput.

"As the provincial capital, with manufacturing clients worldwide and cross-border e-commerce serving the global market, Hangzhou's aviation logistics has broad development prospects," said a director at the airport.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

ITV

SATURDAY 30 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjue 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: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 31 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjue zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mch-ezo Supa Jackpot
21:40 Mjue Zaidi
22:20 Kipindi maalum: ITV Mwisho wa mwaka 2023

TUESDAY 2 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
11:00 Chetu ni chetu
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii
13:00 Jungu Kuu
13:30 Shikabamba
14:00 Igizo rpt: Slay Queen
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema

WEDNESDAY 3 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Filimbi rpt
11:00 Kipindi maalum: ITV Mwisho wa mwaka 2023 rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Bundesliga na DW rpt
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
14:00 Kipindi maalum: NSSF rpt
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Jarida la wanawake
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Aibu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Ripoti maalum:
22:00 Ripoti maalum:
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Music: The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 4 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu

FRIDAY 5 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:30 Soap rpt: In Love with Ramon
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
11:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi housing
11:20 Jagina
11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama
14:30 DW: Afrimaxx rpt
15:00 Meza huru:
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kiislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Top ten
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 The Base
00:00 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 6 Jan

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjue 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: In Love with Ramon rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 7 Jan

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
11:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjue zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Slay Queen
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mch-ezo Supa Jackpot
21:40 Mjue Zaidi
22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera



Unemployment rate remains at 2.9 percent

HONG KONG

THE jobless rate for the September to November period clocked in at 2.9 percent, unchanged from the August to October record.

Based on the data from the Census & Statistics Department (C&SD), the total number of unemployed people from August to October was 112,400, 4,700 less than the preceding period.

Secretary for Labour & Welfare Chris Sun said the unemployment rates of various sectors stayed low from September to November, mostly showing only small changes compared with the preceding three-

month period.

From September to November, there were 36,600 underemployed individuals, translating to a rate of 1%, the same as the preceding three-month period.

Meanwhile, total employment decreased by 4,700 to 3,708,700, and the labour force dropped by 8,100 to 3,821,100.

Sun said that whilst the still unfavourable external environment might have some negative effects, the expected further recovery of inbound tourism and private consumption will continue to underpin labour demand.

EU, Lithuania not complying with agreements on transit of goods to Russia, says diplomat

MOSCOW

GROWING traffic jams at crossings on the Russian-Lithuanian border, caused by Vilnius' obstruction, ultimately stem from the inability of Lithuania and the EU to comply with existing agreements on the transit of goods, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a commentary.

"As a result of Lithuania's tightening of customs controls, quotas for freight rail transport and restrictions on passenger traffic, severe traffic congestion is emerging on the Russian-Lithuanian border. We consider the current situation as the [result of] Vilnius and Brussels' inability to comply with the agreements recorded in the joint statements of the Russian Federation and the European Union in 2002 and 2004," the diplomat noted.

As Zakharova indicated, Moscow will continue to consistently strive for the fulfillment by Lithuania and the European Union of their existing international legal and political obligations, as set forth in these documents.

The diplomat recalled that paragraph 9 of the Joint Statement on EU enlargement and Russia-EU relations dated April 27, 2004 "acknowledges the unique situation of the Kaliningrad Region, a part of the Russian Federation."

"In this regard, paragraph 10 of this document confirms the application of the principle of freedom of transit of goods," as well as "an easy and simple customs procedure for the transit of goods to and from Kaliningrad by road and rail," Zakharova noted in her commentary.

Agencies

EAM Jaishankar visits school named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Russia's St Petersburg

ST PETERSBURG

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a visit to Russia, shared his delight as he visited the school named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in St. Petersburg.

He emphasised that Rabindranath Tagore's love for India was truly heart-touching and their passion for India was truly moving.

Sharing on his social media X, Jaishankar stated, "It was a great pleasure to visit the school named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Ji, #653 in St. Petersburg. His love for India was truly heart touching. See for yourself. Delighted to visit the School #653 named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in St. Petersburg. Their passion for India was truly moving. See for yourself."

EAM Jaishankar also shared a video glimpse of his visit to the school, where all dressed-up students were seen welcoming him by waving India and Russia flags.

Further, as he entered, the students greeted him with sweets.

The students also gave a beautiful dance performance, as shown in the video posted by Jaishankar.

Later, he was seen addressing the

students and other people present at the school.

The EAM is on a Russia visit from December 25 to 29 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides.

Yesterday, he spoke at a round table conference with Indologists in Russia's St Petersburg. Notably, Indologists are students of subjects like Indian literature, Indian history, and Indian philosophy.

During the conference, EAM Jaishankar batted for shaping international relations with Indian characteristics, stressing that it is his "major preoccupation" to devote more time to looking at India's reservoir of culture and knowledge.

He also said that in today's geopolitical state of the world, it is very important for countries to have a direct understanding of each other.

Moreover, President Vladimir Putin extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Russia next year.

"We will be glad to see our friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Russia," Vladimir Putin said during a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Kremlin.

ANI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacts with the indologists during his visit to the St. Petersburg State University, in Saint Petersburg on Thursday. ANI

German authorities fear New Year's Eve riots, in readiness

BERLIN

DRAWING lessons from the riots and attacks on emergency services that occurred on New Year's Eve 2023, Germany's emergency services are preparing to be present in large numbers during the year-end festivities across the country, appealing to the public to be peaceful as the sale of fireworks started on Thursday.

"We are going into action together so that you can celebrate New Year's Eve safely and to help you if you need us," the police and fire departments in Berlin said in a joint video published on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter. "Don't attack us."

In the German capital Berlin, which was a hotspot for violence last year, the police are planning a major operation. "It is the largest police operation on New Year's Eve in recent decades," Berlin's Police Commissioner Barbara Slowik said earlier this week.

Accident insurers also warned against a repeat of the attacks on rescue services seen a year ago. "This violence must stop. People who rush to help others must not have to fear for their own safety and health," stressed Stefan Husny, director general of the German Social Accident Insurance.

Last year, in some districts of Berlin and other major German cities, police officers, firefighters and paramedics became the target of deliberate attacks with firecrackers, with at least 30 of them being seriously injured in Berlin alone.

So far, there is no general ban on fireworks in Germany. Cities and municipalities can independently prohibit the setting off of fireworks in certain areas.

By law, the burning of pyrotechnics is prohibited near churches or hospitals. Violations of explosives regulations will be punished as an administrative offense with fines of up to 50,000 euros (\$55,640). Handling unauthorized fireworks is considered a criminal offense in Germany.

Various groups, such as the police union, the German Medical Association and Environmental Action Germany, are calling for a ban on firecrackers and rocket fireworks for private use.

Agencies

Zimbabwe, Zambia to share reduced water allocation for power generation at Lake Kariba

HARARE

ZIMBABWE and Zambia will experience further curtailed electricity generation from their two hydropower stations at Lake Kariba following a reduction in water allocation to their two power utilities for the coming year by the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA).

ZRA announced Thursday that the Zimbabwe Power Company and Zambia's ZESCO Limited would equally share 16 billion cubic meters (BCM), down from the revised 30 BCM in 2023, as water inflows into the lake remained low because of poor rains in recent years.

ZRA chief executive officer Munyaradzi Munodawafa said in a statement that the bi-national organization was allocating the reduced allocation because of anticipated poor inflows from the lake's catchment area.

The organization in early 2023 allocated 40 BCM to be shared equally between the two power utilities but later revised the figure down to 30 BCM for the year as the lake's water levels became too low.

"The 2024 water allocation was informed by the 2023/2024 rainfall forecasts made by the Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum-27 and the corresponding downscaled projections by the National Metrological Agencies of Zambia and Zimbabwe, which all showed a high probability of a normal to below



normal 2023/2024 rainfall season for the Kariba Lower Catchment and normal to above normal rainfall season for the Kariba Upper Catchment," Munodawafa said.

"This general outlook is highly influenced by the increasing occurrence of El Nino weather conditions, which are expected to significantly negatively impact the rainfall season in Southern Africa.

The 2023/2024 rainfall profile outlook implies a high likelihood of below-normal Zambezi River inflows into Lake Kariba." ZRA is mandated to contribute to the economic, industrial, and social development of Zimbabwe and by obtaining the greatest possible benefits from the natural advantages offered by the waters of

the Zambezi River (between Zambia and Zimbabwe) through the most economical and effective means of providing water for generation of electricity and for other purposes which the two states may decide upon.

Munodawafa said the latest hydrological simulations considered the high likelihood of a below-average rainfall season which, in turn, would likely result in below-average inflows into Lake Kariba, thereby negatively impacting the volume of water available for power generation during the year.

"Accordingly, power utilities have been advised to consider alternative sources of power to complement generation at

Kariba in order to fill any power generation deficit that could arise due to the lower water allocation at Kariba for the year 2024," he said.

Munodawafa said lake levels at Kariba continued to recede during this time of the year, mainly due to lower inflows than outflows, with isolated fluctuations being observed recently due to sporadic rainfall activity on the lake.

"The 2023/24 rainfall season performance of the lower Kariba Catchment thus far has been poor, resulting in below-normal inflows into Lake Kariba," he said.

The recorded lake level on Dec. 27 was 477.12 m with 7.25 BCM or 11.19 percent live storage, he said.

"With the two power generation utilities generating power within the confines of their respective water utilization plans for the year 2023, the lake is projected to close the year 2023 at 477.23 m with 7.78 BCM of live storage which translates to 12 percent live storage.

It is recommended that the highest possible live storage be maintained going into 2024 as a buffer against the anticipated below-normal inflows," he said.

He implored the two power utilities to adhere to their approved allocations to ensure sustainable management of the Kariba reservoir.

In Zimbabwe, many companies are reeling from the effects of curtailed power supplies.

Xinhua

A more open China in eight keywords

IN 2023, China continued to advance high-level opening up, injecting impetus into global cooperation and win-win outcomes. The following eight keywords bear witness to China's new initiatives and achievements in opening up.

Keyword: Exhibition

Following the Ministry of Commerce's announcement to fully resume offline trade fairs and expos domestically in February 2023, a series of major exhibitions were hosted as scheduled in the country, attracting exhibitors from all over the world.

According to statistics, a total of 3,248 exhibitions were held in professional venues across the country in the first nine months of this year, increasing 1.8 times year-on-year and 32.4 percent over the same period in 2019.

Various types of exhibitions have achieved fruitful results.

The 3rd China International Consumer Products Expo was attended by 3,382 consumer brands from 65 countries and regions. The 134th China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded with an offline export turnover of \$22.3 billion in total.

The 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services yielded more than 1,100 outcomes. The 6th China International Import Expo saw a total of \$78.41 billion worth of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services, representing a 6.7 percent increase from that of last year, and setting a record high.

Keyword: Manufacturing

China announced the removal of all restrictive measures on foreign investment in manufacturing at the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

It both demonstrated China's determination to advance high-level opening up, and marked an important measure of the country to build new systems for a higher-level open economy, said Li Dawei, a researcher at the Institute for International Economy, Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research.

In the first 10 months of 2023, foreign direct investment into China's manufacturing industry reached 283.44 billion yuan (\$39.65 billion), maintaining year-on-year growth. In particular, the high-tech manufacturing sector saw a growth of 9.5 percent in the utilization of foreign investment.

Keyword: Service industry

In the Shanghai Hongqiao International Central Business District, cross-border bond issuance, cross-border mergers and acquisitions and other services have brought great convenience to enterprises.

In Beijing's Shunyi district, the first foreign entertainment agency to establish a branch in Beijing is located in the Tianzhu comprehensive bonded zone, marking further opening up in the cultural sector.

Since 2015, China has implemented comprehensive pilot programs for opening up the services sector in 11 selected cities and provinces.

In the first three quarters of 2023, the added value of the service industry in these 11 regions reached 13.2 trillion yuan, accounting for 69.7 percent of the local GDP. The actual use of foreign capital in the service industry amounted to \$50.85 billion in these regions, accounting for 55.6 percent of the total foreign investment in the industry nationwide.

Keyword: BRI

The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Over the past decade, the BRI has become the most popular international public good



Vehicles are about to be loaded onto a ship for exportation at the Yantai Port, east China's Shandong province, May 9, 2023. (People's Daily Online/Tang Ke)

and the largest international cooperation platform in today's world.

According to statistics, more than 421,000 local jobs were created globally in overseas economic and trade cooperation zones built by Chinese enterprises under Belt and Road cooperation.

It is estimated that by 2030, Belt and Road cooperation could help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty, and raise global real income by 0.7 to 2.9 percent.

Keyword: Free trade zone

The Kashgar Area of China (Xinjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone was inaugurated on Nov. 11, 2023. It is the 22nd pilot free trade zone established in China.

The year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China's first pilot free trade zone. China remains committed to comprehensive opening up, promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. It will take the lead in establishing institutional systems that align with international investment and trade rules.

Over the past decade, China's pilot free trade zones have played a pioneering role, yielding a series of outstanding innovative achievements. Covering less than 0.4 percent of the nation's land area, China's pilot free trade zones attracted 18.4 percent of foreign investment in China and accounted for 18.6 percent of the country's foreign trade in the first half of 2023.

Keyword: New "three major ones"

Solar batteries, lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles are the new "three major ones" underpinning China's exports.

China's production and sales of new energy vehicles have topped the global market for eight years in a row, with a global market share of over 60 percent. From January to September, China's lithium-ion battery exports totaled \$48.605 billion, a year-on-year increase of over 30 percent.

China's photovoltaic module production has ranked first in the world for 16 consecutive years. Besides, the country holds more

than 80 percent of the world's polysilicon, silicon wafers, cells, and modules manufacturing capacity.

The structure transition of trade in goods from clothing, household appliances and furniture to the new "three major ones" mirrors the outstanding performance of China's foreign trade upgrading.

Keyword: Digital trade

China's self-developed games have generated over 10 billion yuan in overseas revenue, and the overseas market for Chinese online literature has surpassed 3 billion yuan with over 150 million overseas users.

Currently, the overall size of China's digital trade is expanding. From January to August 2023, China's digitally-delivered service trade rose 10.4 percent year-on-year to 1.81 trillion yuan.

From January to September, the import and export volume of cross-border e-commerce reached 1.7 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 14.4 percent. China's cross-border e-commerce trade partners have covered the globe, and China is one of the countries with the most complete cross-border e-commerce ecosystem in the world.

Keyword: Renminbi internationalization

Statistics released by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) in September 2023 revealed that the Chinese yuan achieved a record increase in its global payment share. Its share rose from 3.9 percent at the beginning of the year to 5.8 percent, surpassing the euro for the first time.

So far, the People's Bank of China, China's central bank, has authorized 31 yuan clearing banks in 29 countries and regions, covering major international financial centers.

In 2023, the international currency functions of the Chinese yuan continued to strengthen, achieving fruitful results in expanding its applications in settlement, transactions, and value storage. Insiders pointed out that the enormous size and stable growth of the Chinese economy have laid a solid foundation for the internationalization of the Chinese yuan.

People's Daily

Pundits, veterans divided over publishing discipline issues in Premier League camps

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

CONSIDERABLE disturbance has lately visited wayward ex-superstar Clatous Chota Chama of the Simba SC forward line after the club's CEO Imani Kajula stated that the player as well as central midfielder Nassor Kapama was being suspended from the squad for disciplinary reasons.

As would perhaps be expected, noisy fans piled up snarls and insults on personal pages on social media, especially for the now disgraced playmaker, seemingly unable to stand the pace at which head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has been pushing the squad.

The result is an impending transfer on either a loan basis or outright sale if a club turns up.

None of this was surprising from a technical point of view as plenty is changing at the club, and plenty of impressions are changing as well.

What is unclear is whether selection panels at the Taifa Stars will take notice of some observations aired loudly by fan groups and relayed to either listeners or viewers by pundits and bloggers, for instance, a big 'pardon' said in the direction of Mohamed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe, as fans earlier mouthed epithets that the two players are old and ought to be replaced.

The senior national team panel has insisted on its 'project', picking a bunch of young players except for those playing outside.

Where experts tended to differ was the need, in the first place, to make it public, that the two players were being sidelined, not that they were leaving the side but their conduct was being checked.

That is where the shoe pinches, as the sort of clamour and hissing that has taken place nearby forbids that a positive outcome is arrived at when the squad administration has done its work.

In that case, this view has the conviction that it is improper to announce such items when they occur, as they prejudice auxiliary effort in checking out the truthfulness of accusations raised against them, and when one sets out the club's case earlier, it is all closed.

In a sense, it is possible that the technical bench is either not seeking much compromise or checking out this and that, but is looking for other players to take their place, in the sense that they fit in with the plans of the coach on the team.

In that sense the management just was short of saying the two players had been discharged from the side, firstly as there are pecuniary implications to any such decision, thus limiting the matter to a suspension.

It is hence largely apparent that the issue is less one of discipline as both players are professionals and ought to know their way with the coach, but rather an issue of incompatibility with the coaching staff.

In that case, CEO Kajula was definite on the issue except for avoiding discharging the players, knowing the head coach wanted a definite cessation of engaging with the two players.

That much was apparent, though not clearly stated, by a pundit, venturing to say that when clubs need to change players they kick up dust like discipline, etc just to find a way to remove them, as if they need to alienate them from the fan base to put them on the market.

This view appeared fairly unconvincing as to the rea-



Simba SC midfielder, Nassor Kapama. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

son for the CEO going public on the two players facing disciplinary accusations and thus being placed on the squad sidelines.

For one thing, the pundit was trying to suggest that this isn't just an incident of wishing to remove a player and then creating a public

relations scenario, in alleging that the player is undisciplined, thus creating a scenario for removing the player.

That looked far-fetched outright as the club has commercial ties with players, not personal friendships or some sort of clan

relationships.

If they don't need a player they sell him, they don't need scenes or disputes.

That brought up a different parameter, namely of sentimental as different from technical attachment to players, and whether this failure was only visible among fans and pundits, club administrators, and even the technical bench.

While it is possible such problems may be visible among technical cadres, by definition they don't fall into that trap too quickly, but fans and pundits have more selective memories and few responsibilities in what goes into the team or what the club gets out of the players.

And they are similarly not sufficiently adept at technical issues involving such players, a gap that is filled by a sentimental attachment to their past exploits, and ardent belief that this is possible for all circumstances, even at present.

Still one has a fleeting unease with the way the CEO took up the matter, as that kind of notice is a sort of accountability effort, to give a periodic report of how the side is performing.

This is obviously beside the point, as numerous such cases are silently resolved, and even if in the end a player leaves, there is no fuss or discord before an amicable departure.

In that case, the CEO was trying to reassert club leadership authority after the derby debacle, due to the sweet 2-0 win over Wydad Casablanca in a 2023-24 CAF Champions League match, but created sufficient discomfort in the squad to draw with Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in an NBC Premier League encounter.

He earned his wages for the statement, as team confidence again needed rebuilding.

Azam FC brings in Colombian forward to strengthen squad



By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

ONE of the prominent Tanzanian soccer clubs, Azam FC, recently made headlines with the exciting signing of 24-year-old Colombian striker Franklin Navarro.

The dynamic young talent, hailing from Cortulua FC in Colombia's second division, is poised to inject fresh energy into the already formidable Azam FC attack.

Navarro's arrival marks a significant moment, making him the first Colombian player to ever grace Mainland Tanzania's NBC Premier League.

This further underscores the growing influence of South American players in Tanzanian football.

While Cortulua FC currently sits seventh in the Primera B League in Colombia, Navarro's performance during the ongoing season has been noteworthy.

In just 14 appearances, he has notched one goal and two assists, showcasing his potential to contribute meaningfully to the score-

board. Azam FC boasts an impressive offensive record, having already netted 35 goals in 13 games this season.

Navarro's arrival further intensifies Azam FC's attacking arsenal, joining forces with established stars like Prince Dube, Abdulhamis Suleiman, Idriss Mbombo, Al-assane Dia, Iddi Selemani, Gybril Sillah, and Feisal Salum.

Azam FC currently occupies the top spot in this season's NBC Premier League standings, with a convincing record of 10 wins, one draw, and two losses.

This dominant position speaks volumes about the squad's ambition and sets high expectations for Navarro's integration into the team.

With Navarro's talent and Azam FC's unwavering dominance, this collaboration holds immense promise.

Fans can expect exciting attacking plays, a strengthened offense, and, potentially, another thrilling run for the Premier League title.

Yanga Princess head coach hails striker's prowess in debut clash

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA Princess forward Janet Bundi announced her entry into the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League with a brace for her new team in a clash against Amani Queens held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening.

Janet completed her transfer to Yanga Princess a week ago after cutting ties with the Kenyan Women's Premier League champions, Vihiga Queens.

This decision came after the Kenyan striker had enjoyed an electrifying start to the new season with Vihiga Queens, which is currently sitting at the top of the FKF Women's Premier League log.

On Wednesday, she was included in Yanga Princess' starting 11 and repaid the faith with a goal in either half of the game.

The other goals were scored by Burkinabe forward Madina Traore, Nigerian midfielder Precious Onyinechi, who grabbed a double, and Tanzanian central defender Noela Luhala.

Yanga Princess head coach Charles Haalubono stated he has been pleased to see his team score freely after failing to find the back of the net in the two Community Shield mini-tournament games against Simba Queens and Fountain Gate FC Princess - which were decided by penalty shootouts.

"We are slowly getting there. In



Yanga Princess forward Janet Bundi.

the previous games in the Community Shield, we couldn't score any goals and lost in penalties," he said.

He, however, admitted that there is still much work to be done before his team can become a finished product.

The Zambian coach stated: "We started the league and scored two goals, and today we scored six, and I am happy because they now understand what I want them to do."

"I would say we are almost there, but we have to keep working. I have seen these other teams; they are really good, and as such, we have to keep working extra hard for us to beat them, and we still have more work to do," he noted.

The Zambian tactician pointed out: "I am pleased to see Janet excel in our league, with her prowess, we look forward to seeing her prosper and produce more goals for our squad."



M-Bet Tanzania Marketing Director Allen Mushi (L) is pictured presenting a dummy check of 173m/- to Seif Babu (C), the winner of the company's betting game, termed 'Perfect 12', at a ceremony that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Babu precisely predicted the results of 12 soccer matches played in various leagues worldwide to win the prize. Witnessing the event is CRDB Bank PLC's Manager of Retail Sales, Amina Mawona. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Iringa resident wins 173m/- through betting firm's game

By Guardian Correspondent

IRINGA resident Seif Babu has pocketed 173,056,020/- after accurately predicting the outcomes of 12 soccer matches played in various leagues in the world through a draw for a betting game, dubbed 'Perfect 12', organized by M-Bet Tanzania company.

Babu, who supports Tanzania's Simba SC and England's Manchester United

FC, was awarded the lucrative amount of money by M-Bet Tanzania Marketing Director, Allen Mushi, in a brief ceremony held at CRDB Bank's headquarters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday afternoon.

Speaking during the ceremony, Babu acknowledged the challenge of predicting results, considering the unpredictable nature of some teams.

He mentioned that football matches sometimes

produce unexpected results and, for that matter, such an exercise requires a participant to be careful consideration when placing bets.

"I am happy to win this huge amount of money. This is a reward because I predicted several times and did not win. What I did was to keep on predicting, as you never know when luck will come," Babu disclosed.

Babu, a small-scale entrepreneur, revealed he has

planned to use the winnings to boost his business and invest in other projects.

Mushi congratulated Babu for turning into the fifth winner of the 'Perfect 12' draw this year, with the company having awarded over 880m/- to various winners.

Mushi said that M-Bet Tanzania continues to be a hub for champions who have benefited from this year's winnings.

He reminded football

fans that betting is entertainment, not a job, encouraging them to view it as such.

Apart from receiving the prize, Babu got financial education from CRDB Bank's Manager of Retail Sales, Amina Mawona, who had attended the presentation ceremony.

Amina highlighted CRDB Bank's commitment to providing investment opportunities and education to clients for profitable projects.

Mourinho's 'smashing lads' have Juve in their sights

ROME

JOSE Mourinho will hope his "bunch of smashing lads" from AS Roma build on their impressive 2-0 win over defending Serie A champions Napoli last weekend and dent Juventus's title-chasing ambitions on Saturday.

Juventus could be seven points adrift of leaders Inter Milan come Saturday if Simone Inzaghi's side beat Genoa for their sixth successive victory on Friday.

A win for Roma would keep them firmly in the hunt for a Champions League place next season, they are presently sixth just three points off fourth-placed Bologna.

Bologna, though, will be favoured to beat relegation-threatened Udinese earlier on Saturday.

Mourinho refuses to make any comment on whether he has been set a target for this campaign – any ambitions he believes have to be taken into the context that the club is under Financial Fair Play restrictions.

"I prefer to take things one at a time for one very simple reason and this is not to blame anyone; it's not a criticism but we have a group of players with complicated injury histories," said Mourinho.

"If we had everyone available for every game I'd have no problems coming out and saying that we can fight with everyone – not for the title but for the top four.

"Unfortunately we do have these difficulties and on top of that we have Financial Fair Play restrictions, which isn't an easy situation to manage.

"That's why I prefer not to set any specific targets." Mourinho said, though, that despite all the problems the team's great strength was the bond between the players.

"We're united," said the 60-year-old Portuguese coach.

"We have a bunch of smashing lads who always try to turn weaknesses into strengths and to help each other.

"We'll see. We can't do what we wanted to do in the January transfer window.

"What we want to do is one thing and what we can do is another.

"But we'll push on."

Juventus received a boost this week when Brazilian defender Gleison Bremer extended his contract to 2028. The 26-year-old said he had grown as a player this term and was much more at ease in Italy.

"This year things are going much better," he told the club's website.

"I have found greater serenity and I have learned from the mistakes made in my early days, which were normal.

"Now I feel really comfortable and I have much more awareness of my strength and qualities."

His new found confidence will undergo a stern test against a Roma front line including Belgian star Romelu Lukaku.

"It will be a complicated match against Roma and I know well that it won't be easy to compete against Romelu Lukaku," he said.

"It will be a difficult challenge and I will have to show continuation on my growth path.

"An attacker like this is faced in various ways, based on the position on the pitch in which you find yourself facing him."

Bremer said though he and his teammates are "a confident group" Inter will prove a formidable obstacle to dislodge at the top of the table.

"We know well that we haven't won anything yet: we are aware of Inter's strength and our task is to stay up there."

AFP

Hugo Lloris edges closer to Tottenham exit after Los Angeles FC talks

By Matt Law

HUGO Lloris is in talks over a move to Los Angeles FC with Tottenham Hotspur willing to grant the goalkeeper a free transfer in recognition of his 11 years of service.

Having turned down a number of possible moves in the summer, including a return to Nice, Lloris has not made a single appearance for Tottenham this season.

The Frenchman has been third choice behind Guglielmo Vicario and Fraser Forster, even though head coach Ange Postecoglou has repeatedly denied he has a set pecking order.

With only six months remaining on his contract, Tottenham are prepared to grant Lloris a free transfer should he want to leave the club in January.

Lloris joined Spurs in 2012 and captained the club, making 447 appearances and playing in the 2019 Champions League defeat to Liverpool.

Tottenham have allowed Lloris to speak with MLS club LAFC, who hope to sign the French World Cup winner, whose last appearance for Tottenham was in last season's humiliating 6-1 defeat to Newcastle United.

But Lloris will be remembered as one of Tottenham's best-ever goalkeepers and a relative bargain, having joined the club in a deal that was able to rise to £13 million from Lyon.

THE TELEGRAPH

Arsenal fail in Premier League summit bid as Spurs lose thriller

LONDON

ARSENAL missed out on the chance to return to the Premier League summit on Thursday, losing 2-0 to West Ham as Tottenham went down in a six-goal thriller at Brighton.

Mikel Arteta's Gunners were top of the tree at Christmas for a second successive year but trail leaders Liverpool by two points at the halfway point of the season.

Last year's runners-up dominated possession at the Emirates but lacked a cutting edge against the disciplined visitors, for whom Tomas Soucek and former Arsenal player Konstantinos Mavropanos scored the goals.

Soucek opened the scoring from close range in the 13th minute following a pass from Jarrod Bowen, with the goal confirmed after a lengthy VAR check looking into whether the ball had gone out of play.

Arsenal surged forward in relentless waves and West Ham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola made a fine reaction save from a Bukayo Saka header on the half-hour.

The England winger hit the post from a tight angle as the clock ticked down towards half-time but Arsenal trailed at the break despite enjoying nearly three-quarters of possession.

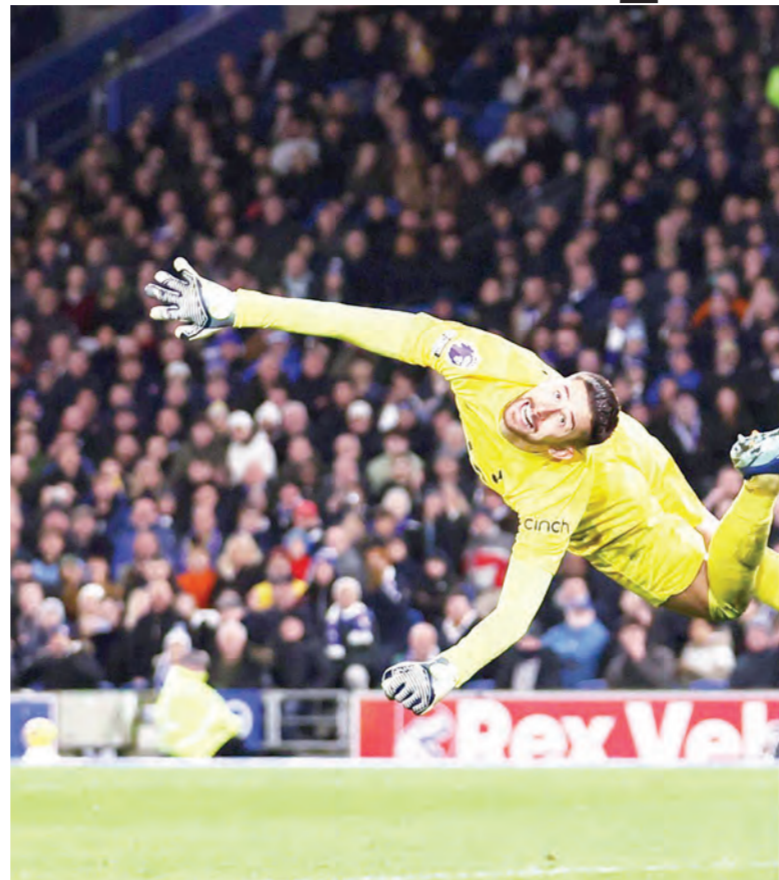
The Gunners came out determined to find a response but instead they found themselves 2-0 down when Mavropanos's bullet header cannoned in off the crossbar from James

Ward-Prowse's corner. Gabriel Jesus failed to beat Areola with a header when well-placed and shortly afterwards missed another glorious opportunity with his head at the back post.

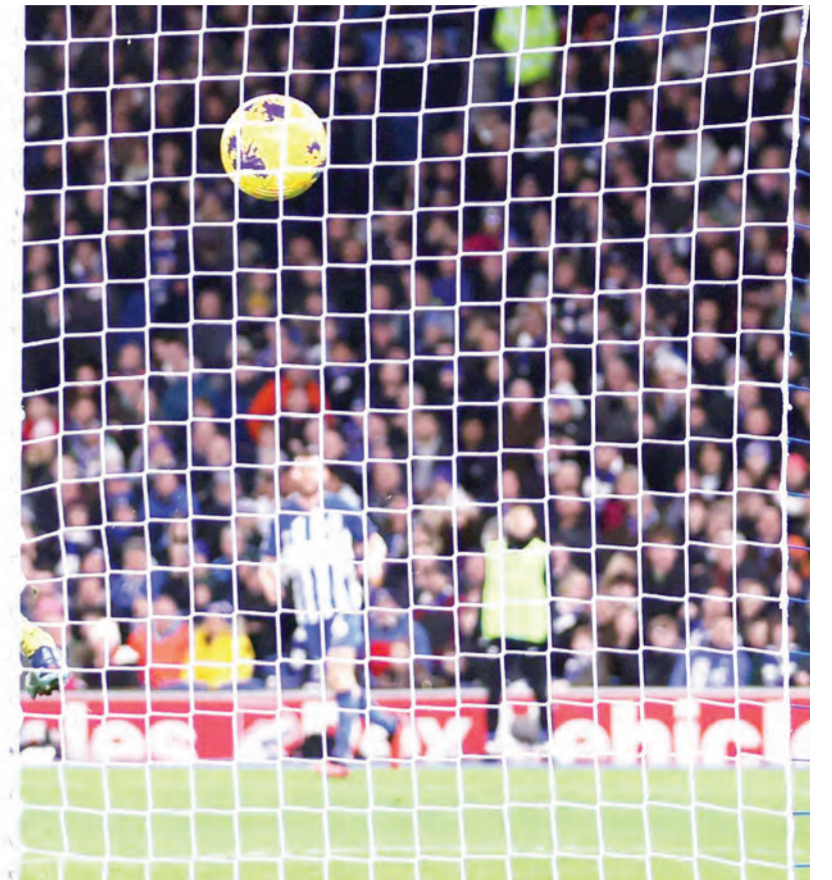
Arsenal continued to bombard the visitors' goal but could not find a breakthrough and it could have been worse had Said Berahma managed to convert a late penalty.

Defeat leaves the Gunners in second place on 40 points, one clear of Aston Villa and three ahead of Manchester City, who have a game in hand.

Arteta said his team deserved more for their dominance.



Tottenham's Guglielmo Vicario was powerless to stop Brighton's Pervis Estupinan's rocket. Agencies



Ward-Prowse's corner.

"We want to be at the top and today we are very, very disappointed," he told the BBC.

"We had so much dominance in the game. We are in a really good position. Today is a disappointing night. We have to pick ourselves up for a big game against Fulham."

He added: "The players put an enormous effort in. It's a difficult dressing room right now but we have another game in 72 hours. This is football, we have to improve in certain areas."

West Ham manager David Moyes celebrated his team's rise to sixth in the table.

"We are not one of the

top teams," he told Amazon Prime. "We are trying to get up and grow the team. For West Ham to be in Europe (they topped their Europa League group) is a great period."

- Spurs drama - Tottenham, this season's early pacesetters, remain in fifth spot after losing 4-2 despite threatening an astonishing comeback from 4-0 down against Roberto De Zerbi's Brighton.

Jack Hinshelwood finished with brutal power to put the home side ahead following a weaving run from Joao Pedro along the edge of the penalty area.

Brighton doubled their lead from the penalty spot

in the 23rd minute through Pedro, who took full advantage after Dejan Kulusevski was penalised for a pull on Welbeck.

Brazil forward Richarlison twice had the ball in the net after the break but both times he was ruled offside.

Pervis Estupinan stretched the lead with a thunderbolt from 30 yards in the 63rd minute and Pedro scored a second penalty 12 minutes later.

Alejo Veliz grabbed what appeared to be a consolation goal in the 81st minute but it galvanised the visitors.

Ben Davies headed home Pedro Porro's deep cross as Spurs threatened

to cut through every time they poured forward, with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg hitting the post during nine frantic minutes of stoppage time.

But Brighton withstood the intense pressure to take all three points.

"I am really lucky to be this coach of this team with these players," De Zerbi told the BBC. "I am very pleased with the passion they have, they have everything.

"You can't forget we are Brighton. Sometimes they forget we are Brighton. We are not Manchester United, Manchester City, Newcastle or Arsenal, we are still Brighton."

AFP

Manchester City sitting pretty during festive fixtures

LONDON

MANCHESTER City will have enjoyed the festive fixtures, with slip-ups from their Premier League title rivals leaving them within touching distance of the top.

The newly crowned Club World Cup winners came out on top against a battling Everton and witnessed defeats for Arsenal, Aston Villa and Tottenham in the latest round of games, with only leaders Liverpool bucking the trend.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of this weekend's action.

*Man City train focus on Premier League

Manchester City are fourth in the Premier League table but every other side at the top know they are still the team to beat.

Pep Guardiola's men qualified for the Champions League knockout rounds with ease and earlier this month won the Club World Cup to collect their fifth trophy of 2023.

The bad news for the rest is that the champions are just five points off the top with a game in hand and they often find top gear in the new year.

City's 3-1 win at Everton was just their second victory in seven Premier League matches but they looked devastating in the second half.

Guardiola hailed the "mentality we have in our bones" after his side's comeback sent an ominous



Newcastle boss Eddie Howe is under pressure after a run of poor results. Agencies

warning to City's rivals and they look near certainties to beat bottom club Sheffield United at the weekend.

*Newcastle's Howe under pressure

Eddie Howe has transformed Newcastle during his two years in charge – from a club in danger of relegation to a Champions League side – but he is coming under growing pressure.

Given the circumstances, the Magpies' boss would not choose a daunting trip to the home of Liverpool, who are looking increasingly credible as title contenders.

Newcastle will travel to Anfield on New Year's Day with just one win in their past seven games in all competitions – they have crashed out of the Cham-

pions League, the League Cup, and slipped to ninth in the Premier League.

Howe, 46, has the excuse of a punishing injury list and he is without Italy midfielder Sandro Tonali, serving a suspension

for breaching betting rules. But he will know the club's Saudi owners desire to see signs of sustained progress.

"No amount of credit in the bank is big enough, you have to earn everything

you get from the game," Howe said after their home defeat by Nottingham Forest this week.

"Luton shake up relegation picture

Until recently Luton appeared destined for a quick return to the Championship but wins against Newcastle and Sheffield United have lifted them to within touching distance of a clutch of clubs above them.

Everton, Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace and Brentford are all now nervously glancing over their shoulders.

Luton manager Rob Edwards hailed his men after their 3-2 win against Sheffield United this week during a "tough period" for his side following a cardiac arrest on the pitch for his captain Tom Lockyer earlier this month.

Edwards believes Luton are "changing the narrative a little bit around ourselves" but says they need to continue backing it up.

Luton lost 3-0 to Chelsea in the reverse fixture at Stamford Bridge in August – a bright spot in an inconsistent season for Mauricio Pochettino's men.

But they will fancy their chances at their Kenilworth Road ground today.

Fixtures

Today (1500 GMT unless stated)

Luton v Chelsea (1230), Aston Villa v Burnley, Crystal Palace v Brentford, Manchester City v Sheffield United, Wolves v Everton, Nottingham Forest v Manchester United (1730)

Tomorrow (1400)

Fulham v Arsenal, Tottenham v Bournemouth

Monday

Liverpool v Newcastle (2000)

Tuesday

West Ham v Brighton (1930)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal fail in Premier League summit bid as Spurs lose thriller

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Yanga ropes in Okrah months after leaving NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

MAINLAND Tanzania's NBC Premier League champion, Yanga, has completed the signing of Ghanaian attacker Augustine Okrah, The Guardian can exclusively reveal.

The attacker, who had of late been playing for Ghana's Bechem United, has arrived in Tanzania and undergone his medical examination ahead of the purported move.

Yanga has reportedly dished out around US\$150,000 to sign the attacking midfielder from the Ghana Premier League side, with an official announcement very imminent.

The 30-year-old rejoined Bechem United in September this year following the contract expiration between him and Yanga's bitter rival, Simba SC.

Okrah has lightened up this season's Ghana Premier League. He has netted eight goals and provided two assists in 15 matches so far.

His impressive form has seen him bag an award for the league's Player of the Month for November.

The former player for Sudan's Al Hilal SC and Al Merreikh is crossing the carpet from Simba SC to Yanga just like he did in Sudan amongst the two rival clubs.

This move will surely spark the rivalry between the two Dar es Salaam giants.

Winger Bernard Morrison was the first Ghanaian player to cross carpets between the two clubs, having moved from Yanga to Simba SC and then back to Yanga.

Okrah has also had spells in Sweden, Egypt, and India since graduating from the Red Bull Academy in July 2012.



Augustine Okrah

TONIGHT @ 9:00

5 EATV MONDAY

Sports

- 11:00 DADAZ
- 12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
- 13:00 Zole Kuntu
- 13:30 Kali Za Wana
- 13:55 Dandao Za Michzo
- 14:00 SKONGA (r)
- 14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
- 15:00 Funguka
- 15:30 Akili & Me
- 15:55 Dandao Za Michzo
- 16:00 Zole Kuntu
- 16:55 Dandao Za Michzo
- 17:00 SSELEKT
- 17:55 Kurasa
- 18:00 Kali Za Wana
- 18:30 #HASHTAG
- 19:00 EATV SAA 1
- 20:00 DADAZ (r)
- 21:00 SPORTS
- 22:00 Zole Kuntu
- 23:00 Kurasa
- 23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastafrica RADIO

- 05:00 Supa Breakfast
- 09:00 MAMAMIA
- 12:00 Kipenga Xtra
- 13:00 Planet Bongo
- 16:00 EA Drive
- 19:00 Kipenga
- 21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC gears up for 2024 Mapinduzi Cup amid key players' absence



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament, which got underway in Zanzibar on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ali, has announced that the team has resumed training for the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup tournament which kicked off in Zanzibar on Wednesday.

The squad will tomorrow travel to Zanzibar with players that have not been selected for Tanzania's senior national team which is preparing for the 2023 AFCON tournament slated for January 2024 in Ivory Coast.

The Msimbazi Street-based club will miss key players like Aishi Manula, Israel Patrick Mwenenda, Mohamed Hussein, Mzamiru Yassin, Kennedy Juma, and Kibu Denis, who are currently with Tanzania's senior national team.

Congolese central defender, Henock Inonga, is representing the DR Congo national team, and Zambian midfielder Clatous Chama is on duty with the Zambia national team.

"We've initiated preparations for the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup, the

team departs for Zanzibar tomorrow in anticipation of the championship," Ally affirmed.

The official disclosed Simba SC sees its participation in the 2024 Mapinduzi Cup as an opportunity for it to assess potential signings and refine team tactics under competitive pressure.

The outfit views the Mapinduzi Cup as a critical testing ground, allowing head coach Benchikha to assess potential signings and refine tactics under competitive

pressure. While a shake-up in the player roster is a priority, Benchikha stated the importance of internal improvement.

He disclosed: "It's not just about bringing in new players, it's about making the existing ones better."

Group B promises exciting ties, given it is made up of Zanzibar's Jamhuri SC, three-time Mapinduzi Cup champion Simba SC and fellow Mainland Tanzania squad, Singida Fountain Gate FC

(last year's showdown runner-up), and Rwandan football powerhouse APR SC.

Simba SC's first match against JKU has been scheduled for January 1 at the newly inaugurated New Amaan Complex.

Simultaneously, Ally reassured fans about the ongoing player signing process in the January transfer window, which was opened on December 16 and is expected to close on January 15, 2024.

Ally highlighted the ongoing

players' signing process, indicating that some players have already been signed, awaiting official announcement as new Simba SC players.

"We are actively working behind the scenes, bringing in mature players, not ones to bide their time," Ally emphasized.

Amidst rumours, he urged fans to await official information from reliable sources.

Some of Simba SC leaders hinted at adding approximately five to six players in the January transfer window.

New TCA leadership eyes tremendous success

By Guardian Correspondent

THE newly elected leadership of the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) is eager to see to it that the country enjoys tremendous success in the sport.

The association conducted an election for new office bearers at the Muhimbili Cricket Academy in Dar es Salaam last weekend, with the National Sports Council (NSC) taking charge of the election.

Balakrishna Sreekumar was elected as the new TCA Chairman, Ashish Nagewadia won the association's vice-chairman position, and the treasurer post went to experienced cricketer John Zablon.

Ali Kombo and Kanuti Masanja were elected as the TCA board members, and Antonia Chuyo won the association's women's representative post.

Atif Salim, TCA's Media and Communications Officer stated that the election for the new office bearers was conducted professionally and democratically under the watchful eyes of the NSC official.

The election had taken place after the conclusion of the association's Annual General Assembly which took place earlier in the day.

Sreekumar, who has suc-

ceeded Premji Pindoria, noted: "I thank NSC and the outgoing board and staff at TCA for their contribution in propelling the great sport to success in the country."

The newly-elected Chairman added: "I assure transparency, financial discipline, active involvement of the clubs and to revolutionize cricket in Tanzania. I want to thank the almighty for all the blessings given to this great country."

Nagewadia said: "I am overwhelmed by the response I have got from the stakeholders. I want to thank them all for their trust in me and I want to assure the cricket fans in Tanzania that with my experience and passion, I believe we can achieve a lot for Tanzania's cricket in the future."

Salim revealed: "It's been a historic day and we have new leadership on board now. I have faith in the new leadership and they will take forward the good work done by the outgoing management."

"By our initial exchanges, I can already see that we are heading in the right direction and we will see more opportunities for cricketers nationwide," Salim added.

Sreekumar collected 81 votes out of 86 cast, Nagewadia won



Newly elected Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) officials are pictured after the association's election which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. They are (sitting L-R) vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia, Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar, and women's representative Antonia Chuyo. Standing (L-R) are treasurer John Zablon, board member Kanuti Masanja, and the other board member Ali Kombo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

72 votes out of 86, and Zablon garnered 85 votes out of 86 to secure the treasurer position.

Shariff amassed 74 votes out of 86, Masanja collected 74 votes out of 86 to get the board members' posts, and Antonia

garnered 60 votes out of 86.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's cricket fraternity has had a blow as the country's veteran cricketer, Babu Chohan, passed away in England on Thursday.

Salim stated: "It is with the

humble acceptance of the Almighty that we announce to our cricket family the passing away of Tanzanian cricket legend Babu Chohan, who passed away in Manchester, England yesterday (Thursday)."

The TCA official revealed Chohan was one of the finest batsmen in Tanzania who played for Dar es Salaam's Upanga Sports Club and the country's senior national team.

He disclosed: "Chohan was the dynamic attacking opening batsman who played cricket locally for Upanga Sports Club."

"He was the most experienced Tanzania senior national cricket team player, and the most successful batsman in the first triangular tournament."

"He kept his place in the National team since 1959, and represented Tanzania on more than 10 occasions."

Salim noted in September 1966, Babu Chohan was selected in the 14-strongest East African cricket squad that toured Zambia.

In June 1969, he was also selected to captain the Tanzania Cricket XI against the visiting Indian club, Rajasthan.

The TCA official noted: "At TCA, we are touched by this loss and we pray the departed soul to rest in peace."

Flexibles

by David Chikoko