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GOVERNANCE



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JUSTICE



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LEADERSHIP



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BUSINESS Farmers in Kigoma to increase beans production to meet WFP's demand

Sisal growers challenged to set production targets in Tanga

Uber to introduce expressway option for users

Treasury gets MPs' approval to guarantee Sh1bn Laikipia bond

'Take action to end edible oil shortages'

'All divisions to obtain primary courts by 2025'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

ALL administrative divisions in the country will have well manned and equipped primary courts by late 2025, accelerating dispensation of justice countrywide. Geoffrey Pinda, the deputy minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs told the National Assembly yesterday during the question and answer session that the plan will be implemented in phases, with intent that all divisions are covered by end of 2025.

He was responding to questions from a number of MPs expressing concern on lack of courts in many divisions, hindering legal services for problem solving. Deo Sanga (Makete) in a supplementary question



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) speaks with Inter-Religious Peace Committee leaders led by their chairperson, Alhad Mussa Salum (on her right) in a parliamentary function at the Msekwa Hall in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE GOVERNMENT must put in place workable strategies to facilitate massive investments in sunflower and oil palm cultivation to end shortages of edible oil, a cross section of legislators have demanded.

Contributing to debate on the national budget for fiscal 2022/23 yesterday, in the House, MPs cited oil palm and sunflower as among crops for which more investment is needed. Many farmers were still locked away from realising the potential that cultivating palm and sunflower brings, they stated.

Some MPs asserted that the agricultural sector faces a number of challenges which the government wasn't working hard enough to solve, thus transforming the sector.

Asa Mekanika (Kigoma North) said many areas including Kigoma can produce oil palm but farmers lack essential skills, knowledge, seeds and tools to do so, despite that there is plenty of arable land within the region.

"Developing oil palm farming and processing palm oil will improve livelihoods and welfare of poor households," he stated, urging determination and commitment to transform the situation. This will also address the current edible oil shortage, strengthening its local supply, he remarked.

The current shortage of edible oil was not caused by ongoing disasters

Natural gas power plant: TANESCO adding 45MW

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) yesterday switched on one of its four new natural gas-powered plants expected to generate 45 megawatts and address frequent outages.

Kinyerezi I power expansion project manager Abdallah Chikoyo said the project involves connecting energy generation machines with gas to generate 45 megawatts, with the first plant now being switched on.

The plant is projected to run for 35 years, enabling the utility to generate power even in drought situations, especially since the gas being used is locally generated, he said.

Maharage Chande, the director general, said that in the next dry

The plant is projected to run for 35 years, enabling the utility to generate power even in drought situations, especially since the gas being used is locally generated

season, the country will be assured of stable electricity contrary to last year when the flow was repeatedly disrupted on account of shutting down hydropower stations time and again.

The 2021 dry season was the last year that outages persisted due to

drought, as we have a long term plan to rescue us during such periods, he said.

The new generating plans are being switched on speedily, as each week a new machine will be switched on, first on a trial basis and by December all the power generated will be added

to the national grid, he said.

The company is now able to deal with challenges caused by drought, having increased 185MW ready for adding to the national grid, he said, noting that this will be a step by step process, set to be completed by 2024 where outages will be totally forgotten.

The company was addressing power supply challenges one by one, including replacing worn out transmission lines, he pointed out.

Last October, Tanesco issued an alert to its customers to reduce power usage as electricity production was being curbed in its hydropower plants

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World Bank pledges \$100m for Somalia

MOGADISHU

SOMALI President Hassan Shiekh Mohamud met with World Bank country manager Kristina Svensson at Villa Somalia on Thursday. The new president and the World Bank official discussed strengthening cooperation between the global lender and the federal authorities in Somalia. The World Bank will give Somalia \$100m during the next 12 months to address the government's priorities,

she stated, praising the president for his commitment to reform the country's finances after three decades of conflict, piracy and the Al-Shabaab insurgency. The president underlined his government's commitment to improving social services and youth employment initiatives, urging the World Bank to help with modernizing the federal government's work process and services. President Mohamud also met with the US Under-Secretary of State Victoria

Nuland, with a state media report saying that the US continues to be a reliable partner as Somalia strengthens its state institutions to achieve political, security and economic stability. Top officials of the Somali Ministry of Defence and armed forces command acknowledged having received advanced military equipment delivered by the European Union mission in Somalia, it said. General Mohamed Tahliil Bihi, the commander of the Somali infantry, said

the military equipment is important for the force's operations. Successes lately registered by the army were due in part to the use of advanced weapons, he stated. Hassan Mohamed Said Samatar, the director-general of the Ministry of Defence (same as permanent secretary) expressed gratitude to the European Union for training and equipping the country's armed forces, instructing army units how to use the delivered equipment.

AGENCIES

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'Take action to end edible oil shortages'

FROM PAGE 1

and conflicts but the lack of deliberate strategies by the government in collaboration with the private sector, he emphasised.

Michael Mwakamo (Kibaha Rural) also hinted on the note that the country had plenty of favourable land to take up some strategic crops but needs considerable determination to harvest its potential.

"We have lakes, rivers and expansive basins, but their potential is lowly utilized. The majority of farmers are still practicing subsistence farming using old methods like hoes and traditional seeds that reinforce the low productivity," he stated. Were the country to 'wake up' and decide to invest in research, quality seeds and technology, millions of people will enjoy a better life through agriculture, he asserted.

Cecilia Paresso (Special Seats) urged the government to work closely with the private sector to encourage farmers to venture into cultivating the crops, to save large amounts of foreign currency used to import edible oil.

She said agriculture is employment and if well invested, the sector can address most development challenges the country faces.

"We have been approving budgets here every year but nothing much is done to transform the sector. We need to invest intensively in this sector and get more educated youths to engage in farming," she emphasised.

She also complained that the government loses large sums of money from tax loopholes, arguing that the government needs to foster a friendly business environment, along with promote voluntary tax compliance.

Prof Sospeter Muhongo (Musoma Rural) called for durable strategies to invest in solar and wind energy.

"If we want to improve power supply and reduce poverty, we need to invest heavily in the energy sector such as wind and solar, agriculture and livestock sectors," the former energy minister intoned.

Natural gas power plant: TANESCO adds 45MW

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as declining water levels has affected hydropower stations in Kihansi, Kidatu and Pangani.

The power utility is now looking to natural gas to mitigate periodic shortages, accelerating generation using natural gas-plants.

Back in January, Tanesco issued a 10-day power rationing schedule resulting from repairs to allow upgrading of natural gas connections at Songosongo conducted by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Pan African Energy Tanzania (PAET).

The work enabled TANESCO to carry out renovation and installation of various generation plants and concrete transmission poles to improve efficiency.

Stakeholders call for regional wide duty remission scheme

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY leaders have called for a regional wide duty remission scheme to spur intra-trade within the East African Community (EAC) bloc.

Speaking at the EAC Incentive Scheme Workshop organized by East African Business Council (EABC) with support from TradeMark East Africa, Dr Samuel Nyantaha from the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) said: "Final products manufactured using raw materials benefiting from duty remission do not access the EAC market at the preferential rate of 0 per cent



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi speaks with Muslim believers shortly after the Friday prayers at Fumba Bondeni mosque, in West B district Unguja yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

'All divisions to obtain primary courts by 2025'

FROM PAGE 1

during the coming financial year. Many wards and divisions will be getting courts, strengthening the provision and access to justice, he affirmed. Boniphace Butondo (Kishapu) demanded a district court for

Kishapu district, asserting that the primary court it has was incapable of handling cases on a whole range of issues. Pinda assuring the lawmaker that the government was implementing a plan to build courts in all divisions, in

which case Kishapu will also be reached with the district courts part of the project. In his basic question, Nashoni William (Kigoma South) asked for a district court in Uvinza as the area needs better legal services than what primary courts can offer, to which

the deputy minister said the construction of the court was ongoing and is set for completion later next month. Upon completion, the court will improve delivery of justice as people have to travel long distances for judicial services for a number

of issues. The deputy minister acknowledged that various courts lack space or buildings, saying it is a major challenge facing the judiciary. The government is making all possible efforts to sort out these shortages, he added.



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Pindi Chana (R) presents a title deed to Maasai 'Iaigwanani' Matingoi at Msomera village in Handeni district, Tanga region yesterday. 20 families voluntarily relocated to other villages. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla.

Now 1.7 million Mozambicans are taking anti-retroviral drugs

MAPUTO

Currently about 1.7 million HIV-positive Mozambicans are undergoing treatment with the life-prolonging anti-retroviral drugs (ARVT), according to Prime Minister Adriano Maleiane, speaking on Wednesday at the opening session of a meeting of the Steering Council of the National AIDS Commission (CNCS).

An estimated 2.1 million people are infected with HIV in Mozambique, and so the number on ARVT represents coverage of 81 per cent. This is an increase of 21 per cent, when compared with 2020 when 1.4 million HIV-positive Mozambicans were undergoing treatment.

"We note with some satisfaction that, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, our country has managed to achieve encouraging results in preventing and treating HIV", said Maleiane.

He noted that in 2021 96 per cent of the country's 1,771 health units were providing counselling, testing and treatment for HIV, which was "a major effort by our government to bring HIV services closer to the public".

In 2021, the Mozambican health authorities held the National Survey on the Impact of HIV and AIDS (INSIDA). This survey updates information on HIV prevalence rates, and how much the public knows about the disease, and assesses the impact of the government's interventions.

Maleiane said the final results of INSIDA-2021 will be published in December. "With this information we shall be better able to align our strategies to end HIV as a public health threat by 2030, a commitment that we have given as a country", he added. **Agencies**

which has set back the growth of intra-EAC trade and industrial value chains."

He said governments have allowed some raw materials to be imported outside the EAC bloc within duty remission, yet the raw materials are sufficiently available from other EAC partner states, this has distorted the regional value chain integration.

The industry leaders have also called for a Regional Committee on Duty Remission to convene and for the private sector to be involved in overseeing the EAC wide duty remission scheme.

Low uptake of EAC incentive schemes by the private sector is due to lack of awareness of the accreditation procedures and benefits of the schemes to businesses.

John Bosco Kalisa, EABC CEO said: "Export Processing Zones (EPZ), Duty Remission Scheme (DRS) and Authorised Economic Operators (AEO); are all incentive schemes intended to promote EAC exports and facilitate trade."

The EAC Incentive Schemes Workshop organized under the EABC-TMEA Public Private Sector Dialogue Programme for Trade

and Investment in Eastern Africa improved awareness of over 40 business associations on use of EAC customs instruments and schemes such as Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Duty Remission Schemes (DRSs) and Regional Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs).

The workshop delved into the benefits and application of the customs schemes to EAC businesses, intra-EAC trade and investment, while also looking at how to improve accessibility & compliance to the schemes by the private sector.

'Loans extended to private sector by banks increasing'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

LOANS extended to the country's private sector by banks grew at a rate of 8.4 per cent from July 2021 to April 2022 compared to the 4.3 recorded in the same period in 2020/21 fiscal year.

Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba made the revelation early this week in the House when presenting a report for 2020/21 state of the nation's economy and national development plan.

According to Dr Nchemba, the situation facilitates continued liquidity in the banking sector due to various measures taken by the government.

"Lending to the private sector has continued to grow at a satisfactory rate due to fiscal and budgetary policies, as well as on-going government measures to improve the business environment, and the implementation of policy measures taken by the government through the Central Bank aimed at stimulating credit growth and lowering mortgage interest rates," he said.

He said in recent months the pace of credit growth has increased to 13.4 per cent for the year ended April 2022, he said elaborating that majority of the loans were directed to private activities which accounted for 39.3 per cent of total loans, followed by business activities (16.7 per cent), industrial production (10.1 per cent)

and agriculture (7.9 per cent).

Nchemba said the situation has contributed with the implementation of the Monetary Policy which has helped to maintain a sufficient level of liquidity in the sector of banks, leading to the stabilization of interest rates in short-term financial markets at lower rates.

For example, overnight interbank cash market interest rate decreased to an average of 3.42 per cent in the period between July 2021 and April 2022, from an average of 3.60 per cent in the same period in 2020/21.

Similarly, interest rates on short-term securities (Overall Treasury bills rate) decreased to an average of 4.17 per cent from an average of 4.62 per cent in the same period in 2021.

He said the liquidity in the banking sector also contributed to the trend of interest rates in the financial market to remain stable and at low levels.

"The average interest rate on bank loans for the private sector as a whole decreased even though at a low rate of 16.44 per cent in the period between July 2021 and April 2022, compared to an average of 16.59 per cent in the same period in 2020/21," he explained.

The minister further said the pace of growth of credit in the private sector is expected to continue to improve due to the recovery in the global economy, as well as the policy measures taken by the central bank to stimulate low interest rate lending.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation director for Asia and Australia ambassador Caesar Waitara (L) with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary (E&SA) Shri Puneet Kundal (R) and the Tanzania High Commissioner in India Anisa Mbega shortly after the second round of foreign office consultations (FOC) between the two countries in New Delhi on Thursday.

Employees challenged to ensure timely reporting of road accidents

By Felister Peter

EMPLOYEES have been challenged to ensure timely reporting of road accidents that occur when executing their duties to avoid inconvenience for compensation.

Director General of the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) Dr John Mduma made the remarks yesterday when opening a seminar at Dar es Salaam about employers on the importance of reporting the accidents to the police force. The seminar involved top police officers from the region who

also provided education to employers on the importance of the police accident report. Dr Mduma said the law requires employees who have been involved in road accidents to report the matter to the police force and submit a report to the fund to qualify for compensation payment.

"This is why we have seen the need to meet with the police force as well as employers from Dar es Salaam region to explain the importance of immediately reporting accidents to the police force," said the WCF boss, adding the fund will conduct similar trainings to

employers in other regions.

He added: "As the fund, we are sometimes saddened to see the rights of employees or dependents being lost simply because police accident report was not provided."

Dr Mduma called upon employers and employees to make sure such accidents are reported on time to facilitate smooth payment of compensation.

He explained that WCF only pay compensation to employees involved in accidents during working hours, noting there are some dishonest people trying to collude with police officers to forge the accidents reports.

Representing the Tanzania traffic police commander, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Muqadamu Muqadamu said that employees are required to report on the occurrence of an accident to the police force within 72 hours. He said there have been challenges when the fund asks for approval of a certain accident report, but the employee involved did not report the matter. He said delays in reporting such accidents make it difficult for the force to start seeking information from its officers, thus delaying compensation payments.

WCF provides various types of compensation including medical treatment to injured workers, maintenance services and counselling to injured personnel with permanent disabilities. The fund also pays a certain amount of money to a person who is taking care of an injured worker upon approval from doctors.

According to him, when employees get road accident in the course of executing their duties, they will be required to have a police form (PF90) which states at exactly where the accident occurred and a PF3 which includes doctor's examination report.

He said the documents are important in supporting compensation claims, hence the need to employees to ensure timely reporting of road accidents to the police.

WCF was established under the Workers' Compensation Act No 20 of 2008 which requires companies to reg-

ister and pay employee contributions. The Act applies to employees from both the private and government sector. It provides compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the workplace.

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66.86bn/- collected for vehicles along Nyerere Bridge, govt says

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 66.86bn/- has been collected through charges on vehicles crossing the Nyerere Bridge in Dar es Salaam since it commenced operations in 2016, the House was informed yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Eng Godfrey Kasekenya said the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), which built the bridge started collecting fees from users of the bridge from May 2016 after its inauguration and by end of May, this year, the Fund collected amounts to a total of 66.86bn/-.

He also informed that from July 1, this year, users of the bridge would also have the option of paying charges weekly or monthly.

Eng Kasekenya made revelations when responding

to a question by Kigamboni MP, Dr Faustine Ndugulile, who wanted to know the total amount of revenues, collected through fees at the bridge since it started operations.

The lawmaker also queried on when the government plans to remove charges and make the users cross the bridge free of charge so as to remove the current burden that citizens carry.

In response, Eng Kasekenya further said the government has continued reducing charges on users of the facility by considering the financial capacity of the users to afford paying the fees.

He said that recently, the government reduced the charges in May, this year, the move which brought huge relief for the residents of

Kigamboni.

This was after President Samia Suluhu Hassan pledged to work on the public outcry over high charges posed to vehicles crossing the Nyerere Bridge.

Samia had ordered the review of the tolls which were charged to cross the bridge which connects Kigamboni with the central business district of Dar es Salaam.

The aim was to relieve the residents of Kigamboni as well as offer an alternative means of transport which will reduce congestion at ferries. The high charges forced the people living in Kigamboni to park their vehicles at homes, a factor that has pushed the government to review the prices to allow users to pay the tolls on daily, weekly and monthly basis at the lower charges.



Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) executive director Anna Henga (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when she presented the centre's analysis on the proposed 2022/2023 national budget for human rights perspective. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Govt invites Indian electrical companies

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has invited Indian electrical companies to establish projects that will promote the electrical service industry for mutual benefits.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Engineer Felcheshi Mramba said yesterday that such projects will only strengthen business links between Tanzania and India, but also create jobs.

Eng Mramba was speaking at a business roundtable on electrical and ICT sector was organized by India Higher Commission to Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA).

"There are Indian companies which are ready to do business with Tanzanians in power generation and other related sectors," he stated.

He said Tanzania has been importing electric wires, transformers and circuit breakers from India for several years, hence the need to have the technology in the country to produce the items locally.

Tanzania is still looking for investors from India to invest in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) especially the supply accessories and machine servicing, he said.

He said establishing joint venture projects would facilitate knowledge and technology transfer to Tanzanian experts.

"We are in talks with various international companies for investment in LNG projects. We would wish countries including India to grab this opportunity," he added.

India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan lauded TCCIA for

partnering with them to ensure the Indian delegation promotes what they have and share experience of doing business in both Tanzania and India.

"We have been getting support from TCCIA in various areas; our delegation got support when exploring business and investment opportunities in Tanzania," he said.

For the first time, India has reached 4.5bn/- for 2021-2022 in bilateral trade and "We believe the numbers will increase in coming years," he noted.

According to him, India is one of Tanzania's biggest business partner and among the top investors.

He said India will continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various sectors and explore possibilities of investment in health, education, port development and agriculture sector.

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40470 DODOMA,
21.03.2022

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

1. The public is hereby notified that there will be a movement of special load from **Holili to Moshi** by vehicle with registration number (s) **KCJ943F/ZE1097, KCM104W/ZF0174, KBQ622Z/ZE0978** and **KCK293W/ZE2585** of **Spedag Interfreight**.

The Journey is scheduled to start on **14.06.2022 to 27.06.2022**

2. Special load Dimensions:
Length - 21 M Width - 4.15 M Heigh - 5.15 M

3. Route: From **Holili to Moshi Via Soweto**

Travelling time will be only time **(06:30 am - 06:00 pm)**

We regret for any inconvenience caused

216898071

REG. NO. 72467

AGILITY LOGISTICS LIMITED

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Final General Meeting of the above-named Company will be held on the 19th day of July, 2022 at 10:00 Hours at **PKF Advisory Limited, Guides Building, 1st Floor, Tower B, Plot No.1088, Kibasila Street-Upanga, P.O Box 7323 Dar es Salaam in Nyati Boardroom**. Members or their proxies who wish to attend virtually will be provided with Zoom link, passcode and proxy template through their respective emails.

Agenda

- To receive the winding up report from the liquidator;
- To lay down accounts of the Winding up of the Company;
- Any Other Business.

By Order of the Company liquidator

Florian Mutagwaba
Liquidator

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 17th day of June, 2022

Circulation:
To all members

21689802

Tunduru district expects more revenues from sales of sesame

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

TUNDURU District in Ruvuma Region is expecting a boost of more than 3bn/- to its money circulation from sesame sales in the 2022/2023 auction which started yesterday.

During the auction which saw 12 buyers on the first day, farmers sold their produce at an average price of 2,982/- per kilogramme.

A representative of the manager for Tunduru Agriculture and Marketing Co-operative Union (TAMCU) Mariselo Mrope said during the auction TAMCU presented 1,008,638.00 kilogrammes for sale.

"I call upon farmers to use the opportunity to carefully study the letters from buyers so that they are comfortable with the prices before agreeing to sell their products," he said.

The cooperative officer for Tunduru Raymond Idanya said sales from the sesame is expected to generate more than 3,008bn/- and increase money circulation in the district as well as empower farmers economically.

Tunduru District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro called upon youth in the district to practice crop diversification to improve their economic wellbeing.

Mtatiro called upon the farmers in the area to use the money they get from the sales of the crops effectively including purchasing inputs for the next season to improve their harvests.

He said the government was set to provide the farmers with 81 packets of sulphur pesticides saying farmers who produce an average of 20 kilogrammes will be given free 7 to 10 packets.

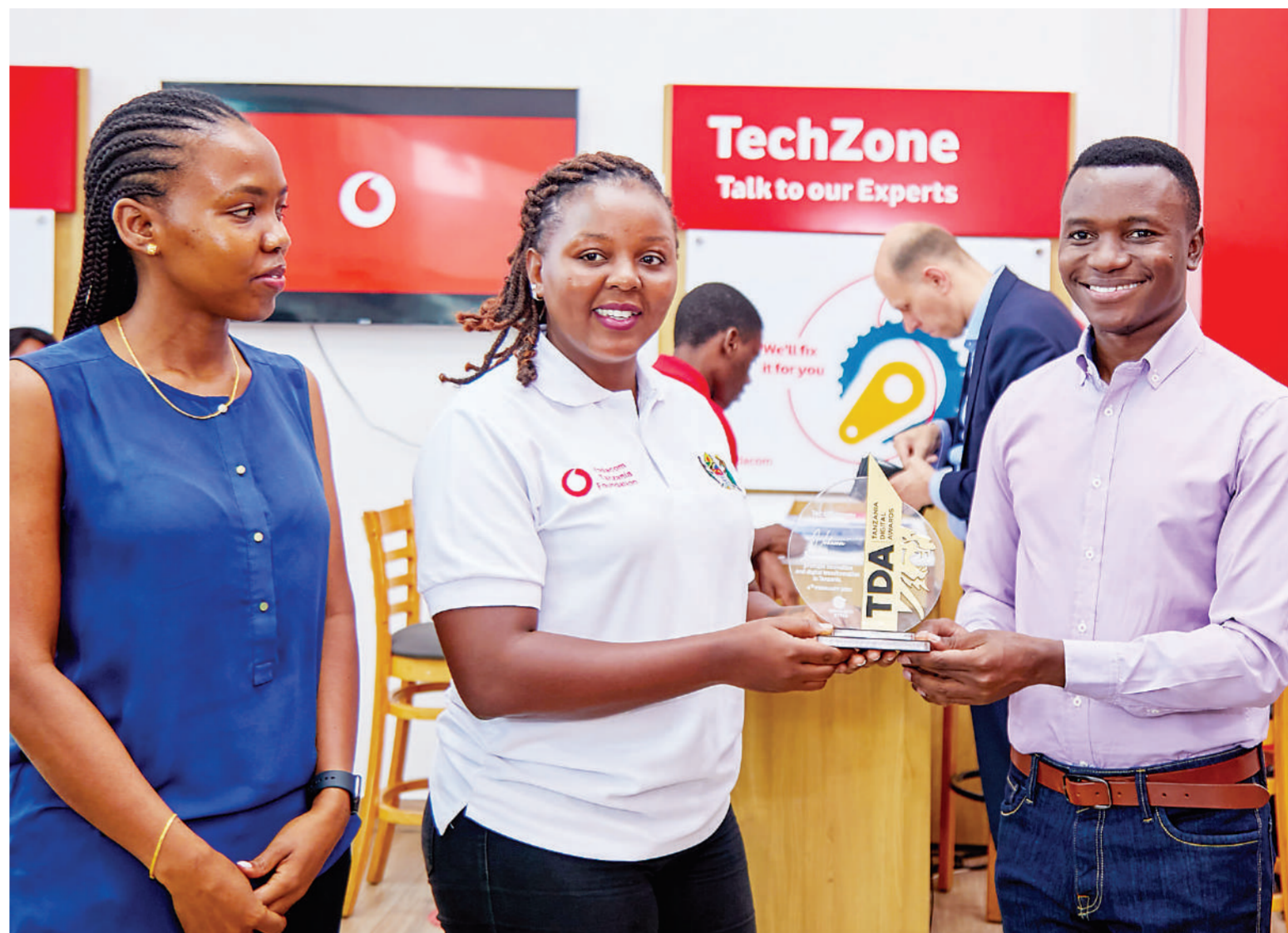
Cashewnut Board of Tanzania Chairperson, retired Brig Gen Aloyce Mwanjile said the fact that Tunduru district soils accept various crops is an opportunity for farmers to take advantage.

The chairperson for TAMCU Mussa Manjale said in collaboration with other stakeholders has been working to ensure there are quality seeds to ensure buyers are satisfied.

Most farmers during the auction expressed regret as to why they did not cultivate the crop to a large extent saying this year's market offers lessons for more investment into production of the crop.



I call upon farmers to use the opportunity to carefully study the letters from buyers so that they are comfortable with the prices before agreeing to sell their products.



Vodacom Tanzania Pic acting head of public relations and communication Christina Murimi (C) receives the 'Best Customer Care Telco Company Award' from Serengeti Bytes operation officer Michael Mallya in Dar es Salaam earlier this week for excellent digital customer service. Looking on (L) is M-Pesa digital channels manager Josephine Mushi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South Korea hands over 10,000 tablets to NBS ahead of census

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya Iringa

THE South Korean government has handed over 10,000 tablets to the National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania (NBS) as part of capacity building ahead of the Population and Housing Census.

Through Statistics Korea which is the national statistical body of the Republic of Korea an agreement has been reached to support

NBS for enhanced production of quality statistics in the country.

NBS Director General Dr Albina Chuwa revealed this during the signing of the ceremony for the second year of implementation 2021/23 between the NBS and Korean Statistics (Office Kostat) joint project held in Iringa.

She said the project is aimed at building the capacity of trainees from NBS where 400 trainers were coached on the best ways to

handle the coming exercise.

She noted that the first part of the training exercise was the visual training for population and housing census which also intends to provide ICT equipment that will also support population and housing census this year, especially census mapping elaborating that the census mapping is a continuous process and will continue until the exercise comes to an end.

She said the main objective of

the joint project is to strengthen NBS capacity that will manage to produce as much data statistical information as home decision making and policies in development programs namely the five year development plan, sustainable development goals (SDGs) among others.

"A thousand miles journey begins with the first step, and the second year of implementation of the 2021-23 NBS and KOSTAT joint

project we signed today, is a long time partnership between the two statistical institutions," Dr Chuwa noted.

The support comes at a time when the two nations are celebrating the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations which started in 1992.

"We need as much data as possible to respond to the changes of our economy that we see across the world, so data is everything,

without data you cannot make decisions for better lives of our people," Dr Chuwa said.

She said we need to come out of the box and tap more opportunities from getting data from different sources including private sector, and academia individuals.

The three years programme which is scheduled to start next year will also provide technical support in the area of Geographical Information Systems (GIS).



Tanzania police force head of gender and children desk DCP Mary Nzuki talks during the commemoration of International Day of the African Child at national level in Simanjiro district, Manyara region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Govt mulls building of police station at Donge

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister for Home Affairs Jumanne Sagini has directed the Police Commissioner for Zanzibar to immediately conduct an assessment over whether Donge constituency has met criteria for establishment of a police station.

Sagini made the directive yesterday in the House when responding to a question from Donge MP Mohamed Jumah Soud (CCM) who decried lack of a police station in the constituency saying it pose a huge security threat to people and properties.

In his basic question, the legislator wanted to know criteria used to establish police stations in areas where population and crimes have increased.

The MP queried why the Donge constituency still does not have the police station while it had met the criteria.

In response, Sagini directed the Zanzibar police commissioner to do the assessment and if the constituency has met requirements the police station has to be established so as to ensure better surveillance in the area.

The deputy minister mentioned key requirements needed to establish police stations including an increase of population, increased crimes, distance between one police station to the other and presence of government's infrastructures.

Others are presence of trade activities, being strategic areas for defence and security, budgetary capacity as well as readiness by residents and their authorities in a particular area.

He said after the area has met all those criteria, the following step is to submit a proposal to the district and regional security committee for establishment of the police station.

The security committees at the district and regional level then forward the proposal to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for further steps for establishment of the station.



In response, Sagini directed the Zanzibar police commissioner to do the assessment and if the constituency has met requirements the police station has to be established so as to ensure better surveillance in the area.

Tanzania, China in joint project to improve vocational education

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and China have launched a joint project that aims to boost vocational education through the development of new vocational standards in the East African nation.

The National Occupational Standards Review and Development Project, launched recently, was sponsored by the China-Africa Vocational Education Alliance and supervised by Tanzania's state-run National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

A total of 43 Chinese vocational colleges in China will participate in the first phase of the

project, involving 54 different levels of vocational standards, said the moderator of the launch, Jiang Yilin, Chinese secretary-general of the China-Africa Vocational Education Alliance.

The development of these standards will have a far-reaching impact on the development of vocational education in Tanzania, said Jiang.

"This is the first time that China has directly developed and revised vocational standards for an African country on a large scale," said Prof Dong Gang, chairperson of China's National Joint Conference of Vocational and Technical College and University Presidents.

Dong said this also marked an important mile-

stone for the international outreach of China's vocational education.

Adolf Rutayuga, the NACTVET executive secretary, said the project will facilitate the development of vocational education and training in Tanzania and lay the foundation for the establishment of new educational standards.

Rutayuga added that the project will also help to develop a large pool of talented and skilled workers, ensure that vocational education graduates meet the needs of the international market, and further enhance Tanzania's industrialisation level.

Eliamani Sedoyeka, the permanent secre-

tary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Tanzania, said the implementation of the project will open a new chapter for China-Tanzania vocational education cooperation, promote the entry of Chinese vocational standards into Tanzania, and make new contributions to the continuation of China-Tanzania friendship.

Liang Xiaoyan, the lead education specialist of the World Bank, witnessed the partnership between Tanzania and China in developing and reviewing occupational standards in key areas such as transportation, renewable energy, information and communication technology, agricul-

ture, and manufacturing.

Liang said the standards to be addressed in the project defined competencies for jobs and occupations and can provide a framework for training.

She said the government of Tanzania is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the curriculum and introducing reforms to the education and training sector, adding that the Tanzania, China and World Bank partnership on TVET is timely and will make a contribution to help improve the quality of training and graduates.

India and Tanzania holding foreign office consultations

By Special Correspondent

INDIA and Tanzania on Thursday reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic and defence at the second round of foreign office consultations between the two countries.

The discussions were led on the Indian side by Puneet R Kundal, Joint Secretary (E&SA), Ministry of External Affairs and on the Tanzanian side by Caesar Waitara, Director (Asia & Australasia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.

"The consultations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations including political, economic, trade and investment, defence, cultural, people to people, and other areas of mutual interest," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Multilateral and regional issues including co-operation in UN, East Africa Community (EAC), South African Development Cooperation (SADC) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) were also discussed.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the growth in bilateral trade, which touched US\$ 4.5 billion for

2021-22.

The releases said India is one of Tanzania's biggest trading partners and among the top investors in Tanzania.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in various sectors and explore possibilities of investment in health, education, port development and the agriculture sector.

Tanzania is also a major development partner of India and New Delhi has extended six lines of Credit worth over US \$ 1.1 billion to Tanzania, especially in the sector of city water supply and management.

The Indian side reiterated its commitment to continue the development partnership with Tanzania through loans, grants and other mechanisms.

Both sides also agreed to continue with high-level political exchanges and regular meetings of the joint institutional mechanisms to keep the partnership vibrant with mutual benefits.

The consultations were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides agreed to hold the next round of consultations at a mutually convenient date in Dar es Salaam.



Primary and secondary school students from Mbulu, Hanang' and Mkalama districts marching to celebrate the International Day of the African Child sponsored by the Haydom four corners cultural programme (4CCP) at Haydom ward in Mbulu district, Manyara region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Amend marriage law to protect rights of girls - call

By Guardian Reporter

AT the age of 14 and 15, all children, boys and girls are supposed to be in school. Today, a child aged 14 is in Standard Six or Seven. At age 15, he or she is in Form One.

Due to the government's education sponsorship, there is no excuse for parents to bar their children from attending school because education is offered free of charge from primary school to Form Four. As if that is not enough, the government has just proposed in Parliament to make education free up to

Form Six.

However, the dreams of many girls to enjoy the education opportunity availed by the government have often been shattered by customs and traditions of some tribes which allow children to get married below the age of 18. What's even worse is the fact that such bad practice is supported by the Marriage Act of 1971.

According to sections 13 and 14 of the Act, a girl may be married at the age of 15, with the consent of her parents or by permission of the court. But the same law favours the opposite sex and

sets the age at 18, when the boy may get married.

"We believe the Marriage Act of 1971 is discriminatory and oppressive to the girl child. It also encourages child marriage. Apart from the fact that she is supposed to be in school, a fourteen or fifteen year-old girl cannot make well-informed decisions on such important issues of life like marriage," says Euphonia Edward, Programme Officer with Child Dignity Forum (CDF) who is also Coordinator of Tanzania Elimination of Child Marriage Network.

The coalition which was started

by CDF brings together 69 non-governmental organisations which have pooled resources to sensitize society on the need to end child marriage and give equal opportunities to girls as stipulated in the country's constitution.

The coalition's voice comes at a time when Africa is marking Day of the African Child, in commemoration of hundreds of children who were killed by the Apartheid regime during South Africa's Soweto uprising on 6th June, 1976. This year's theme is Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013.

Stressing that at age 14 or 15, a girl is incapable of determining her future positively, Euphonia says, in most cases if not all, the person who proposes to the girl is much older than her and she has no say.

Once in that marriage, the girl undergoes psychological torture with a desire to harm herself, physical abuse and Gender Based Violence (GBV). If she falls pregnant, she risks losing her life and that of her baby during childbirth. She also runs a risk of contracting AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

In some regions like Singida, Mara, Shinyanga and Dodoma, where child marriage is rampant, the ceremony is usually preceded by that of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which escalates the suffering of the girl child.

Using data for demonstration, Euphonia says according to the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2015/16, 36 per cent of girls aged between 20 -24 were married before attaining the age of 18. She named the regions of Shinyanga, Mara, Tabora and Dodoma where such practices are common.



South Korea based CTS international organisation president Kyung Chul Kam (R) signs a MoU on the implementation of community projects with Meru Council executive director Zainabu Makwinya in Arumeru district, Arusha yesterday. Looking on (L) is the Council's councillor's chairperson Jeremia Kishili. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

'UNHCR committed to support refugees with health challenges'

By Correspondent Adela Madyane- Kigoma

THE United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed commitment to support and stand on the side of refugees with health challenges while in camps for improved welfare.

Speaking during a visit to 21 refugees admitted for almost three years in Kasaka mental health centre in Kigoma district as part of celebrations to commemorate world refugees' day, public health officer for UNHCR Gideon Ndaula said the move was demonstration of the organisation's commitment to supporting refugees.

The organisation has arranged to pay hospital bills, medical fees as well as feeding them for the whole time they are admitted at the health centre with about 8.4m/- spent a month.

During the visit he was accompanied by education officers from Kigoma municipal and district councils, Medical Teams International (MTI) and ministry of home affairs who provided non food items as their support to the centre that included juice, sanitary pads, slippers as well as body lotions.

"Conditions which refugees face when they leave their countries in most cases life are threatening. That is why when faced with challenges we come in with support," he said.

The doctor in-charge of Mikanyonga health centre said out of 32 admitted patients, 21 are from Nyarugusu and Nduta camps while other patients come from other regions like Dar es Salaam, Manyovu and Kasulu.

Director of Tanzania brothers of charity who is also a director of Kasaka mental health centre Chrisantus Rwehikiza said medication, bedding, food supply and health workers are the most challenging issues affecting their efficiency.

Rwehikiza asked for the government and other stakeholders to provide them with food, medicine as well as beddings.

Innocent Sangara, UNHCR Assistant Representative for Operations who is also head of sub office UNHCR Kigoma, said supporting refugees with health problems, especially those with mental challenges, called for collective efforts.

KAMPALA

Ugandan schools shut as teachers' strike enters third day

AS Education Minister, Janet Museveni prepares to meet teachers' learners in most schools in Greater Masaka and other parts of the country stayed at home yesterday as the on-going teachers' strike entered third day.

Many schools remained closed, while for a few that opened; there was only the head teacher and support staff on duty.

Francis Ssematimba, the chairperson of Uganda National Teachers' Union (Unatu) in Masaka City, said he was happy that a good number of teachers had positively responded to the industrial action.

"I can assure you that no teacher who is on strike will go back to class without a clear agreement on how our salaries are going to be enhanced," Ssematimba said.

Olivia Namaganda, the Unatu chairperson in Kalungu District, said although they have waited for a salary enhancement for long, they were surprised to see some of their colleagues teaching science subjects being considered.

"We are all teachers, why does government discriminate against us?" she asked.

In Bukomansimbi District, several public schools were left at the mercy of private teachers paid by parents' associations.

According to Leonard Mugeru, the Unatu chairperson in Bukomansimbi District, some schools with private teachers were also forced to send learners away before the normal closing hours because the available manpower could not fully attend to the learners.

"Even in secondary schools such as Kasaka SS, some science teachers who are supposed to be on duty were also not there," he said.

Zulaika Nazziwa, the Lyantonde District inspector of schools, said at least 90 percent of the primary schools in the area remained closed.

"Our prayer is that the issues that led to the strike are swiftly resolved so that normal lessons resume. Our children lost a lot of study time during the lockdown, and we don't want the strike to prolong," she said.

At Kibanga PS in Kalangala, pupils in boarding section were revising, while others were washing clothes.

David Tusbubira, the head teacher, said the

teachers are waiting for official communication from Unatu.

"We are keeping pupils in boarding section busy with past papers as we wait for the teachers if their meeting with government officials comes up," Tusbubira said.



I can assure you that no teacher who is on strike will go back to class without a clear agreement on how our salaries are going to be enhanced



Singida Urban legislator Mussa Sima contributes during the Parliament budget session in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Young MPs to meet in Egypt to discuss climate change

By Vincent Owino

YOUNG parliamentarians from across the globe will be meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on June 15 and 16 to spearhead discussions on action to haul climate change and global warming, as the underlying effects ravage communities, especially in the East and Horn of Africa region.

According to a dispatch from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) - the global organization of national parliaments, the legislators' dialogue during the eighth conference will focus on a four-point agenda, including the state of climate change and its impact on human rights.

Other issues to be discussed are parliamentary action to fight climate change, the role of civil society organizations in the battle against climate change, and how parliaments can rally climate change support for developing countries, that are worst affected by the issue.

"Young MPs have key roles in addressing climate change, from participating in the

drafting of new legislation, reviewing state budgets, to applying oversight tools to monitor government implementation of climate commitments," the dispatch reads.

"The Conference discussions will be based primarily on the sharing of laws, policies and creative practices to address climate action."

The conference comes ahead of the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) expected to take place in November this year in the same city, where more agreements to effect climate change action are anticipated.

It also comes at a time when the East African region is said to be experiencing the worst drought in forty years, following four failed rainy seasons, putting at least 40 million people at risk and in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.

The MPs are expected to deliberate on how they can facilitate support for the millions of people across the globe who have been put in harm's way by climate change and rising global temperatures.

Young leaders to share their vision for change with heads of govt at Commonwealth summit

KIGALI

YOUNG people will seek to make their mark on future Commonwealth policies at the 12th Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) which begins in Kigali, Rwanda tomorrow.

Held ahead of the main Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the three-day forum is a unique opportunity for young leaders to bring policy recommendations

to their governments - asserting their role in shaping the future of the Commonwealth.

More than 60 per cent of Commonwealth citizens are under the age of 30 - a demographic distinctly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and its associated economic and social fallout. Many young people lost their jobs or were unable to access the labour market while millions more experienced disrupted education.

The Commonwealth Secretary-

General, Patricia Scotland said: "There is no denying that the challenge before us is great. The disruptions and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic casts a shadow that could stretch across the coming decades, threatening to rob us of the social and economic progress we have made and exacerbating existing weaknesses. But, in the Commonwealth we have a powerful advantage - a young majority who are brimming with talent, intent on inno-

vation and eager to be part of the solution."

She said: "They have sent a clear message through the theme of their forum Taking Charge of our Future, and in Kigali they will sit together and consider the challenges. Looking at the evidence in our Youth Development Index, which measures how countries are performing on aspects such as youth employment and youth participation in politics, they will agree on the solutions, the ac-

tion and the changes they want our Heads of Government to consider when they meet.

More than 350 youth leaders from all 54 member countries are expected to be at the meeting.

They will network, exchange ideas, build skills, and generate solutions to the most pressing youth-related challenges. These include unemployment, gender inequality, crime and access to quality education and training.

During the forum young people will agree to a set of policy recommendations which will be recorded and presented to Heads of Government in a Youth Declaration on the final day of the forum.

They will also have an opportunity to meet heads of government during an intergenerational dialogue. This year's forum will also address thematic areas such as governance and the rule of law, technology, skills, innova-

tion, sustainability, health, Covid-19, and trade.

The meeting is being supported by the Government of Rwanda and coordinated by an International Youth Taskforce, made up of 21 young people from around the Commonwealth and co-chaired by Darrion Narine of Trinidad and Tobago and Alodie Iradukunda of Rwanda. It is supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Rwanda.



Superdoll business development manager Adam Mubago (R) explains about proper use of tyres to bus drivers at Magufuli main bus terminal Mbezi Luis at Ubungo municipality in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Govt reviews fisheries regulations for better investment environment

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has said that it is in final stages of reviewing fisheries regulations to facilitate a conducive investment environment that will accelerate growth of the sector.

Livestock and Fisheries Deputy Minister Abdallah Ulega said this yesterday in the House that the government's zeal is to ensure that the sector benefits all people including small-scale fishermen.

He was responding to a question posed by Ally Kasinge (Kilwa South) who claimed that the current fisheries regulations does not seem to meet the needs of small-scale fishermen.

The deputy minister explained that the on-going review in will help make changes in levies and charges posed to be in line with the current needs of fishermen.

He said the ministry had reviewed the National Fisheries Policy and its strategies of 1997 and formulated the National Fisheries Policy of 2015 which took into account the needs of stakeholders in the sector and the sustainability of fishery resources.

"We are currently reviewing the 2020 Fisheries Regulation so as to improve fishing activities by creating more conducive environment that attract both large and small-scale fishermen to invest more in the sector and increase production of fish and its products for local consumption and export, we received views from stakeholders as well as the Parliament on the areas that need improvements and we are working on them," he explained.

Ulega acknowledged that as the government was to bring revolution in the livestock sector, having supportive policies, laws and regulations was a matter of paramount importance.

He said that the government is mulling to ensure that Tanzania becomes the leading country in Africa with high number of livestock thus attracting major investments.



We are currently reviewing the 2020 Fisheries Regulation so as to improve fishing activities by creating more conducive

7million urban residents to access improved infrastructure, services

By Guardian Reporter

SEVEN million residents in secondary cities will benefit from strengthened urban management and access to better infrastructure and services through a new International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$278 million approved recently by the World Bank.

"Tanzanian cities are increasingly at risk of climate change, particularly due to projected changes in rainfall patterns which, when coupled with poor development controls and environmental degradation, will increase flooding," said Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. War-

wick added: "This investment directly responds to these vulnerabilities by including climate change adaptation as a cross-cutting issue in its design. It also supports connectivity and access to markets through road infrastructure, bus stop improvements and public space upgrades to reduce travel times and costs, and safety improvements."

Tanzania's urban population is expected to increase from 34 per cent in 2018 to 49 per cent by 2040, with the highest growth rates occurring in the country's secondary and tertiary cities.

"Urban areas are critical for Tanzania's economy and for poverty reduction, however institutional systems and infrastructure have not kept pace with rapid urbanisation," she added. David

Mason, World Bank Urban Specialist and Task Team Leader said that rapid urbanization and increased population density have contributed to urban sprawl and low-density development in Tanzania's cities, with poor connectivity between people, industries, and markets.

"The risk of climate-related disasters also runs high. TACTIC will contribute to harnessing urbanization to promote economic growth and job creation; strengthening public accountability and financial efficiency in delivering services; and improving the efficiency and attractiveness of public investments to crowd-in private investments," he said.

The Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastruc-

ture and Competitiveness project (TACTIC) will address these gaps by providing support to key areas of urban management in participating cities, including municipal finance, urban planning, resilience and green development, improved service delivery, and local economic development in addition to infrastructure investments.

Through these activities, TACTIC is expected to directly benefit a total of over seven million people through strengthened urban management performance, and among them five million people through improved basic infrastructure and services.

This will include the urban poor and vulnera-

ble population who will benefit from increased access to urban infrastructure, basic services, economic opportunities, and reduced risks from climate impacts. At the national level, the project will also strengthen institutional capacity of central ministries.

TACTIC is coordinating with other projects funded by the government and various development partners including European Union, Danish International Development Agency, Nordic Development Fund, French Development Agency, Credit Institute for Reconstruction, German Corporation for International Development, and United Nations Human Settlement Programme.

Refrain from using sulphate bags in cotton packaging, TCB tells farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) in Iramba and Mkalama districts has prohibited farmers from using sulphate bags in packaging the crop saying it affects its quality.

According to the board, poor packaging of the crop not only affects its quality, but also its price at the international market.

TCB Manager in the districts, Juma Salum made the statement here yesterday when speaking during a one-day seminar which brought together stakeholders, farmers, leaders of cooperative unions and officials from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

The manager explained that when farmers use sulphate bags to carry their cotton, its fibres are mixed with cotton, thus affecting its quality. He said when taken to markets, cotton packed from the particular bags fetches low prices.

"Farmers should not use the bags to carry or pack the crop, once its quality is affected, farmers end up selling it at low prices," said the manager, noting that low prices discourage farmers from continuing to cultivate the crop.

Salum emphasized that stringent measures will be taken against farmers who will continue to use the banned bags. He said farmers who will be seen packaging the crop in the sulphate bags will pay a fine of up to 200,000/-.

He however warned farmers to stop mixing cotton with sand, water, oil and charcoal, as officials will be conducting thorough inspection before the consignments are accepted and taken to warehouses.

He also warned leaders of the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (Amcos) from mixing cotton with water and sand insisting they will be subjected to pay a fine of between 500,000/- and 2m/- per offence.

Acting Iramba District Executive Director, Marietha Kasango said that it was high time that farmers engage in commercial farming of the crop to generate decent income.

Cotton growing and ginning is one of Tanzania's top three agricultural export industries. It is a major source of livelihood for up to half a million smallholder farmers, mostly in the large region of enduring rural poverty lying in Lake Zone.



Brac Tanzania EELAY project manager, Hope Jasson (L) speaks on how the firm enabled more than 900 girls to access secondary school education through a short-term programme at the Institute of Adult Education during the celebrations to mark the International Day of the African Child at Urithi grounds in Tanga region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

By Guardian Reporter

130 million African girls, women married as children, shows report

AFRICA is home to 130 million child brides, both girls under the age of 18 who have already married and adult women who were married as children.

A new UNICEF continental and regional report on child marriage and female genital mutilation in Africa provide updates on the status of these practices and call on governments and regional institutions to accelerate efforts and to increase domestic resources to end child marriage and female genital mutilation, in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 and 2030 global agenda for sustainable development.

Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa said: "Ending child marriage is a key priority for UNICEF. To accelerate efforts, we need to invest in areas for high impact, notably reducing poverty

as a main driver of child marriage, ensuring girls' access to quality education and learning at scale and social and behaviour change in favour of girls' and women's full and active participation in social and economic life".

Poirier said that multisectoral and contextualised interventions are needed given the higher prevalence of child marriage in rural areas, among the poorest households and among those with little or no education.

Mohamed Malick Fall, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa said that African gov-

ernments assess both what has been invested in and what remains to be done to eliminate child marriage and female genital mutilation, increasing domestic resources to tackle harmful practices is imperative for success.

He said the move will give every child on the continent a better chance to have the childhood they deserve and to which they are so much entitled.

"Without community engagement and including traditional leaders to drive the technical interventions, it will not be possible to change the social norms that promote child marriage

and other harmful practices. We need stronger civil society organizations, traditional leaders and community-based structures that reinforce the child protection system and protect girls and boys from violence, exploitation, abuse, and harmful practices," said Dr Edward Addai, UNICEF Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The regional and global priorities are underscored by The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child marriage and female genital

mutilation are a violation of children's rights. In many communities across the continent, girls continue to be at risk of one or both practices.

Child marriage is present throughout the continent, with the highest levels across the Sahel and in pockets of Central and Eastern Africa.

Nine out of ten countries with the highest levels of child marriage in the world are in sub-Saharan Africa, including respectively Niger, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Guinea and Nigeria.

Nearly 140 million girls and women in Africa have undergone female genital mutilation, of whom over 40 million also experienced child marriage.

Some countries in Africa have made great progress in reducing child marriage, while others have seen stagnation. Conflict, climate change and COVID-19, which together have interrupted education and created economic shocks, have put more women and girls at risk of child marriage as some parents turn to it to cope with the effect of crises.

This year's commemoration of the international Day of the African Child on 16 June is themed: "Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013."

Data shows that at continental level, Africa continues to lag in progress towards meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 to eliminate all harmful practices by 2030.



Youth Special Seats MP Asia Halamga (C) poses for photo with pastoralists' community popularly known as Morani shortly after the arriving of the Uhuru Touch race in Simanjiro district, Manyara region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Dunnagan to start his 47th Mount Kilimanjaro climb

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

MACON Dunnagan, Tanzania's Goodwill ambassador for tourism from Charlotte, in North Carolina in the United States (US) will later this month start his 47th Mount Kilimanjaro climb along with a group of other tourists.

Last year, the Goodwill Ambassador climbed Mount Meru to its highest peak-Meru Summit-4562 metres above the Sea levels.

He climbed Mount Meru and visited other tourism destinations within the Arusha national park including the Little Serengeti and Momella lakes.

In an interview with this paper in Moshi yesterday, Dunnagan, said he is going to start his 47th six-day Mt Kilimanjaro climb through the Rongai route.

"I am now a professional mountaineer, as I have already climbed Mount Kilimanjaro 46 times, but what I have experienced from Mount Meru climbing last year was more challenging than Kili as I used a special chain to make a technical climb," he stated.

"I would like to thank everyone who made my Mount Kilimanjaro climbs successfully including officials at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and my professional mountain guide, Edwin Kilawe from ZARA Tours," said Dunnagan.

Dunnagan commended the making of the Royal Tour Documentary by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, saying good results have been seen in promoting Tanzania's tourism destinations worldwide.

He added that President Samia made a wise decision to go for the film as it will help attract more investment that would result in creation of jobs.

Before his official marriage in the US, the Goodwill Ambassador engaged his wife Kim Brown at the Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) some years back before celebrating their engagement by climbing Mt Kilimanjaro through the Rongai route in a special expedition organized by ZARA Tours.

Macon who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, with ZARA Tours for 46 times, comes to Tanzania every year two or three times with a group of tourists to climb Mt Kilimanjaro and visit some tourism destinations in Tanzania with his group including Serengeti National Park (SENAPA) for fun or for the cause.

Tanzania's Goodwill Envoy in the US said he has climbed Mt Kilimanjaro 46 times and wrote many books about the attractiveness of the country's tourism destinations including his famous book named 'Sons of Kilimanjaro', and was later announced by the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) as a Goodwill Am

WHO to get monkeypox tests for Africa as new cases reported

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) is in the process of procuring thousands of monkeypox tests for Africa but is not recommending mass vaccination at this stage, its Africa Director Matshidiso Moeti has said.

She added that the continent should be prepared for vaccination should the need arise.

The decision to start preparations comes

as new cases have been reported.

This year, the continent has documented 1,597 suspected cases of monkeypox, with 66 deaths, the acting director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Ahmed Ogwel Ouma, said on Thursday.

Monkeypox, a mild viral infection, is endemic in 11 African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Nigeria.

There is no known vaccine currently, but the smallpox vaccine has been shown to offer up to 85 percent protection against monkeypox.

Health administrators now believe that when a smallpox vaccination campaign starts to contain monkeypox worldwide, it should begin in Africa.

"Our position is that vaccination is an important tool and needs to start here in Africa," Ouma said during a weekly briefing by

the Africa CDC.

"Here ... the burden is larger, the risk higher and the geographical spread is also broader," he said.

The confirmed cases in Africa were reported from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, DRC, Nigeria, Morocco, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Ouma said.

But Europe remains the epicentre of the global monkeypox outbreak, according to

the WHO.

"Europe remains the epicentre of this escalating outbreak, with 25 countries reporting more than 1,500 cases, or 85 percent of the global total," Hans Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe, told a news conference on Wednesday.

The WHO is due to convene an emergency committee next week to assess whether the monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern.

World Refugee Day is a reminder that anyone can be a refugee, or be displaced

JUNE 20th is the moment activists worldwide mark the World Refugee Day, an event that an online chronicle says was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly adopted from the African Union early in the past decade. This year the day is being marked on the background of a grim reminder issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that the number of refugees and displaced persons around the world had crossed the fateful 100m mark, with the war in Ukraine, and rapidly worsening conditions in Afghanistan and elsewhere. And there are no easy solutions anywhere.

Refugees arise from actions of individuals in large numbers to collect or carry whatever they can to flee a situation where violence threatens the lives of the majority of the people. It may be a zone in a country and at times it may engulf the whole country, and in such a situation it begins to task capacities and resources of relief agencies, not prepared to take care of an entire nation that has fallen into instability.

That is why global management at the moment is unquestionably awful, to produce 100m refugees already, and the number looks like it will be rising, while declining in some areas over several years.

The chronicler says World Refugee Day is designed to celebrate and honour refugees from around the world, that it was first established on 20 June 2001 in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 convention relating to the sta-

tus of refugees worldwide. It says this event aims to recognise the strength of the refugees who have fled conflict and persecution in their country in the hope of finding sanctuary and living a better life, in which case World Refugee Day builds the concept of understanding for their plight. It focuses on the resilience and courage of the groups of refugees in the quest to reconstruct their future.

Marking the day is tied up with implicit adherence to the principle of providing a vital chance for asylum seekers and refugees to be seen, listened to and valued by the community that they are living, that is, after being accepted as refugees. How far that is done is a moot point, as there are refugees who are genuinely welcome in countries they seek abode, where it is clear they have been forced out of their country, while they are themselves holding democratic values. Where this principle is not assured, discrimination arises.

UN experts assert that refugees play a positive role when they are positioned to have access to legal employment opportunities in the host country, utilizing the skills they have to assist in filling the gap of such country's labour market.

That point is also a hotly contested sphere especially in Western Europe as refugees and asylum seekers, economic migrants etc. accept lower wages than eligible youths in the country.

Thus having plenty of refugees in the labour dampens ability to seek higher wages, hence igniting protests.

Sexual violence in armed conflicts still haunts Africa, but intensity has declined

GENDER and human rights activists on June 19th mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

A statement issued by high level diplomatic channels in marking this event last year said that the commemoration now being celebrated for the seventh year brings the global community to pursue the commitment to eliminate horrors of conflict-related sexual violence around the world. There are still conflicts around the world where the problem is being reported, but the situation has been improving compared with what was happening in past decades, even going far back to the Second World War.

The problem of sexual violence during warfare has existed in many conflicts, and up to this day legal and compensation issues are still being finalized on the way specific sections of the population in occupied or conquered zones in World War II were used as sex slaves.

But it was in Africa that the horrors took their sharpest turn during the 1980s and the 1990s, up to the formation of the International Criminal Court to try rebel leaders and at times leaders of countries after they fall, for crimes committed while they were in power.

Using rifle bayonets to tear apart the wombs of pregnant women was a war crime that shook the world during the 'blood diamonds' conflicts in West Africa and even the civil war in DRC was tied to diamonds.

Looking at these horrors it is evident that it is not the sexuality per se which is at issue but the bestiality, unparalleled violence

that has no recognition of human rights. The reason was the mutation of rebel movements in Africa from frontal warfare to terror, since to fight frontal battles one needs a base, but rag tag rebel collect youths, put them to rituals of cruelty and reward them in one way or another for spectacular actions of cruelty. Rebel leaders believed it would break a people, force negotiations.

In the past two decades there hasn't been a conflict in West Africa or elsewhere as bestial as that period, but killing people on the spot or taking groups of people on hostage for ransom are rampant practices.

So there is less sexual violence than two decades ago but the kidnapping of girls abducted from school in past years illustrated the scourge. The sixth phase government is advocating pooling together defence outlays against rebellions and terror, to diminish the persistence of rebellions.

Being aware of fighting the whole of East Africa to a considerable extent is different from a see saw between two neighbours, supporting rival guerrilla groups.

The United Nations in conflict-affected and fragile states, sexual violence is often employed as both a deliberate and strategic tactic of war and terrorism to instill fear and control and displace communities already under distress. It is a destabilizing tactic, to bring society to its knees.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

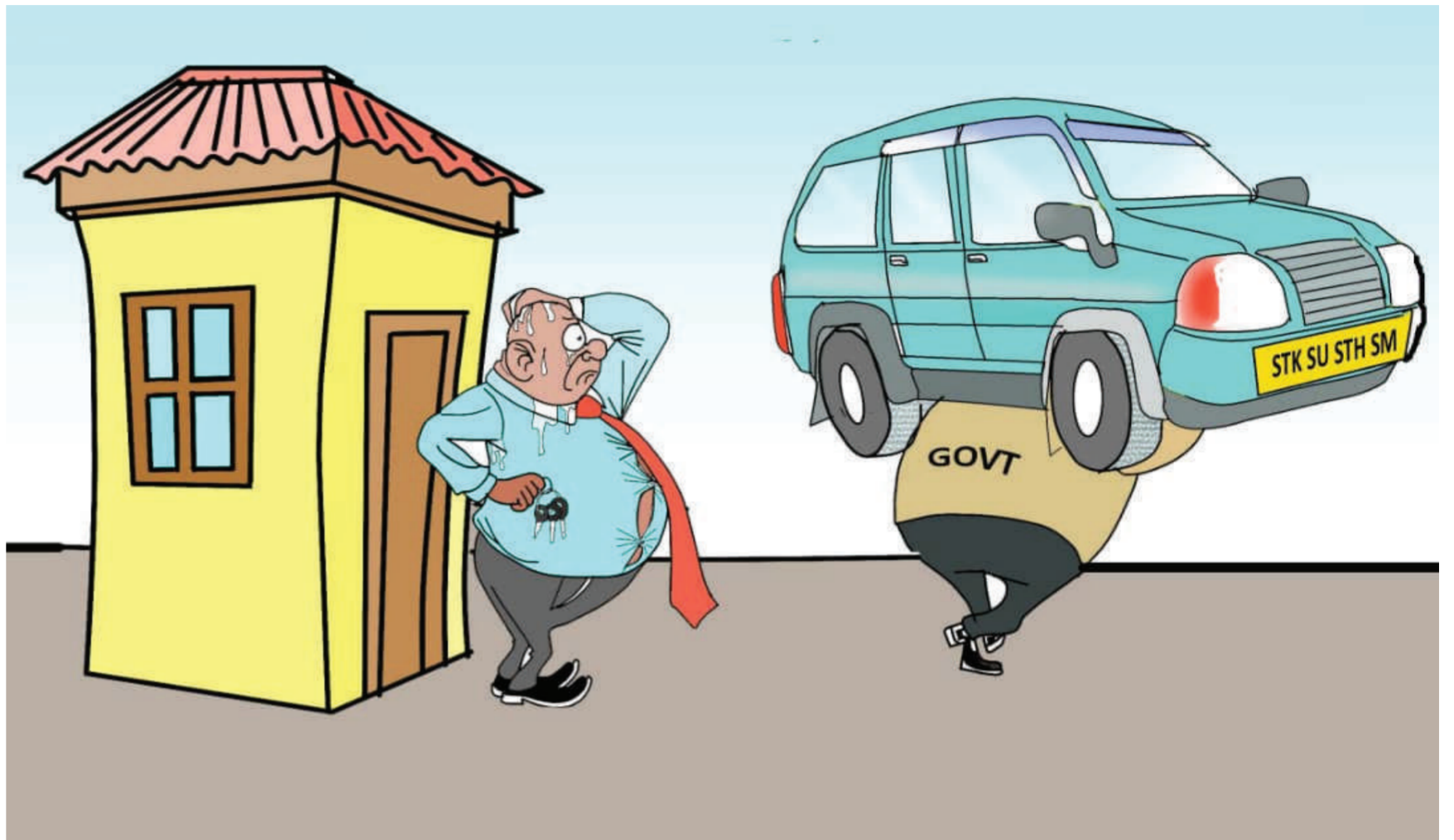
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Protecting the right 30 per cent of our ocean

By Rocky Sanchez Tirona and Dr Steve Gaines | @rare_org

TODAY only 11 per cent of Marine Protected Areas are inside territorial waters. Most are established offshore, far from the biodiversity-rich territorial seas

Disappearing forests. Declining fish stocks. Rising sea levels. A global biodiversity crisis is threatening nature that sustains us all.

In response to these challenges, the UN Convention on Biodiversity set a target of conserving 30 percent of land and ocean by 2030. National governments and international organizations are participating in the 30x30 campaign to achieve it.

The 30x30 campaign is a unique opportunity. It is inspiring to see countries come together in support of an ambitious goal. But are global efforts to protect the ocean directing support and resources where they can have the greatest impact for people and nature?

To meet global goals for protecting biodiversity, we must make sure we're protecting the full array of ocean regions that have large impacts on biodiversity.

At the top of the list would be the territorial seas - the thin band of ocean up to 12 nautical miles from shore. This area is home to 100% of mangroves, 100% of seagrass beds, 100% of kelp forests, and 83% of coral reefs - all critical habitats for fish and other ocean life.

These coastal regions are also where high biodiversity meets high human use.

Coastal communities throughout the developing tropics depend on healthy coastal fisheries for food and livelihoods. These fisheries employ 50 of the 51 million small-scale fishers globally. They produce 40% of global fish catch. And nearly all fish caught in these fisheries goes toward human consumption making them essential to food security.

But today, only 11% of Marine Protected Areas - the main tool in protecting oceans - are inside territorial waters. Most are established offshore, far from the biodiversity-rich territorial seas.

Why? Because it's socially and politically easier to protect areas far from densely populated regions. Although there are important benefits from successes in offshore protection, addressing the disparity in more coastal protection is critical if we want 30x30 to have a globally meaningful impact on nature and people.

Fortunately, there is a proven path of how it can be done.

First, we need to pair protection with effective management. Local and indigenous communities depend on territorial waters for food and jobs - they can't be all off limits.

But pairing no-take reserves with areas where sustainable fishing is allowed, and making sure the rights to fish in those areas are reserved for indigenous and local fishers, ensures that communities benefit from conservation. We call this system Managed Access with Reserves.

Next, embrace "bigger isn't always better." In territorial waters, networks of smaller marine reserves, designed with larval dispersal data to protect the lifecycle of fish and provide connectivity between protected areas, can help biodiversity, fish populations, and fisheries recover.

These reserves also protect ecosystems like seagrass beds, coral reefs, and mangroves, which not only provide habitats for marine life, but are critical to mitigating the impact of climate change in the form of extreme weather. This approach is usually easier for communities to adopt, when very large coastal protected areas aren't feasible.

Third, local governments and communities are the key to effective management. Territorial waters intersect with hundreds of thousands of scattered communi-

ties, so top-down approaches rarely work. But when the authority to manage waters is devolved, and local governments are empowered with the knowledge, tools, and data for good decision-making, local communities have successfully sustained conservation efforts.

As we push towards 30x30, we need a concerted effort from governments, donors, NGOs and local communities to both prioritize these critical waters and ensure such conservation efforts are properly funded.

Although territorial seas represent the ocean's highest concentration of biodiversity intersecting with the areas of highest human need, less than 15% of ocean philanthropy is dedicated to community-based coastal habitat conservation and small-scale fishing issues, based on a coarse estimate by CEA Consulting.

Protecting and effectively managing territorial waters is difficult, but critical. As we look for solutions that benefit people and nature, pairing protection with sustainable production is an effective and equitable path forward.

It's about time we took investing in adaptation seriously

By Richard Klein and Tabeca Lissner

The consequences of extreme weather are cascading around the globe, hitting rich and poor alike - yet finance to build resilience to these impacts is falling woefully short

Between April 11-12, a year's worth of rain fell on KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape in South Africa, leaving 400 dead and a trail of destruction in its wake. Six hundred schools were closed, 40,000 people evacuated and the country's main port was shuttered, all leaving a clean-up bill of around \$1.57 billion.

Three elements stand out in the aftermath.

One, scientists are clear that climate change made those floods twice as likely as before, such was the weight and intensity of the rain. Two, it's key to have infrastructure that can hold up to extreme weather, as well as systems to warn people early so they can get to safety: neither seems to have been in place in KwaZulu-Natal

province. Three, this was a local event with global implications - closing a key port and shutting down a major supply chain route for a week.

The obvious conclusion is that countries need to work together collectively to reduce the global greenhouse gas levels driving extreme weather events. But another conclusion is increasingly obvious too: poorer countries share climate risks with richer countries, and richer countries share climate risks with poorer ones.

From crops like maize, rice, wheat and soy to equipment for machinery, transport and minerals, supply chains run across sectors and the globe. When the floods damaged the port of Durban, one of the companies forced to suspend operations was Danish - shipping giant Maersk. With 20% of total Africa-China trade going out from the port in Durban, the problems there meant Zimbabwe and the Republic of Congo were waiting for their cobalt, copper and lithium exports to leave the port, while China was waiting for these imports to arrive.

In the past year, extreme storms and brutal heatwaves have hit poor and vulnerable countries like Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi, middle-income countries like South Africa, India and the Philippines, and wealthy nations such as Germany, Canada and the United States. The effects and consequences of these events have cascaded around the globe.

The 2021 flooding in the Canadian province of British Columbia disrupted roads and railways in Vancouver, but it also delayed freight destined for the port there, Canada's gateway to Asia. The recent heatwave in India dimmed prospects for the wheat harvest and pushed up prices on the domestic market, leading the government to restrict exports. Asian neighbours that import wheat from India started scrambling for alternatives on a market already upset by the fallout from Russia's war on major wheat producer Ukraine.

High levels of warming would hit major economies hard: to dwindle by 36% in the United States by 2100, 42% in China and 92% in India if emissions are high. Impacts would rip-

ple across the globe. If climate change reduces the yield of maize in its biggest producing country, the United States, by as much as 45.5% by the end of the century, consumers in Costa Rica, Jamaica and Japan who depend on these maize imports would all feel the hit.

'GLOBAL SHIELD'

As record-shattering extreme weather events become ever more probable, poor and vulnerable people and nations will continue to pay the highest price. If we don't act, the ones that have done the least to cause the climate crisis will lose the most lives per capita, and their roads and buildings will be most destroyed.

The U.N.-led effort to protect everyone on Earth with early warning systems within the next five years is an important step towards saving lives. The "global shield against climate risks" that G7 development ministers committed to recently should mean that insurance will start covering the financial costs of the poor at highest physical climate risk. The G7 climate and environment ministers are also on the right track, pledging "enhancing adaptation efforts while urgently reducing emissions".

But the scale of action needs to dramatically increase. Adaptation finance was estimated at roughly \$20 billion per year in 2019. A doubling of commitments, as agreed in the Glasgow Climate Pact, and reiterated by G7 foreign ministers, would bring adaptation finance into the vicinity of \$40 billion.

At this rate, we will fall woefully short of what the latest science tell us adaptation will cost. Median values for cost estimates stand at \$127 billion in 2030 and \$295 billion in 2050. It sounds big, but for comparison, fossil fuel subsidies estimated by the International Energy Agency stood at \$440 billion in 2021.

Political leaders must step up to advance resilience, first by acknowledging that extreme weather events and direct climate risks are hitting harder and more often. Secondly, they should own up to the fact that adaptation is what the Paris Agreement says it is: a global challenge and necessity.

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we briefly looked at the right to life in relation to a wave of killings of persons not only in the country, but also in other parts of the world on various grounds. We suggested that the recurrence of such killings of persons on baseless grounds was indicative of growing disrespect for the sanctity of life.

We also saw that some national constitutions provide for the “unqualified right to life”, while others provide for the “qualified right to life”. We gave examples of two national constitutions which provide for the “unqualified right to life” and two other national constitutions which provide for the “qualified right to life”.

We then said in countries whose national constitutions provide for the “unqualified right to life” the maximum punishment for serious criminal offences, such as murder and treason, is life imprisonment.

Furthermore, we said in countries whose national constitutions provide for the “qualified right to life” the maximum punishment for serious criminal offences, such as murder and treason, is death and in the case of Tanzania, it is “death by hanging” by virtue of Section 26(1) of the Penal Code. In the case of Zanzibar, Section 197 of the Zanzibar Penal Decree Act No 6 of 2004 provides for simply “death”.

Today, I invite you to look at intoxication as a defence against criminal liability and we will look at it in relation to murder and rape cases. Black’s Law Dictionary (Eighth Edition) defines intoxication as “a diminished ability to act with full mental and physical capabilities because of alcohol or drug consumption.”

So, according to this definition, intoxication occurs when a person under the influence of alcohol or drug loses his or her rational faculties and physical strength to act responsibly.

Imagine a row arises between two persons and one of them seriously wounds or kills the other person. Then, the killer is arrested, arraigned and charged with murder and during

When intoxication is presented as defence against criminal liability



trial he or she pleads intoxication as his or her defence against criminal liability. Can that be legally justified?

Well, Section 14(2) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) states that: “Intoxication shall be a defence to a criminal charge if by reason thereof the person charged at the time of the act or omission complained of ‘did not understand what he [or she] was doing’ and - (a) the state of intoxication was caused without his [or her] consent by the malicious or negligent act of another person; or (b) the person charged was by reason of intoxication insane, temporarily or otherwise, at the time of such act or omission.”

Furthermore, Subsection (4) states that: “Intoxication shall be taken into account for the purpose of determining whether the person charged had formed any intention, specific or otherwise, in the absence of which he [or she] would not be guilty of the offence.”

Therefore, for intoxication to be a valid defence against any criminal liability it must have been caused maliciously or negligently by another person or it must have been caused by the person himself or herself under the influence of alcohol or drug and in either case it must have made the killer insane temporarily or otherwise at the time of commission or omission.

Intoxication pleaded against murder

In a Criminal Appeal No 19 of 1979 of Tunutu son of Mnyasule v Republic, the appellant committed a criminal offence and fled, but two years later was arrested in Kilombero District. He was then charged and convicted in the High Court of Tanzania in Tanga of killing his ex-wife Mwanaiha daughter of Musa Msanguka in January 1974 and was sentenced to suffer death by hanging by virtue of Section 26(1) of the Penal Code.

Aggrieved by both the conviction and sentence, he appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania. He was represented by defence counsel, who told the court that when the row arose Tunutu was so drunk that he was incapable of forming an intention to kill Mwanaiha, but as they wrestled each other Tunutu fell down and Mwanaiha fell on him and accidentally the knife he had in his pocket hurt her.

Tunutu and Mwanaiha were spouses, but at the time of the row they were already divorced and were living separately in Kwabota Village. One day Mwanaiha and her sister went to a drinking spree, where they met Tunutu after which each returned home, but on the way a row arose between the ex-spouses as the man was telling his ex-wife to accompany him to his house, but the woman was resisting.

As the row continued Tunutu took his knife from his pocket and stabbed his ex-wife, who sustained serious cut wounds on two parts of her body in such a way that from one wound the small intestine was protruding. Seeing that, the attacker ran away and hid himself in a bush after which he fled from the village to an unknown place. His ex-wife was taken to hospital, but died on the way. During the post-mortem a doctor discovered she had died of severe haemorrhage and shock.

One of the authorities at the trial court had relied on precedent to convict and sentence the accused person. It was that of Chemingwa v R (1956) 23 E.A.C.A., where the Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa said: “It is of course correct that if the accused seeks to set up a defence of insanity by reason of intoxication the burden of establishing that defence rests upon him that he must at least demonstrate the probability of what he seeks to prove.”

“But if the plea is merely that the accused was by reason of intoxication incapable of forming the specific intention required to constitute the offence charged, it is misdirection if the trial court lays the onus of establishing this upon the accused.” Then, the Court of Appeal said although the case had originated from Uganda, the law stated therein was the same as that applicable in Tanzania.

The Court of Appeal further said the row did not show any excessive intoxication that could have exonerated the appellant from criminal liability. Thus, the Court of Appeal agreed with the views of the learned trial judge that “the nature of the weapon used by the appellant and of the wounds inflicted by him, considered together with the conduct of the appellant immediately before and after the stabbing, clearly show that the appellant had malice aforethought. This means he was properly convicted for the offence charged and we consequently dismiss the appeal.”

Intoxication pleaded against rape

In another case of Paschal Mayomba v Republic, a Criminal Appeal No 93 of 2021 from the judgment of the District Court of Chato (Geita Region) in Criminal Case No 234 of 2019, the appellant was charged with rape of a 19-year-old woman contrary to sections 130(1)(2)(b) and 131(1) of the Penal Code (R.E. 2019). He pleaded not guilty to the charge and said he visited the victim’s house at night, while he was drunk, was served food and felt tired then slept there until the following day.

After listening to both parties, the trial court concluded that the guilt

of the appellant had been established. Consequently, he was convicted of rape and sentenced to imprisonment for 30 years. Aggrieved by both the conviction and sentence, the appellant appealed to the High Court of Tanzania in Mwanza.

The Judge said in the offence of rape, other than statutory rape, proof of its commission was predicated on the prosecution proving that the victim of rape was carnally known - that is, she was penetrated and such penetration was without her consent. The Judge further said the totality of the testimony proved that the appellant had carnal knowledge of the young woman and such an act was unlawful as the use of force clearly indicated the victim did not consent to the sexual intercourse.

Citing the case of Bakari Hamisi v Republic Criminal Appeal No 172 of 2005 (unreported), the Judge said the Court of Appeal of Tanzania held that “Conviction may be founded on the evidence of the victim of rape if the court believes for the reasons to be recorded that the victim witness is telling nothing, but the truth.”

The Judge also cited the case of Godi Kasenega v Republic, Criminal Appeal No 10 of 2008 (unreported), in which it was restated: “It is now settled law that the proof of rape comes from prosecutrix herself. Other witnesses if they never actually witnessed the incident, such as doctors, may give corroborative evidence.”

“In view of the foregoing,” the Judge concluded, “I take the view that the appellant’s conviction and the eventual custodial sentence were based on a solid foundation, and I uphold them. Accordingly, I find the appeal barren of fruits and I dismiss it.”

From the two cited cases, we can safely deduce that it is not always successful to plead intoxication against criminal liability unless the court is convinced that the accused person or appellant under the influence of alcohol or drug had temporarily or otherwise become insane at the time of commission or omission of the criminal offence he or she is charged with. So, take care and never commit a criminal offence thinking that you will be exonerated from criminal liability on the grounds of intoxication.

Today’s proverb: “A bad excuse is better than none at all.”

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Tanga taking steps to reclaim past glory as Tanzania’s industrial hub

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

FROM the 1960s to early 1990s, Tanga Region stood tall amongst others with vibrant industrial economy, attracting thousands of young people from all over the country, most of who chose to make it their permanent home, thanks to the hospitality of its people.

Within this period, the Port of Tanga was vibrant. Then there was a long list of factories: steel mill, fertilizer factory, soap industries, textiles and the biggest blanket factory in the country as well as countless sisal twines cordages, you name it.

From the expansive sisal plantations to leisure activities in its Indian Ocean coastline, Tanga provided not only jobs to energetic youth who trooped there but the irresistible allure of its location.

For decades, Tanga-manufactured goods dominated shops in the country. The products were top quality and competitive, arguably than those from other regions. That was Tanga before privatization started in the mid-1990s.

Old folks here remember the past with nostalgia, hoping they could turn back the hands of time and once again enjoy the good old days when people from this regions walked thumbed chests.

Mohammed Issa recalls that in the 1960 to early 1990s, life in Tanga was enjoyable than anywhere else in the country because it was almost impossible to find energetic young people without job and enough money was in circulation.

Issa blames the collapse of the industries in the region to selfishness and poor management by Tanzanians who were entrusted with the running of state-owned entities but resorted to looting the same to death. He’s also not impressed by the performance of the investors who took control of the entities after privatization.

“Most of those who bought the



In its heyday, Tanga Region boasted the biggest sisal plantations in the country alongside a vibrant port and factories. The region now works to regain this lost glory. File Photo

industries embraced tribalism, they employed their relatives instead of competitively recruiting competent people to run the industries,” he said.

“I see this as lack of capacity and patriotism among those who were given the industries to run.”

Tanga Regional Commissioner Adam Malima is hopeful that the ongoing initiatives, including the expansion of Port of Tanga and the reviving and construction of new factories will allow the region reclaim its past glory as Tanzania’s industrial hub.

On March 17, 2021, then Vice President who is Samia Suluhu Hassan who is now President of the United Republic of Tanzania, paid a five-day visit to the region and addressed residents at Tangamano grounds.

In her speech which was televised live, among other things, she told those who had not started to revive the privatized industries as directed by the government to prepare to hand them back to the government so that

other investors could take over and run them in order to create employment for Tanzanians.

In a move meant to enable Tanga regain its lost industrial hub status; the government in collaboration with the region leadership has allocated a land for the economic zone at Pongwe area where then VP invited investors to set up new factories.

She said Tanga is one of the government’s strategically industrial zones with multiple opportunities for investors due to its favourable conditions and availability of social services, calling on local and foreign investors to grab the opportunities. “We want fish processing factories, cement factories, food and horticulture processing factories among others. Almost every district in Tanga can supply raw materials to feed these factories,” she said.

“We want more factories to be built here in Tanga; we want competition because it’s good for consumers.”

She directed all district councils to set aside land for investment so that when an investor comes, they don’t have to hustle to get land which wastes a lot of time.

So far, the region has three cement factories namely Hixuan Cement, Tanga Cement and the latest entrant Kilimanjaro Cement which late President John Magufuli launched on 8th August 2017 when he was on official visit to the region.

Hixuan Cement factory is run by a Chinese firm Sinoma Hengyan, a subsidiary of Hinguan Group of Companies which has so far invested about USD1 billion and the production of its Hixuan Cement brand has already started. Apart from Cement production, Sinoma Hengyan also plans to establish other eleven factories in the area and 70 per cent of employment is reserved for Tanzanians except those positions that need rare skills.

Tanga is one of the regions in Tanzania that lead in growing cashews and the region plans to set up a big

warehouse with the capacity to store 10,000 tonnes of cashew nuts at a go.

Other operating factories that keep engines of the economy moving here include Podoa Petroleum Jelly, Pee Pee Tanzania Limited, Neelkant Chemical Industries, Tanga Fresh Milk and other sisal plantations such as Amboni Plantations Limited and some small and medium industries.

Speaking to this paper, some stakeholders said if all dormant industries are repossessed and handed over to capable investors, the region’s economy will experience a steady growth due to increased revenue collection from taxes.

They expressed hope that if the government works with investors and establish fruits processing factory and other food processing industries, this will encourage farmers here to embrace commercial agriculture.

“We asked the government to come up with plans for establishment of food processing industries in the region to challenge farmers to put more efforts in commercial agriculture, said Abdallah Bakari.

In Korogwe District, an investor from the Netherlands, Rachel Toklu, has expressed interest in establishing fruit processing factory and she recently told the district leadership that she would start with an orange processing factory.

This comes as good news to orange growers in Muheza, Korogwe and Handeni districts who will now have to up their game and produce quality oranges to feed the factory once it goes operational.

By Chen Weihua

THE 2022 African Youth Survey released on Monday has sent shock waves across the world. China has surpassed the United States as having the biggest positive influence among African youths.

The survey conducted by South Africa-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation showed that 76 percent of the 4,507 African respondents aged between 18 and 24 years from 15 countries said China has a positive influence on their lives, compared with 72 percent who named the US. In its inaugural survey in 2020, it was 83 percent for the US compared to 79 percent for China.

The result has come as a real shock to many in the world, especially in Europe and North America, where people have long been brainwashed by their politicians who call China's trade and economic relationship with Africa as a "debt trap" or "neocolonialism".

However, African youths who live on the continent are not easily fooled. They have seen firsthand China's keen cooperation with African countries in building infrastructure, from roads and bridges to power stations and telecommunications networks, and providing affordable consumer goods and different training programs for African people.

China sees a promising future for Africa based on its own trajectory over the past four decades. Of course, that doesn't mean that everything that has happened in China is replicable in Africa.

In many cases, they cannot and should not be replicated, such as the hard lessons in environmental protection. Still, African countries can learn a lot from China's successes and failures in socioeconomic development.

The African Youth Survey result is extremely significant because China has overtaken the US on the positive influence index despite the reckless smear campaigns launched by many US and European politicians against China-Africa relations.

Among the Western politicians

African youths make it clear they prefer China over US



involved in the smear campaigns are US President Joe Biden, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, along with many media outlets that are more interested in turning Africa into a geopolitical battleground rather than helping African countries to boost their development. In their words, China's engagement with Africa is bad for the continent.

However, African youths, who are the future leaders of the continent, have spoken loud and clear.

Deborah Brautigam, of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies who is a well-known scholar on China's engagement with Africa, has said many a time based on her studies that there is no Chinese debt trap there. But her voice is largely drowned by powerful Western government propaganda.

David Dollar, a former World Bank economist and a China hand, told me years ago that the debt trap accusation is an insult to African governments, because it assumes they cannot govern their own countries or make informed decisions.

Unfortunately, that is exactly the mindset of many of the former colonial powers.

In a June 1 article in *The Diplomat*, African development economist Anzette Were sharply criticized the West, saying it has a legitimacy problem in Africa due to its colonial history. She said that while China employs the language of solidarity, compromise and unity in communicating with African governments, the West's tone is often of lecturing.

Ivor Ichikowitz, chairman of the Ichikowitz Family Foundation, said in the report that African youths are not prepared to wait for handouts; they want to be in charge of their own destiny, a message clearly directed at the US and some European countries which have long treated Africa as simply a charity case.

So, instead of smearing and undermining Chinese activities in Africa, the US and European countries should join China and other countries to increase their investments in Africa, in order to help the continent's development.

The message from the 2022 African Youth Survey is clear: Africa does not want to become a geopolitical battleground for the West.

The author is chief of China Daily EU Bureau based in Brussels.

DR Congo to take time off from Rwanda over Kigali's alleged support for M23 rebels

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) decided late Wednesday to ask its government to "suspend all protocol agreements, agreements and conventions" concluded with Rwanda, a new episode of the diplomatic spat between the two neighboring countries, provoked and fueled by Kigali's alleged support for the March 23 Movement (M23).

As rebels of the M23 have been on the offensive in northeastern DRC since late March and reportedly occupied a key town since Monday, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, also Chairperson of the East African Community, called Wednesday for the immediate deployment of a new regional military force to try to stop rebel violence in the eastern DRC.

TIME OFF

Kinshasa made the decision

to "suspend all protocol agreements, agreements and conventions" concluded with Rwanda, according to an official statement, released after a national defense meeting held late Wednesday chaired by the Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi. This is the second national defense meeting chaired by Tshisekedi since M23's resurgence in late March. At the last meeting in late May, DRC classified the M23 as a terrorist group and decided to suspend all flights of RwandAir, the flag carrier airline of Rwanda, to the DRC soil.

Stemming from a former Congolese rebellion, the M23, created in April 2012, quickly gained international notoriety when it occupied the city of Goma, capital of North Kivu, for ten days in November 2012. After its defeat by the army in 2013, the M23 signed a peace accord with the government in December 2013, in which it agreed to demobilize its fighters

and transform itself into a political party. However, M23 now accuses the Kinshasa authorities of not respecting the commitments. Since late March, M23 has been on the offensive in the North Kivu province, with thousands of civilians displaced by still ongoing fighting. Bunagana, a key strategic town bordering Uganda, reportedly fell into the hands of rebels on Monday.

Besides the haunting nightmare of the M23, Kinshasa now faces a diplomatic tug of war with Kigali, with the latter having been accused of supporting the M23 rebels. In early June, Felix Tshisekedi publicly claimed that there was "no doubt" that Rwanda was backing the M23 on the Congolese territory. Rwanda has denied the charge and instead accused the Congolese army of allying with Rwandan rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), active in eastern

DRC, whose elements are blamed for the 1994 genocide against Tutsi. On Wednesday, the DRC also demanded Rwanda "proceed with the withdrawal of its troops on Congolese soil". There has been no immediate comment from Rwanda on Kinshasa's latest decisions.

REGIONAL SPILLOVER

On Wednesday, Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, who currently chairs the East African Community (EAC), called for the immediate deployment of a new regional military force to try to stop rebel violence in the eastern DRC, where dozens of armed groups have been active for over two decades. "The East African Regional Force shall be deployed to the Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu provinces immediately to stabilize the zone and enforce peace in support of the DRC security forces and in close coordination

with MONUSCO (UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC)," Kenyatta said in a statement, referring to the joint force that the seven EAC members agreed to form at a summit in April.

Kenyatta said that a meeting of regional commanders would be held in Nairobi on Sunday, which "should finalize the preparations to undertake the deployment of the regional force", without providing further detail. Kinshasa, which has become this year EAC's latest member, has not yet commented on Kenyatta's decision. The eastern DRC, troubled by decade-long insecurity, has prompted regional military operations and deployment, given its proximity to multiple countries that share borders. Since late November 2021, the armed forces of DRC and Uganda have officially launched joint military operations in northeastern DRC against rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

In an exclusive interview with Xinhua last year, Major General Kayanja Muhanga of the Ugandan army stated his determination to destroy "once and for all" the rebels of the ADF, a nightmare for the African Great Lakes region.

PENDING PEACE SUMMIT

The relations between Kinshasa and Kigali have seen signs of thawing under the current administrations as the two countries have been trading verbal blows on different levels and on different occasions. The DRC last Thursday accused Rwanda of sending 500 commandos in disguise into its territory. The two countries have also accused each other of firing rockets across their shared border. It is already an open secret that Kinshasa has been upset about Kigali's alleged support of M23, as Kigali, while denying all allegations of backing M23, also accused the Congolese army of

supporting the FDLR remnants, responsible for the 1994 genocide. The two neighboring countries share complicated and tangled relations since the tragic genocide in 1994, as Rwandan Hutus accused of slaughtering Tutsis during the 1994 Rwanda genocide arrived in eastern DRC.

However, besides all the tiffs and tit-for-tat, the two countries have also counted on regional mediation and possibly a tete-a-tete between the two presidents in Angola, attempting to bury the hatchet and restore the fragile peace in eastern DRC. But to this day, the meeting is still pending as neither of the two countries has yet confirmed or announced any details of the rendezvous. "We also welcome the nomination of President Joao Lourenco of Angola by the African Union to defuse tensions between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS	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	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	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	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 UMJUAYVO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI	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)
22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)		22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Over 37m children displaced worldwide, UNICEF reveals

By Guardian Reporter

CONFLICT, violence and other crises left a record 36.5 million children displaced from their homes at the end of 2021, the highest number recorded since the Second World War, according to UNICEF estimates.

The figure includes 13.7 million refugee and asylum-seeking children and nearly 22.8 million children who are internally displaced due to conflict and violence.

These figures do not include children displaced by climate and environmental shocks or disasters, as well as those newly displaced in 2022, including by the war in Ukraine.

The record number of children displaced is a direct result of cascading crises - including acute and protracted conflicts such as in Afghanistan, fragility in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Yemen and linked shocks exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

Just like fragility, child displacement is spreading fast. During the previous year, the global number of displaced children increased by 2.2 million.

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said: "We can't ignore the evidence: The number of children being displaced by conflict and crises is rapidly growing - and so is our responsibility to reach them."

She said: "I hope this alarming number will move governments to prevent children from being displaced in the first place - and when they are displaced, to ensure their access to education, protection, and other critical services that support their wellbeing and development now and in the future."

Crisis like the war in Ukraine - which has caused more than 2 million children to flee the country and displaced 3 million internally since February - come on top of this record high.

Children and families are also being driven from their homes by extreme weather events, such as by drought in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, and severe flooding in



Bangladesh, India and South Africa. There were 7.3 million new displacements of children as a consequence of natural disasters in 2021. The global refugee population has more than doubled in the last decade, with

children making up almost half of the total.

Over a third of displaced children live in Sub-Saharan Africa (3.9 million or 36 per cent), one quarter in Europe, Central Asia (2.6 million or 25 per cent) and 13 per cent

(1.4 million) in the Middle East and North Africa.

As the number of displaced and refugee children reaches a record high, access to essential support and services like healthcare,

education and protection is falling short.

Around two-thirds of all refugee children are enrolled in primary school, while only around one-third of refugee adolescents are in secondary school.

Uprooted children - whether refugee, asylum seeker or internally displaced - can face grave risks to their well-being and safety. This is particularly true for the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied or separated children who are at heightened risk of trafficking, exploitation, violence and abuse. Children account for approximately 34 per cent of detected trafficking victims globally.

UNICEF urges member states to adhere to their commitments to the rights of all uprooted children, including commitments established under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and to invest further in data and research that reflects the true scale of the issues facing refugee, migrant and displaced children.

UNICEF calls on governments to take actions to achieve equal rights and opportunities for all refugees, migrant and displaced children.

The actions include providing equal support to all children, recognize refugee, migrant and displaced children as children first and foremost, increase collective action to ensure effective access to essential services, protect refugee, migrant and displaced children from discrimination and xenophobia as well as ending harmful border management practices and child immigration detention.

Farmers in Monduli dig trenches to fight drought, desertification

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

RESIDENTS in Engaruka village, Monduli District in Arusha Region are using surprisingly simple technology to fight drought and keep desertification at bay, thus improving crop yields and access to animal feed.

In village, recurring drought spells have made farming nearly impossible, with the soil too dry to plant anything according to agricultural experts.

But with the help of non-governmental organizations, residents are not deterred and are instead encouraged to plant trees and vegetation in a way that encourages moisture collection to alleviate the situation.

Armed with hand hoes, villagers in the semi-arid region adept-

ly dig semi-circular trenches into the earth so that when it rains, water fills in instead of quickly evaporating from the parched ground, experts said.

Linda Mlimbo, a soil scientist working with the LEAD Foundation, a Tanzanian conservation organization, said the method has successfully helped villagers revive swathes of farmland.

Mlimbo said through this method, grass seeds are sewn into the trenches, and as they germinate, they bind the soil together, preventing erosion and keeping it cool while restoring vegetation on the barren land.

"When more people learn this simple but important technique, we believe drought and desertification can easily be tamed," she said.

The brainchild of Justdiggit, a local non-governmental organization operating in Kenya and Tanzania since 2013, Mlimbo said more than 200,000 'bunds' have been dug in various parts of the country.

The charity helps communities build grass seed banks and supports reforestation with 9 million trees planted using a method known as Farmer Managed Natural Resource Regeneration, Mlimbo said.

By re-vegetating degraded land, the conservationists aim to increase pastures and arable land for the local Maasai communities in northern Tanzania. Through this initiative, the charity aims to restore 130 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, officials said.

It is midday in Engaruka, and a legion of residents is busy working in the field, taking turns digging bone-dry farmland to create semi-circular ponds in which to bury grass seeds.

Most of the residents were inspired by an educational film shown by LEAD Foundation officials when they visited the village three years ago.

John Munye remembers it well as he methodically drags patches of sun-fried soil to bury dry grass seeds.

"The film taught me that you can do something to fight drought. You can dig the land to create water basins which we fill with grass seeds to help the field recover," he said.

The 45-year-old father of six is among many farmers in the im-

poorished village who have discovered new techniques to fight drought and desertification.

Across Engaruka, fields have repeatedly fallen victim to unending drought spells and desertification - a direct consequence of climate change.

But through the film, more people are enlightened to adapt to the situation.

As darkness falls, residents huddle under a tree and cram themselves around a giant cinema projector to watch the film about taming drought.

Mlimbo and her colleagues brought a small mobile cinema with her to teach villagers about soil conservation.

"We are showing this film to educate these villagers and equip them with the necessary skills

and knowledge to fight drought and desertification, which affects their everyday life," Mlimbo said.

She said the film explains how to protect the land from drought.

"People have cut down many trees in recent years. The land has become barren and harvests got worse. Now we want to show them how to reclaim that moisture so that their yields increase," she added.

According to Mlimbo, the re-greening measure has had an impact on the local weather and has attracted rainfall once again.

"These basins are necessary to provide badly needed moisture that helps farmers increase their crop yields," she said.

Engaruka has lately seen less precipitation than in previous years, and that's why locals have

mobilized themselves to dig rain basins.

For each basin dug, the charity pays labour charges equivalent of 1.50 euros (\$1.57) for each resident.

Dina Hosea, a local farmer in Engaruka, has found interest in digging the trenches. She digs five of them a day.

"I am happy that we make money digging these ponds. When the grass grows in them, it will help both our cattle and us. It will reduce the burden of carrying grass fodder from far away," she stated.

She added: "This initiative is gaining popularity. Strategy like this has an impact in slowing global desertification and the people of Engaruka are doing just that."

Farmers capacitated to fight plant pests, animal diseases

By Guardian Reporter

SMALL-SCALE farmers and the private sector in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been capacitated on how to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in an effort to protect the health and welfare of human, plant, and animal life in the region.

This is being done under the Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) which SADC is implementing with support from the European Union (EU) to enable the region to further integrate in various areas of economic development.

SPS measures are biosecurity actions which are applied to protect human, animal or plant life or health from risks arising from the entry, establishment and spread of plant pests and animal diseases as well as from risks arising from additives, toxins and contaminants in food and feed.

If poorly applied, SPS measures could result in the emergence of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade.

While SADC is committed to removing NTBs in order to improve trade between member states, it also recognises that imported agricultural products which include plants, animals, and food products could carry or contain harmful pests or contaminants.

SADC member states have agreed to follow safe trade facilitation set out by the recognised international standards development organisations.

By adopting and applying harmonised SPS measures throughout the region, member states could remain confident that agricultural products which are imported from other nations within the region comply with the relevant SPS requirements, thus easing the concern about any harmful effects on human, plants and animals, and businesses.

This also reduces the chances of introducing SPS related NTBs to trade as measures are developed based on science and implemented in a transparent manner.

The work of the region's conformity assessment bodies is to ensure compliance with relevant standards and SPS principles.

One of the failures in trade among member states



which contributes to low intra-SADC trade is the non-recognition of conformity assessment results between countries.

This stems from the lack of trust in each other's national conformity assessment regimes, hence the need for a common framework for the mutual recognition of same.

The development of the framework for mutual recognition of the certificates of compliance issued by the competent national authorities across member states was completed and the draft framework is still awaiting validation and adoption by member states.

Conformity assessment is a collection of procedures that demonstrate that a product, service, or system complies with a set of requirements. Subjecting a product to the conformity assessment process offers several advantages, including giving customers and shareholders further assurance that the product is suitable for purpose and safe for both the consumer and the environment.

The TFP programme has gone even further in this regard, training laboratories in testing and calibration; inspection bodies in member states were also trained on the applicable conformity assessment standards and regulators in the Region were trained on how to do regulatory impact assessments.

This activity was done as part of strengthening the ability of regional regulators to identify and approximate regional technical regulations within the SADC TRLC framework.

While technical regulations are set in the best interest of achieving the national legitimate objectives, it is important to ensure that the trade terrain remains even and manoeuvrable.

The TFP initiative has sponsored online surveys on the identification of standards and conformity assessment needs along regional value chains in order to define priorities for standard harmonisation and technical regulation convergence.

The value chains targeted included the categories of oilseeds, grains and meat. The products targeted in these categories were soya, rice and poultry.

The standards, SPS measures and related conformity assessment needs that were identified in this survey will be prioritised for harmonisation among the standards development bodies of the SADC Member States as they participate in the regional standards development framework presented by the SADC Cooperation Structure on Standards harmonisation (SADCSTAN).

BUSINESS

Farmers in Kigoma to increase beans production to meet WFP's demand

By Francis Kajubi, back from Kigoma

BEANS and maize farmers in Kigoma region are set to increase their production during the 2022/23 farming season after finding a reliable market at the World Food Programme (WFP) that offers them a good purchasing process.

Speaking to journalists in a recent trip to the region to witness achievements realized from the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) by the Kigoma Regional Commissioner Office and WFP, farmers said that they are now confident of widening the scope of their production due to the available market.

"We are confident of increasing production of beans and maize due to guaranteed markets from the WFP. The UN Agency has really put a smile on farmers' faces by not only offering profitable prices but also training on good agriculture practices through the KJP programme," said Adolf Kisindahembe, Secretary at Kurugongo Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) in Kasulu District Council.

According to him, WFP had since the 2018/19 harvest season offered farmers between 1,950/- and 2,000/- per kilo of beans. During the 2021/21 farmers from the AMCOS had harvested a total of 22.5 tons of beans which earned them 39million/- after selling them to WFP.

"Farmers have been convinced to increase their productivity. During the 2021/22 harvest season it is expected that over 150 tons of beans



Farmers in Kiziguzigu village of Kibondo District in Kigoma Region spread red beans on a tarpaulin to dry.

will be collected from farmers within the AMCOS. Plans are to produce not less than 200 tons during the 2023/24 farming season," asserted Kisindahembe.

Daudi Bakana, one of the 109 farmers who form the AMCOS said that he plans to cultivate two acres of beans after having a market assurance from the WFP.

"Unpredictability in the availability of buyers had discouraged farmers from producing enough beans of which the surplus went unpurchased at the local mar-

ket," said Bakana.

Dismas Kajoro, Secretary at Muungano AMCOS in Kibondo District Council said that farmers in the district have increased their production since 2019 when the KJP programme gained pace.

"Prior to the KJP programme farmers had hardly found a market for their agro-products. As of now, every farmer is struggling to increase their production as WFP seeks more tons of beans and maize for local consumption by refugees and for exports," said Kajoro.

ALMOST 24,000 small scale farmers in the Kigoma region have benefited from the Kigoma Joint Program (KJP) by selling their farm produce at profitable prices.

The programme that is being coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP) in collaboration with other 15 United Nations Agency and the Kigoma region office has given red beans, cassava and maize farmers in the region a reason to smile.

This comes after farmers have found markets of profitable prices from the UN

Agency and private business in and abroad the country.

The programme that started in 2018 and is coming to end this month has seen farmers selling red beans to the World Food Programme for refugee camps of Kasulu, Kibondo and Nyarugusu in Kigoma region.

The programme is being implemented in four district councils of Kasulu Town Council, Kasulu District Council, Kibondo and Kakonko.

Kigoma Region Agriculture Advisor (RAA) Joseph Rubuye told reporters yesterday in Kasulu district that during the 2018/19 and 2019/20 harvest season farmers had sold a kilo of red beans to WFP at average 2,000/- while the market price stood at a maximum of 1,200/-.

"The price piled up to 2,050/- per kilo of red beans in 2020/21 as the market price was at 1,200/-. During the first two seasons WFP has purchased 336 tons of red beans while in 2020/21 it purchased 1,300 tons;

The government at a regional level wishes that this programme is sustained so that host communities surrounding the refugee camps benefit from the guaranteed agricultural market," said Rubuye.



Sisal growers challenged to set production targets in Tanga

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

TANGA region commissioner, Adam Malima has directed sisal Agriculture Marketing Cooperative Societies (Amcos) to prepare a strategic plan which highlights how the region meets the target of producing 50,000 tons of sisal fibres by 2025.

Malima issued the directive during the fourth Tanga Cooperative societies and development stakeholders' forum held in the region earlier this week.

He said according to the region's targets regarding sisal production, sisal growers and other players in the whole value chain should be empowered to benefit from the cash crop.

Malima pointed out that in realizing such targets it is important for Amcos to come up with identified strategic plans that reflect the region's targets.

He said the plans will enable the government to take into account serious approaches towards facilitation of Amcos strategic plans.

"Instead of sitting back and wait for the government's support to small scale sisal growers without doing your

responsibilities, go and discuss among yourselves and come up with your strategic plans;

We also need to hear from you on what should be done to increase sisal production to meet the target of 50,000 tons of sisal fibres by 2025," he said.

Since the year 2014/15 the government had put emphasis on reviving the sisal sub-sector especially by giving small scale sisal growers a special treatment in its development.

According to available official data, the sisal value chain in Tanzania employs over 100,000 people of which over 80 percent are small scale sisal growers.

In 2018, the total production of sisal fibres was 33,766 metric tons ranked second in the world's list of sisal producers just next to Brazil with a production of 80,042 metric tons.

However, sisal fibre production in Tanzania had increased in 2019/20 whereby almost 44.8 metric tons of the product was recorded to enter the local and global market.

Uber to introduce expressway option for users

NAIROBI

TAXI-hailing firm Uber is piloting two features that will allow riders to use Nairobi Expressway and allow drivers select locations where they want to operate or drop passengers.

The ride-hailing app will allow users to pick the old road or the expressway. The toll charges will be passed to the passengers.

Uber head of East Africa Mr Imran Manji said the tool is expected to be ready in a month and they are mostly targeting riders looking for quick trips to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) and those avoiding heavy traffic along the road that links Mlolongo to the Nairobi-Nakuru highway.

"The idea is when you switch on the app and say you want to go to let's say from Riverside to JKIA, the app recognises that you could use the Expressway and gives you the option to use tolls... If you use the toll feature, it will match you with a driver who has the toll system in their app to make it a seamless service," Mr Manji said.

Uber drivers will install the electronic toll collection (ETC), allowing toll points to be electronically deducted through a pre-installed on-board unit device for faster payment.

Motorists are paying between Sh121 (\$1.04) and Sh1,823 (\$15.55) to use the toll road being operated by Moja Expressway, a subsidiary of China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC).



A section of expressway in Nairobi

The company will also introduce a new feature allowing drivers to select the routes to operate.

"We will try and match them (drivers) with a ride going on route or vicinity of where they want to go," Mr Manji said.

The new feature will benefit drivers who have other jobs and would want to operate close to their offices or home.

"This is such an amazing feature for somebody working in the office and they drive an Uber for one or two hours to supplement their income. I think it is going to

be a hugely popular feature once we get it done," he added.

Uber is also betting on the feature to reduce the chances of driving without a passenger. The innovations are part of plans by the Dutch online taxi company to expand into the region amid stiff competition.

Uber's business model is that the driver on our platform will be able to utilise the vehicle more during the day and the way this works is by fundamentally decreasing the price of the trip, compared to for example the traditional airport taxi, but

ensuring that the driver gets more trips per day.

By reducing the price, we are opening up the market for people who can afford the services and that increased demand then flows to the drivers with an increase in trips per hour (TPH).

It's never our objective to keep prices as low because we make money when the drivers make money. Our revenue is purely 100 percent linked to the driver's revenue. If the driver on a given day is making less, then we are making less.

"We had raised our prices with the biggest fuel price

increase in February. We are looking to raise them again since this morning the price has gone up again;

But fuel is not the only component in the trip fare. For most drivers, it is the second-largest cost, but it is not the only one. So there should also not be a correlation between fuel price increases and an immediate rate increase," said Imran Manji, Uber East Africa CEO.

By how much will the rates change?

We will run some analysis to determine if the price is now beyond the threshold that we initially planned. We will start looking at all the different operating costs like fuel and cost of living. It is a difficult situation in the market right now because as the cost of living for everybody goes up, the affordability of things like ride-hailing comes into question.

If we raise our prices too high; when the majority of people are already feeling price pressure on daily necessities, are we limiting how many people are then going to be using our services? Yes. When we limit that we also limit driver's earnings.

Treasury gets MPs' approval to guarantee Sh1bn Laikipia bond

NAIROBI

PARLIAMENT has approved a request by Laikipia County to borrow Sh1.16 billion through a domestic infrastructure bond at the stock market.

The Senate on Thursday evening voted to approve a request by the Treasury Cabinet Secretary to guarantee Laikipia County to borrow Sh1.16 billion for the infrastructure bond.

The Senate and the Cabinet approved the guarantee for the borrowing in line with Ar-

icle 2021 of the Constitution and section 58 of the Public Finance Management Act.

Article 212 of the Constitution stipulates that a county government may borrow only if the national government guarantees the loan and with the approval of the county government's assembly.

"The Senate adopts the report of the standing committee on Finance and Budget concerning the approval for the national government to guarantee Laikipia county government to borrow by issuance

of Sh1.16 billion infrastructure bond...and pursuant to Section 58 of the Public Finance Management Act approves the request by the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury to guarantee the county government of Laikipia to borrow Sh1.16 billion for infrastructure bond," the committee said in the report.

The House approval follows last month's decision by the Cabinet to clear the request, making the county the first since the advent of devolution to float a bond to raise money

in the Nairobi Securities Exchange

"The objective of the infrastructure bond is to finance implementation of projects, including the provision of water for agricultural production, and improvement of the business environment by upgrading markets and town infrastructure; which will provide additional jobs to the residents of Laikipia and improve their household incomes and livelihoods," Ukur Yatani, the Treasury Secretary said in a letter to the Senate.

The Laikipia government has lined up about 16 projects for financing.

The proceeds from the seven-year bond will be invested in water and sewerage systems, paving roads, walkways and cyclist paths and enhancing street lighting and enforcing building zones, said Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

The urban centres earmarked for development include Nyahururu, Nanyuki, Kinamba, Ol Jabet, Wiyumiririr, Doldol, Karuga, Naibor, Kalalu, Mouwarak and Pesi.



Laikipia Governor Ndiritu Muriithi.

NMG, partners offer Shs100m to youth-led agri-tech innovations

KAMPALA

THE Nation Media Group-Uganda (NMG-U), Heifer International and partners have announced the 2022 search for the most innovative and impactful youth-led agriculture technologies in the country.

While unveiling the 2022 AYUte Awards yesterday, Mr William Matovu, the country manager Heifer International Uganda, said this year, they have staked Shs100m, which will be shared among five winners, with the first one walking away with Shs50m, the first runner up Shs30m, the second runner up Shs15m while the third and fourth will each get Shs2.5 million.

"We believe that agriculture and technology are the future for Africa and agri-technology is for the youth," he said.

Mr Matovu explained that

now in its second year, the search, which started yesterday, ends on July 14. The Ugandan winner will travel to Nigeria for the continental competition with the winners from Ethiopia, Ghana and Burundi. The continental winner will be given Shs100m to commercialise their start-up.

Other organisations co-sponsoring this year's awards include Equity Bank, RSM, Famunera and the Mastercard Foundation.

According to Mr Matovu, yesterday's launch marks a very important milestone of Heifer International's existence in Uganda.

He said since 1982, they have been able to improve the livelihoods of 6.2 million small holder farmers while caring for the environment, and they hope that with the new technologies, they will be able to assist 400,000 farmers in the value chains of dairy farming, horticulture,

piggery and poultry.

"The ministry of Agriculture identified these as the key areas for achieving the agro-industrialisation strategy or agenda in the wake of transforming our country. As Heifer, we work on economic empowerment of youth and women, environmental sustainability and farmer institution strengthening," he added.

The General Manager Commercial at NMG-U, Mr Sam Barata, said the media company will use its media platforms to popularise the challenge.

Ms Consolata Acayo, the assistant commissioner for ICT at the ministry of Agriculture, welcomed the initiative, saying it completes their programme of youth employment in agriculture.

"At the same time, we have been working with partners such as the Food Agriculture Organisation and AVSI, to



Left to right: Assistant Commissioner for ICT in the Agriculture ministry Consolata Acayo, ICT State Minister Godfrey Baluku Kime Kabbyanga, Country Manager for Heifer International Uganda William Matovu, General Commercial Manager NMG-U Sam Barata, and a tax consultant for RSM East Africa, Mr John Balam, during the launch of the 2022 AYUte Awards in Kampala, on Thursday.

pull out youth champions in agriculture and build them in the different areas to ensure that they make a difference in the areas where they live," she said.

Mr Godfrey Kabbyanga, the State minister for ICT and National Guidance, asked other private sector players to fund innovations by the youth.

He advised the youth with innovative ideas also to always approach his ministry and establish if they meet the criteria of getting the innovation funds.

"When you get our advert calling for innovations, please come. We have different private sector players supporting the youth to go into innovations. The youth do not have mortgage. We shall encourage as many players as possible to support the youth because the government cannot take over all innovations," he said.

The minister added that the government has embarked on the fifth phase of laying the national backbone to provide the last mile connections of Internet to every corner of the country to support innovations among the youth.

Oil opportunities will come with risks, businesses must be aware



Whereas the oil and gas sector will come with a lot of opportunities, businesses must be aware of risks involved and set up necessary mitigation measures.

KAMPALA

UGANDANS are searching for opportunities out of the recently signed \$15b oil and final investment decision.

Unlike most multi-billion projects, local firms have an opportunity to participate in the oil sector through the award of contracts and the promotion of the national content promoted by Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (UCMP) in conjunction with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU).

The target is to achieve first by 2025 and UCMP has indicated contracts worth more than \$600m out of the \$3.9b for the Tilenga and Kingfisher projects have already been committed to Ugandan.

A significant set of investments such as the Tilenga in Buliisa and Nwoya districts (about \$4b), Kingfisher in Hoima and Kikuube districts (about \$1.5b) and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) (about \$3.6b), have already been unlocked into the economy, in addition to support infrastructure such as Hoima International Airport (over \$500m) and two sets of 700 kilometres of oil roads worth more than \$500m and \$900m, respectively.

By the end of the development phase, Uganda's gross domestic product will be significantly boosted through sectoral linkages approximated at \$9b.

In the upstream sector, opportunities will manifest in different activities of exploration-survey such as geological mapping, rock sampling, rock analysis seismic shooting, exploration-drilling, development and production.

In the downstream sector, activities will include refining, storage and distribution, marketing, and retail, while in the midstream, supply and trading,

shipping and transportation, import and export facilities will be major activities.

However, where there are great opportunities, there is an even higher proportion of risks.

As you prepare your business to leverage the opportunities presented by oil and gas, it is important to understand the 'risks involved' and 'how to manage them'.

For instance, the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster that occurred on July 6, 1998 in UK is by far the deadliest offshore oil rig accident in history. An article by The Guardian, reported that 167 of the 228 workers lost their lives.

Before the incident, Piper Alpha was once Britain's biggest single oil and gas producing platform, delivering more than 300,000 barrels of crude a day - around 10 percent of UK's total oil output.

A lack of communication at a shift-change meant staff were not aware that they should not use a key piece of pipework, which had been sealed with a temporary cover and no safety valve.

"Gas leaked out and ignited while firewalls that would have resisted fire on an oil platform failed to cope with the ensuing gas explosion," reads an extract of the story.

The disaster led to insurance claims of around \$1.4b, making it the largest insured man-made catastrophe at the time.

Opportunities versus risk

Therefore, whereas the oil and gas sector comes with great opportunities for Uganda, it also comes with risks, which range from property damage to employee health, mechanical failure, or human injuries and environmental damage caused by natural hazards, among others.

There is need for companies to fully understand the magnitude of risk operating in the oil and gas sector brings, and therefore devise insurance structures to protect their investments.

Companies in all tiers of contracting ought to understand the importance of insurance, so that they can pinpoint the appropriate insurance cover.

UAP Old Mutual has drawn on our track record in Nigeria, one of the world's biggest oil producers to build critical insurance policies, among which include Group Personal Accident, machinery breakdown insurance, among others.

The oil and gas sector is a high-risk environment, especially for workers who operate machinery and heavy-duty processes.

It is important to protect such employees on and off the job through the Group Personal Accident, which covers staffs against accidental loss of life or disability arising out of an accident while on duty or pleasure on a 24-hour basis.

Building required policies

Additionally, the oil and gas sector is characterised by mechanised production processes.

This calls for a policy such as machinery break down insurance that broadly covers loss due to all forms of accidental, electrical, and mechanical breakdowns because of internal and external causes.

However, companies should also look at the possibility of underwriting an insurance policy that is comprehensive in nature that covers accidental physical loss or damage to specified items as a result of any cause, which is not specifically excluded from the policy.

Economically vulnerable women turn to e-motorbikes for income

KIGALI

OVER 2,000 female motor riders who are school dropouts, vulnerable single mothers, delinquents, and former street vendors are being trained on using electric motorcycles in partnership with a local company-Safi Universal Link.

"After the three-month training, they will be provided with electric motorcycles and smartphones to start generating income," she said.

She said that the move is also in line with the goal to increase off-farm jobs in the country as it seeks to have created 1.5 million jobs by 2024.

According to Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), over 30,000 motorcycles could be transformed into electric motorbikes over the next five years.

The figures from the Ministry of Infrastructure shows that Rwanda has more than 100,000 motorbikes officially registered, with 46,000 operating as moto-taxis.

The city of Kigali alone has 26,000 motorcycle taxis.

Martine Urujeni, the Vice Mayor in charge of Socio-Economic Affairs in the City

of Kigali said that at least 120 vulnerable women who are school dropouts, vulnerable single mothers, delinquents, and former street vendors are being trained on using electric motorcycles in partnership with a local company-Safi Universal Link.

"After the three-month training, they will be provided with electric motorcycles and smartphones to start generating income," she said.

She said that the move is also in line with the goal to increase off-farm jobs in the country as it seeks to have created 1.5 million jobs by 2024.

"There are a number of unemployed women in Kigali and the transport sector is a great opportunity that women who have different issues should tap into," she said.

Penine Baraka, a female motor rider who heads a group of 120 trained women, said she had been unemployed for years.

"Many girls and women are decrying unemployment yet there are opportunities in creating jobs in the

greening transport sector. With the given motorcycle, I hope to generate income to develop myself and my family," she said.

An assessment by Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and Rwanda National police's campaign dubbed 'Healthy Vehicle, Cleaner Skies,' that has been running since March this year, has found that in some urban areas, 80 per cent of tested vehicles are emitting huge amounts of greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change.

According to studies, the transport sector contributes 13 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions in Rwanda.

Total adoption of electric vehicles and related solutions in Rwanda will require up to \$900 million according to the Ministry of Environment.

According to the Ministry of Infrastructure, introducing electric vehicles could save Rwf23 billion on fossil fuel imports annually.

In the next 10 years, Rwanda targets to convert 20 per cent of the fleet for Kigali

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), bus services to electric and 33 per cent of motorcycle operations.

Besides reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, there are also adaptation measures to make the sector resilient to climate change effect.

Climate change adaptation is being mainstreamed in the transport sector by increasing the number of all-weather roads through improving road infrastructure from unpaved to paved roads with a focus on national roads.

In 2018, from a total length of national roads of 2749KM, 1385.5KM have been paved (50 per cent).

However, financial limitation is one of the major challenges among others, which results in gaps for technical and technological capacity, as well as pressure on natural resources linked to high population density.

Rwanda has to invest \$506 million from 2020 to 2025 and \$585 million from 2025 to 2030 in greening transport sector.



Some of the e-bikes that were given to over 2,000 vulnerable women.

Recovery expected in China despite Fed hike

BEIJING

CHINA has ample space in monetary policy to achieve steady economic recovery in the second half of the year, bucking the latest acceleration in monetary tightening by the United States, experts said on Thursday.

Policy tools for China include reducing the amount of funds that lenders must keep as reserves and bringing down lending rates, although the possibility of any big move in the near future could be low given the need to prevent capital outflows, they said.

Their comments came after the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 75 basis points on Wednesday, the biggest rise since 1994, and aimed at stemming US inflation, which hit a four-decade high in May.

The experts said the Fed's tightening could intensify global financial volatility, drive capital further into the US and put



File photo taken shows the headquarters of the People's Bank of China in Beijing, capital of China.

pressure on many central banks to raise interest rates themselves for the sake of preventing capital outflows and currency depreciation, they said.

Though China is not entirely im-

mune to the spillover effects from the Fed's move, the country will be able to keep its own accommodative monetary stance, thanks to its mild inflation level and the relative stability of its currency, they said.

Channel Yeung, a market analyst at FXTM, said the Fed's tightening is unlikely to alter the stance of the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, to strengthen support for the economy, citing

the buffer provided by the relative attraction of renminbi-denominated assets.

With inflation staying mild in China, the country is expected to bring down market interest rates and loan prime rates-the market-based benchmark lending rates of the country-to facilitate an economic rebound, said Tommy Wu, lead economist at Oxford Economics.

Wu said that in the third quarter, it is possible the PBOC will cut the policy interest rate, or the rate of the medium-term lending facility, and reduce the reserve requirement ratio, which refers to the proportion of money lenders must hold as reserves. Those cuts should boost demand in the economy.

The PBOC kept the medium-term lending facility rate unchanged at 2.85 percent on Wednesday. The country is scheduled to unveil its latest loan prime rates on Monday, which experts expect will remain steady.

David Chao, global market strategist for Asia-Pacific, excluding Japan, at Invesco, said it

makes sense for the PBOC to save their bullets on easing till a few months from now.

Near-term rate cuts could trigger a drastic policy divergence between China and the US and trigger capital outflows from the former, given that the Fed's hawkishness in tightening could peak this month and next, Chao said.

While Wednesday's rate hike brought the US federal funds rate to a range between 1.5 percent and 1.75 percent, more increases are seemingly in the pipeline as the Fed sees the funds rate at the 3.4 percent level by the end of this year.

David Wang, chief China economist at Credit Suisse, said the Fed's rate hike will likely dampen US domestic demand and translate into weaker external demand for China.

In response, China should focus on using monetary and fiscal policies to boost domestic demand, continue to reduce regulatory uncertainty and avoid wide and prolonged disruptions to its supply chain, Wang said.

Pan Gongsheng, vice-governor

of the PBOC, said earlier this month the central bank will leverage multiple instruments to beef up the injection of liquidity and tamp down corporate financing costs, as part of its efforts to strengthen support for the nation's economy.

On Wednesday raised its benchmark interest rate by 75 basis points, marking the sharpest rate hike since 1994, as data released in recent days showed no clear signs of easing in inflation.

"Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher energy prices, and broader price pressures," the Fed said in a statement after a two-day policy meeting, adding that the Fed is "highly attentive to inflation risks."

The Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's policy-making body, decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate to 1.5 to 1.75 percent and "anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate." This range is still comparatively low by historic standards.

WTO strikes global trade deals deep into overtime

GENEVA

THE World Trade Organization's 164 members approved a series of trade agreements early on Friday that included commitments on fish and pledges on health and food security after more than five grueling days of negotiations.

The deals were ground out over five days of bargaining at a conference of more than 100 trade ministers that was seen as a test of the ability of nations to strike multilateral trade deals amid geopolitical tensions.

Delegates cheered after they passed the package of six agreements just before dawn on Friday. Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told them: "The package of agreements you have reached will make a difference to the lives of people around the world. The outcomes demonstrate that the WTO is in fact capable of responding to emergencies of our time."

Earlier she had appealed to WTO members to consider the "delicate balance" required after nearly round-the-clock talks that were extended for an extra two days and have at times been charged with anger and accusations.

At one stage, a series of

demands from India, which sees itself as the champion of poor farmers and fishermen as well as developing countries, appeared set to paralyse talks but accommodations were found, trade sources said.

The WTO's rules dictate that all decisions are taken by consensus, with any single member able to exercise a veto.

The package, which Okonjo-Iweala called "unprecedented", included the two highest profile deals under consideration - on fisheries and on a partial waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights for COVID-19 vaccines.

The accord to curb fishing subsidies is only the second multilateral agreement setting new global trading rules struck in the WTO's 27-year history and is far more ambitious than the first, which was designed to cut red tape.

The fishing subsidies deal has the potential to reverse collapsing fish stocks. Though pared back significantly, it still drew approval.

"This is a turning point in addressing one of the key drivers of global over-fishing," said Isabel Jarrett, manager of The Pew Charitable Trusts' campaign to reduce harmful fisheries subsidies.

The deal on a partial IP waiver to allow developing

countries to produce and export COVID-19 vaccines has divided the WTO for nearly two years, but finally passed. It has also drawn the fiercest criticism from campaign groups that say it barely expands on an existing exemption in WTO rules and is too narrow by not covering therapeutics and diagnostics.

"Put simply, it is a technocratic fudge aimed at saving reputations, not lives," said Max Lawson, Co-Chair of the People's Vaccine Alliance.

One agreement had also been reached on Thursday, on maintaining a moratorium on e-commerce tariffs, which is considered vital to allow the free flow of data worldwide.

Overall, many observers were broadly supportive and said the deals should boost the WTO, which was weakened by former US president Donald Trump's crippling of its ability to intervene in trade disputes, and set it on a course for reform.

"There's now a package on the table at (the ministerial conference) that would provide a real boost to the credibility and strength of the WTO system," said John Denton, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce, before the package passed.



ITV

WEDNESDAY 15 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 HABARI
7:30 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO
8:00 HABARI za saa
8:55 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Uchumi wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Jarida la wanawake
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Albu Yako
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:40 Ripoti Maalum
22:20 Soap: I Plead Guilty
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 16 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 HABARI
7:30 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO
8:00 HABARI za saa
8:55 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO
9:00 HABARI za saa
9:55 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shamba lulu
10:30 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina

Nigerian Director General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala speaks at the opening ceremony of the 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva

- 19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 17 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 HABARI
7:30 KUMEKUCHA MICHZO
8:00 HABARI za saa
8:55 KUMEKUCHA KISHINDO
9:00 Habari za saa
9:55 Watoto wetu
10:00 Usafiri wako
10:30 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ
14:30 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Uchumi wetu
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 18 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 HABARI
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
11:10 Mjuz Zaidi rpt
11:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:40 Korean: Jumong rpt
13:20 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
15:30 Igizo: Mizengwe
15:50 Igizo: Rebeca
16:40 Shamsham za Pwani
17:30 Kipindi Maalum: Smart Quiz
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu

- 19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
21:15 Igizo: Rebeca
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV TOP 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 19 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI
6:00 KUMEKUCHA
6:40 HABARI
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Smart Quiz
12:15 Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebeca
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
21:15 Kipindi maalum: Soka Bet
21:25 Igizo: Mizengwe
21:40 Mjuz Zaidi
22:20 Bongo movie:
23:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
02:05 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Sun 12 June

- 08:00 Aljazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Lake Hill
15:15 Albu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
19:30 Sports Gazette
20:00 Series: Lake Hill
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Mon 13 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
Series rpt: Lake Hill
16:00 Eco@Africa
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Lake Hill
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 14 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
Series rpt: Lake Hill
16:00 Capchat rpt
16:30 Meza huru
17:30 Innovation
18:00 Innovation
19:30 Our Earth
20:00 Series: Lake Hill
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 15 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:00 Our Earth Rpt
12:30 Innovation Rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
Series rpt: Lake Hill
16:00 Innovation rpt
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Lake Hill
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 16 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Lake Hill
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News

22:00 Capchat rpt

23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 17 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
Series rpt: Lake Hill
16:00 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 18 June

- 08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15 Eco@Africa
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
21:00 Out n'About
21:30 Music Club 101 rpt
23:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 19 June

- 08:00 Aljazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Lake Hill
15:15 Albu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: The Sling Shot
21:00 Dw News Africa
21:30 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

UK gives go-ahead to US extradition of Julian Assange

LONDON

BRITISH interior minister Priti Patel yesterday approved the extradition of WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange to the United States to face criminal charges, bringing his long-running legal saga closer to a conclusion.

Assange is wanted by US authorities on 18 counts, including a spying charge, relating to WikiLeaks' release of vast troves of confidential US military records and diplomatic cables which Washington said had put lives in danger.

His supporters say he is an anti-establishment hero who has been victimized because he exposed US wrongdoing in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that his prosecution is a politically motivated assault on journalism and free speech.

The Home Office said his extradition had now been approved but he could still appeal the decision. WikiLeaks said he would.

"In this case, the UK courts have not found that it would be oppressive, unjust or an abuse of process to extradite Mr Assange," the Home Office said in a

statement.

"Nor have they found that extradition would be incompatible with his human rights, including his right to a fair trial and to freedom of expression, and that whilst in the US he will be treated appropriately, including in relation to his health."

Originally, a British judge ruled that Assange should not be deported, saying his mental health problems meant he would be at risk of suicide if convicted and held in a maximum security prison. But this was overturned on an appeal after the United States gave a package of assurances, including a pledge he could be transferred to Australia to serve any sentence.

Patel's decision does not mean the end of Australian-born Assange's legal fight which has been going on for more than a decade and could continue for many more months.

He can launch an appeal at London's High Court which must give its approval for a challenge to proceed. He can ultimately seek to take his case to the United Kingdom Supreme Court. But if an appeal is refused, Assange must be



A supporter of Julian Assange, with a poster of the WikiLeaks founder, joins other protesters to block a major road in front of Westminster Magistrates Court in London, May 2, 2019. File photo

extradited within 28 days.

'New legal battle'

"This is a dark day for press freedom and for British democracy," Assange's wife Stella said. "The path to Julian's freedom is long and tortuous. Today is not the end of the fight. It is only the beginning of a new legal battle."

WikiLeaks first came to prominence when it published a US military video in 2010 showing a 2007 attack by Apache helicopters in Baghdad that killed a dozen people, including two Reuters news staff.

It then released hundreds of thousands of secret classified files and diplomatic cables in what was the largest security breach of its kind in US military history.

US prosecutors and Western security officials regard Assange as a reckless and dangerous enemy of the state whose actions imperiled the lives of agents named in the leaked material.

He and his supporters argue that he is being punished for embarrassing those in power.

"Allowing Julian Assange to be extradited to the US would put him at great risk and sends a chilling message to journalists the world over," said Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary general.

The legal saga began at the end of 2010 when Sweden sought Assange's extradition from Britain over allegations of sex crimes. When he lost that case in 2012, he fled to the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he spent seven years.

When he was finally dragged out in April 2019, he was jailed for breaching British bail conditions although the Swedish case against him had been dropped. He has been fighting extradition to the United States since June 2019 and remains in jail.

During his time in the Ecuadorian embassy he fathered two children with his now wife, who he married in Belmarsh high-security prison in east London in March at a small ceremony attended by just four guests, two official witnesses and two guards.

Agencies

Burgers to remain in Russia, while US companies lose multi-billion dollars – Medvedev

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev has pointed to US President Joe Biden's short-sighted policies that lead to losses for American businesses in Russia.

In a message on his Telegram channel on Friday, Medvedev recalled Biden's words that he was deciding on sanctions against Russia not as president, but as commander-in-chief.

"Generally speaking, it is bad when two personalities dictate different wills to a person. This usually has the well-known medical name in psychiatry," the lawmaker noted.

"As a result of the decisions of such a commander-in-chief, but not the president of the United States, a large number of American and international companies simply lose enormous multi-billion-dollar capacities in our country," he stressed. "And what's in return? Nothing."

As there was healthy and not so healthy lemonade in Russia, so will it remain. Both dark and light. Only under a different brand. As there were burgers, so will they remain. Under a different name," Medvedev pointed out.

"I'm not even talking about food inflation or the price of a gallon of gasoline, which, as US oil companies have told the world, is connected not with some mythical threat from Putin, but with the unreasonable policy of Biden and his administration in the field of oil production and refining," the Security Council Deputy Chairman said.

"But America has once again shown its determination to fight for democracy! The question is at what price," the politician summed up.

Agencies

Arab states urged to invest more in cyber technology and digital transformation

BEIRUT

Chairman of the Arab Internet & Telecom Union Feras Bakour on Thursday urged the Arab world to invest more in cyber technology, as digital transformation contributes to only 4 percent of the region's GDP growth.

Bakour made the remarks during a conference in Beirut, which was sponsored by China's telecom giant Huawei and hosted by Lebanon's Professional Computer Association. The two-day conference features discussions on challenges and opportunities of cyber security in the Middle East region.

"The Arab world should invest in advanced technology, and study all aspects of cyber threats to build trust in the Arab world's systems," he said. Such achievement won't take place, unless funds are allocated for human resources with the required abilities, said Bakour.

He said the private sector is encouraged to establish centers for technology development and research, and a safe cyber environment should be established. Because more people are using the Internet globally, Bakour believed there would be an increase in cyber threats in the future.

"Cybercrimes used to threaten only individuals in the past, but they now have a significant impact on countries and companies and could cause disasters," he warned. For his part, Chinese Ambassador to Lebanon Qian Minjian said that the Global Initiative on Data Security launched by China in September 2020 with the goal of providing Chinese solutions to global cyber security and digital governance rules, has been well received and praised by the international community.

The China-Arab Cooperation Initiative on Data Security, jointly announced by China and member states of the Arab League (AL) last year as a result of the initiative, makes the Arab world the first region in the world to do so, he said. Lebanon, a member state of the AL, welcomed the initiative in the first instance, "which demonstrates the high degree of consensus on cyber security and digital governance between China and Lebanon as well as Arab nations," the Chinese envoy said.

"It also symbolizes a significant step forward for developing countries to join hands to promote global digital governance," he added.



The Arab world should invest in advanced technology, and study all aspects of cyber threats to build trust in the Arab world's systems, allocated for human resources with the required abilities

WTO strikes global trade deals after 'roller coaster' talks

GENEVA

THE World Trade Organization's 164 members approved a series of trade agreements early yesterday that included commitments on fish and pledges on health and food security after more than five grueling days of negotiations.

The deals were ground out over five days of bargaining at a conference of more than 100 trade ministers that was seen as a test of the ability of nations to strike multilateral trade deals amid geopolitical tensions.

Delegates cheered after they passed the package of six agreements just before dawn on Friday.

Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told them: "The package of agreements you have reached will make a difference to the lives of people around the world. The outcomes demonstrate that the WTO is in fact capable of responding to emergencies of our time."

Earlier she had appealed to WTO members to consider the "delicate balance" required after nearly round-the-clock talks

that were extended for an extra two days and have at times been charged with anger and accusations. The package, which Okonjo-Iweala called "unprecedented", included the two highest profile deals under consideration - on fisheries and on a partial waiver of intellectual property (IP) rights for COVID-19 vaccines.

The accord to curb fishing subsidies is only the second multilateral agreement setting new global trading rules struck in the WTO's 27-year history and is far more ambitious than the first, which was designed to cut red tape.

At one stage, a series of demands from India, which sees itself as the champion of poor farmers and fishermen as well as developing countries, appeared set to paralyse talks but accommodations were found, trade sources said.

The WTO's rules dictate that all decisions are taken by consensus, with any single member able to exercise a veto.

'Lot of bumps'

"It was not an easy process.



There were a lot of bumps, just like I predicted. It was like a roller coaster, but in the end we got there," an exhausted but elated Okonjo-Iweala told a final news conference.

The deal to ban subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or fishing of an overfished stock has the potential to reverse collapsing fish stocks. Though pared back significantly, it still drew approval.

"This is a turning point in addressing one of the key drivers of global over-fishing," said Isabel Jarrett, manager of The Pew Charitable Trusts' campaign to reduce

harmful fisheries subsidies.

Okonjo-Iweala said it was the first step after 21 years of talks towards what she hoped would be a more comprehensive deal.

The deal on a partial IP waiver to allow developing countries to produce and export COVID-19 vaccines has divided the WTO for nearly two years, but finally passed.

It has also drawn the fiercest criticism from campaign groups that say it barely expands on an existing exemption in WTO rules and is too narrow by not covering therapeutics and diagnostics.

"Put simply, it is a technocratic

Agencies

Indians set trains ablaze against military hiring changes

LUCKNOW

PROTESTERS in India threw stones at police and set fire to train coaches yesterday as demonstrations against a new military recruitment process raged for a second day, police said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government announced this week an overhaul of the recruitment process for the 1.38 million-strong armed forces, aiming to bring in more people on short, four-year contracts to lower the average age of personnel.

"They have blocked trains in 10 places today," Sanjay Singh, a senior police official in Bihar, told Reuters, adding that more than 100

people had been arrested in protests across the state on Thursday. But many potential recruits object, saying they should be allowed to serve longer than four years. Opposition parties and some members of Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party say the system will lead to more unemployment in a country grappling with joblessness.

Police fired shots in the air on Thursday to push back stone-throwing crowds in the northern state of Haryana. Protesters gathered again on Friday, torching train coaches in at least two stations in the eastern state of Bihar and disrupted rail services, police said.

"They have blocked trains in 10 places today," Sanjay Singh, a senior police official in

Bihar, told Reuters, adding that more than 100 people had been arrested in protests across the state on Thursday.

Hundreds of people also gathered in the southern city of Secunderabad to throw stones at police, in a sign that the protests were spreading.

"They have also set fire to properties at Secunderabad railway station," police official A.R. Srinivas said.

The new recruitment system, called Agnipath or "path of fire" in Hindi, will bring in men and women between the ages of 17-and-a-half and 21 for a four-year tenure at non-officer ranks, with only a quarter retained for longer periods.

Soldiers have previously been recruited by the army, navy and air force separately, and typically serve for up to 17 years, for the lowest ranks.

The government on Friday also announced a one-time extension for the maximum entry age into the scheme to 23 since recruitment had been frozen for the past two years, mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The government has decided that a one-time waiver shall be granted for the proposed recruitment cycle for 2022," the defense ministry said in a statement.

The armed forces aim to recruit about 46,000 people under the new system this year.

Egypt lifts all COVID-19-related entry restrictions

CAIRO

EGYPT on Thursday lifted all COVID-19-related entry restrictions for all travelers, whether Egyptians or foreigners.

The decision was made by Egypt's Supreme Committee for the Management of the Epidemiology and Health Pandemic Crisis according to the pandemic conditions in Egypt and abroad, said Nader Saad, a spokesperson of the Egyptian cabinet, in a statement.

Nearly 86.6 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as 4.5 million

booster shots, have been provided for the people, the statement said, adding that there are nearly 57.5 million doses in reserve to continue the vaccination campaign.

The statement said that 800 DNA reagents were distributed by the Egyptian health ministry to detect the monkeypox cases, and strict measures are taken to have veterinary quarantine for the animals coming from abroad.

COVID-19 study

The Omicron variant of coronavirus is less likely to cause long COVID-19

than previous variants, according to the first peer-reviewed study of its kind from the United Kingdom.

Researchers at King's College London, using data from the ZOE COVID-19 Symptom study app, found the odds of developing long COVID-19 after infection were 20 percent to 50 percent lower during the Omicron wave in the UK compared to Delta. The figure varied depending on the patient's age and the timing of their last vaccination.

Long COVID-19, which includes prolonged symptoms ranging from fatigue to 'brain fog', can be debilitating

and continue for weeks or months. It is increasingly being recognized as a public health problem, and researchers have been racing to find out if Omicron presents as big a risk of long COVID-19 as previously dominant variants.

The study from King's is believed to be the first academic research to show Omicron does not present as great a risk of long COVID-19, but that does not mean long COVID-19 patient numbers are dropping, the team said.

While the risk of long COVID-19 was lower during Omicron, more people were infected, so the absolute num-

ber now suffering is higher.

"It's good news, but please don't de-commission any of your long COVID services," lead researcher Dr Claire Steves told Reuters, appealing to health-service providers.

The UK's Office for National Statistics said in May that 438,000 people in the country have long COVID-19 after Omicron infection, representing 24 percent of all long COVID-19 patients.

It also said the risk of lingering symptoms after Omicron was lower than with Delta, but only for double-vaccinated people. It found no statis-

tical difference for those who were triple vaccinated.

In the King's research, 4.5 percent of the 56,003 people studied during Omicron's peak, December 2021-March 2022, reported long COVID-19. That compared to 10.8 percent of 41,361 people during the Delta wave, June-November 2021. It did not compare vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

While the study - published in The Lancet journal on Thursday - compared Delta and Omicron, Dr Steves said previous work had showed no substantial difference in long COV-



In this file photo taken on Jan 11, 2022, children warm by a fire at a camp for the displaced on the outskirts of Yemen's third city of Ta'ez. AFP

36.5m children displaced in 2021, most since WWII, says UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

AN unprecedented 36.5 million children were displaced by conflict, violence and other crises by the end of 2021, the highest number since World War II, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported yesterday.

The figure, which increased by 2.2 million in 2021, includes 13.7 million child refugees and asylum-seekers and nearly 22.8 million internally displaced due to conflict and violence, according to the agency's press release.

Children displaced by climate and environmental shocks and disasters, and those displaced in 2022, including by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, are not included in the report.

The record number is a direct result of cascading crises, including "acute and protracted conflicts such as in Afghanistan, and fragility in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Yemen – all exacerbated by the destructive impacts of climate change," the report said.

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said she hopes the alarming number will move governments to prevent children from being displaced and ensure the access of those displaced to education, protection and other critical services.

Only half of all refugee children are enrolled in primary schools, while less than a quarter of refugee adolescents are in secondary schools, as a record number of displaced and refugee children are in need of support and services like healthcare, education and protection, according to the report.

Unaccompanied or separated children, in particular, are facing a high risk of trafficking, exploitation, violence and abuse, the agency said, adding that globally, children make up approximately 28 percent of victims of human trafficking.

Russian President Putin to attend 2022 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin was to take part in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum yesterday, June 17.

Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated earlier that the main event with Putin's participation will be the forum's plenary session, scheduled for June 17.

The Russian leader will deliver a speech and answer questions from participants. The event is scheduled to continue for two hours.

According to Peskov, the president's speech "will be extremely important." "Economies were taken hostage by politics, and politicians in many countries made a colossal number of mistakes amid the coronavirus," the Kremlin spokesman said, as he called the situation "an ideal systemic storm."

Russian Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov told reporters earlier in the week that Putin would give assessments to the situation in global policy and economy in his speech at the plenary session and share the assessment of trends in forming the multipolar economic model.

Traditionally, Putin will meet with foreign leaders, and the schedule of those talks will be relatively intense, despite the complicated global situation.

The Russian leader will meet with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Armenian President Vahagn Khachatryan and Serb member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Milorad Dodik.

Talks with them are scheduled for June 17, according to the Kremlin. At the same time, no separate meetings with the heads of the people's republics of Donetsk and Lugansk (DPR and LPR), Denis Pushilin and Leonid Paschchnik, are on the president's schedule.

Some usual events will be changed to respond to present-day realities. For example, Putin's traditional meeting with heads of global news agencies will not take place.

Instead, he will meet with military correspondents, heads of news divisions, as well as the chiefs of Russian TV, print, and Internet media. Most of the meeting will be held behind closed doors.

The St. Petersburg International Economic Forum organized by the Roscongress Foundation is running from June 15 to 18. This year's forum is dubbed: 'New Opportunities in a New World'.

The SME Forum, the Creative Business Forum, the Drug Security Forum, the SPIEF Junior Dialogue and SPIEF Sport Week are also going to be part of the SPIEF event. TASS serves as the event's official photo hosting agency and the information partner.

Agencies



Trump pressed, threatened Pence to overturn election, panel hears

WASHINGTON

FORMER president Donald Trump pressured his vice president, Mike Pence, to overturn his 2020 election defeat despite being told repeatedly it was illegal to do so, aides to Pence told the congressional committee investigating the Jan 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol on Thursday.

Members of the Democratic-led House of Representatives select committee said Trump continued his pressure campaign even though he knew a violent mob of his supporters was threatening the Capitol as Pence and lawmakers met to formally certify President Joe Biden's victory in the November 2020 election.

The nine-member committee has used the first three of at least six public hearings this month to build a case that Trump's efforts to overturn his defeat amounted to illegal conduct, far beyond normal politics.

Trump has repeatedly denied wrongdoing, while repeating his false accusations that he lost the election only because of widespread fraud that benefited Democrat Biden. Trump and his supporters - including many Republican members of Congress - dismiss the Jan 6 panel as a political witchhunt.

The certification vote on Jan 6 had become a focus for Trump, who saw it as a last-ditch chance to retain the presidency despite his loss at the polls.

Marc Short, who was Pence's chief of staff, said in videotaped testimony that Pence told Trump "many times" that he did not have the authority to stop the vote certification in Congress as the Republican president sought.

Gregory Jacob, an attorney for Pence, said the main proponent of that theory, attorney John Eastman, admitted in front of the president two days before



An image of former President Donald Trump is displayed during the third hearing of the US House Select Committee to Investigate the Jan 6 Attack on the US Capitol, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on Thursday. AFP

the attack that his plan to have Pence halt the procedure would violate the law.

Eastman had argued that Pence could reject results from certain states if he thought they were illegitimate, giving Republicans in those states an opportunity to declare Trump the victor despite the actual vote count.

Advisers to Pence told the committee that idea had no basis in law.

"It is breathtaking that these arguments even were conceived, let alone entertained by the president of the United States," former US Appeals Court judge J. Michael Luttig, an informal Pence adviser, said.

Trump is widely expected to run for president again in 2024, and committee members and witnesses warned that he would not accept defeat no matter the actual outcome.

"Today almost two years after that fateful day in January 2021, that still, Donald Trump and his allies and supporters are a clear and present danger to American democracy," Luttig said.

The committee showed an email Eastman sent to Trump's attorney, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, asking for a presidential pardon. Eastman never

received one.

'Hang Mike Pence'

The hearing featured several chilling clips of some of the thousands of Trump supporters who descended on the Capitol after a rally in which Trump repeatedly criticized Pence, chanting for Pence to be pulled out of the building or hanged.

Trump tweeted at 2:24 p.m., while the attack was going on, that Pence did not have the "courage" to stop the count.

"It felt like he was pouring gasoline on the fire by tweeting that," Sarah Matthews, a Trump White House staffer, said in video testimony.

Representative Pete Aguilar said a witness had told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the Proud Boys, one of the right-wing groups participating in the Capitol attack, said the group would have killed Pence if they had been able to get to him.

Committee members said Trump's comments against Pence incited the crowd.

The committee displayed photos of Pence sheltering in place during the riot. Jacob, who was with Pence

during the attack, said he refused to leave and that he did not want to give the demonstrators the satisfaction of forcing him from the building. "The vice president did not want to take any chance that the world would see the vice president of the United States fleeing the US Capitol," he said.

The attack on the Capitol delayed certification of the election for hours, injured more than 140 police officers and led to several deaths.

Even after police had suppressed the attack and reclaimed the Capitol, Eastman continued to press Pence's team to overturn the vote.

"I implore you one last time, can the Vice President, please do what we've been asking him to do these last two days - suspend the Joint Session, send it back to the States," Eastman wrote to Jacob at 11:44 p.m. in an email released by the committee.

Hoh Xil: A haven for wildlife and ecological protection

LEGDUP Tshegyal, a ranger at the Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve in Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Qinghai province, who always has a big smile on his face, was a little embarrassed to admit that he cried when he first patrolled mountains in Hoh Xil, which is known as "no man's land".

Born into a herdsman's family in Yushu Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Legdup Tshegyal has grown up on grasslands and become physically strong.

In 2006, he applied to be a ranger at the Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve. He didn't realize how difficult it is to patrol the "no man's land" until did it himself.

The vast Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve, which covers an area of 45,000 square kilometers, has no hardened road.

In summer, he has to patrol along muddy wetlands that seem endless. His car can easily get stuck in the marshy land and couldn't move a bit. As Hoh Xil is situated at an average altitude of over 4,600 meters, every time he sets out to rescue wild animals in the highland, he is tired out afterwards.

At night, as brown bears occasionally appear outside their tents, Legdup Tshegyal and his teammates often need to wave their flashlights back and forth and bang pots and pans to scare away the brown bears.

In winter, the temperature in Hoh Xil can drop to over minus 40 degrees Celsius and the oxygen content here is less than 40 percent of that at the sea level.

The tent becomes as cold as an ice cellar on cold winter night, when trousers wet by the snow usually freeze, and can "stand up" straight on their own when taken off and put on the ground. The harsh conditions in Hoh Xil are beyond imagination.

Legdup Tshegyal didn't cry because of these difficulties. "During the day, I have the company of my teammates; but the long nights are really overwhelming," he said. It was when he stepped out of his tent and stared into the darkness that he couldn't help but burst into tears. "I just felt so homesick at that moment," he recalled.

What he likes about Hoh Xil is that it is a paradise for wild animals. Tibetan antelopes, kiangs, Tibetan gazelles and wild yaks can be seen everywhere in the area.

"When I see these precious plateau animals run freely, I feel it is all worth it," he said. Legdup Tshegyal has guarded Hoh Xil for 16 years, and patrols the highland over



Legdup Tshegyal plays with a wild animal.

10 times every year. He and his teammates have constituted the biggest deterrent to poachers. Since 2006, no poaching activity has ever been found in Hoh Xil, and the number of Tibetan antelopes here has increased to over 70,000.

Between May and August every year, large flocks of Tibetan antelopes migrate to the side of Zhuonai Lake for parturition. So the Sonam Dargye Protection Station has been built here for the conservation of the animals, which is the only building for human beings in the "no man's land".

Legdup Tshegyal and his colleagues stay at the station during the period. He drives along the lakeside, and, whenever he sees a flock of expectant mother Tibetan antelopes, he records in his work diary information about the flock like the number of Tibetan antelopes in the flock, the location where it appeared, and its movement.

In 2019, Legdup Tshegyal was awarded China Youth May Fourth Medal, the top honor for outstanding young Chinese people. As a representative of the younger generation of guardians of Hoh Xil, he began to serve as deputy head of the Sonam Dargye Protection Station. While continuing to lead teams in patrol, he has also been responsible for the daily management of the station.

An exhibition center has been built to the north of the Sonam Dargye Protection Station to display the history of wild animal conservation and

natural resources in Hoh Xil, which is popular among passersby and tourists along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway.

During the peak tourist season, Legdup Tshegyal often acts as a docent at the exhibition center. He is very familiar with Hoh Xil, and always fascinates visitors with his experiences in the area.

When Tibetan antelopes migrate, they need to cross the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. At this time, Legdup Tshegyal and his team members become "traffic police" who ensure the safety of Tibetan antelopes. "People driving along the road also voluntarily stop for the animals," the ranger noted, adding that the idea of harmonious coexistence between man and nature has been deeply rooted in people's hearts.

There is also a wildlife rescue center inside the Sonam Dargye Protection Station, which is aimed at saving animals that have been left behind or are sick, and then releasing them into the wild afterwards.

During the parturition season, Legdup Tshegyal and his colleagues carefully take care of baby Tibetan antelopes taken in by the rescue center to ensure their health.

Hoh Xil has strengthened Legdup Tshegyal's will and helped him take a steadfast and calm attitude toward life. It is because of young people like Legdup Tshegyal who have devoted themselves to wildlife conservation that ecological protection in Hoh Xil can continuously usher in wonderful new chapters. *People's Daily*

UN agencies launch drought response package to avert famine in Somalia

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations agencies Thursday launched the minimum response package (MRP), a critical life-saving project that will address urgent needs of more than 100,000 people displaced by the escalating drought in Somalia.

Through the MRP, the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and partners said the MRP will help them avert famine by addressing the most pressing needs of those displaced by severe drought.

"With Somalia on the brink of famine, we need to act now, and act together, to avert a humanitarian catastrophe," El-Khidir Daloum, WFP Country Director for Somalia said in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu.

Daloum said the MRP opens new pathways for partner agencies to work together in an integrated response, collectively empowering some of the most vulnerable people to meet their essential needs - not only food and nutrition but also shelter, hygiene and water.

"This is a very important pilot that will pave the way to scale up multi-sectoral responses into the future," the WFP official noted. Some 7.1 million Somalis, close to 50 percent of the population, are facing extreme hunger due to historic drought conditions.

Nearly 800,000 people have been forced to flee their homes since 2021 in search of food, water and pasture for their animals, the UN said.

UNICEF said at least 1.5 million children are facing acute malnutrition and over 3,170 have contracted cholera, while 2,460 measles cases have been reported since January.

"In a country where famine is happening ever more frequently, we as the partners of Somalia need to find ways to help the country prevent famine," said UNICEF Chief of Water and Sanita-

tion Victor Kinyanjui.

He said the MRP has enabled UNICEF to provide lifesaving assistance to children and women affected by humanitarian crises in Baidoa and Benadir, working together with sister agencies IOM and WFP.

The humanitarian agencies have collectively reached over 2.8 million people between January and May with lifesaving and livelihood support. IOM said it's extremely concerned about the hundreds of thousands of people who have been uprooted due to the drought.

Frantz Celestin, IOM Somalia Chief of Mission said the majority heavily depended on their animals and crops, and they have now lost everything.

The UN agencies said the assistance will be tailored to the needs of men, women and children and will include cash, water trucking, hygiene kits, shelter, nutrition programs and health care.

The MRP will also expand community level access to water, latrines, and health services through an area-based approach. IOM, WFP, UNICEF and aid partners said they will continue working together to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and help communities adapt to future shocks.

Xinhua



In a country where famine is happening ever more frequently, we as the partners of Somalia need to find ways to help the country prevent famine



Moses Phiri

Simba SC newly signed forward discloses ambitions

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NEW Simba SC signing Moses Phiri has said he joined the club because of the chance to win trophies.

The 29-year-old joined Simba SC on a two-year deal having spent the last two seasons with Zambia's Zanaco FC during which he emerged top scorer before finishing last campaign as the second top scorer of the Zambian Super League.

In his first interview as a Simba SC player, Phiri detailed his ambition to make history with the club by helping it win more trophies.

Sitting down with the club's media officials a day after signing a two-year contract, Phiri also confirmed that he rejected offers from several sides in favour of living out his dream of joining Simba SC.

The Zambian striker noted: "I feel so good to be part of this family, it is a dream come true to be part of this family, I have been dreaming of playing in Tanzania...there were a lot of teams that approached me but I decided to join Simba SC."

The goal-getter stated: "I have been following everything, I think it is one of the teams that I have seen here, the organization, the way the players interact, I asked my fellow Zambians who are

with the club, it is one of the best teams in East Africa."

"There is a lot but the most important reason why I am here is to win trophies with Simba SC."

The attacker noted: "It is not like I will get everything that those guys told me, I just have my mission and that is to help the team and win trophies. I am equal to the task, I pray to God that the guys receive me with good hands."

"I want to promise one thing, if they welcome me well, I would truly help the team to return to winning trophies. I can't say I would be just scoring goals every day because I haven't played in this league."

"I am a guy who doesn't run away from pressure. Sometimes I feel I play better when under pressure because this is the job that I chose. It is good to play under pressure, it is a matter of how you handle it."

"With the help from the guys, I am not here to be one of the best players in the country, I am here to help the club achieve its goal."

Phiri disclosed: "If we have a good team, good communication, and cooperation, I think we could even win the CAF Champions League."

Not confirming Stephane Aziz Ki signing outright was just modesty, not FIFA rules

By Correspondent John Kimbute

HEATED debate could be heard among pundits upon the minimal affirmation that the newly crowned Premier League champions, Young Africans SC of Dar es Salaam, alias 'Yanga', were on the way to signing Stephane Aziz Ki, one of the best rates players for Ivorian giants ASEC Mimosas.

One side contended that it would be outside the rules to affirm or otherwise suggest that a club was on the way to signing a player who is still on contract with a particular club at that moment.

Their argument tended to assert that any such intimation or supposition of signing such a player could only start the following day of the expiry of the contract.

It is difficult to figure out where such arguments arose, as a club is involved if the player has a continuous contract, and it does not expire on the day it ends but when it is supposed to be renewed.

In the Premier League, renewal of a contract is a last-minute issue, formally starting at the moment that the league season is terminated, and it is during this time as at the moment that one hears speculation about whom this or that club is parting with, and who is having his contract renewed.

Admittedly one reason for this situation is short-term contracts of one year, whereas in the European circuit con-



Stephane Aziz Ki

tracts are quite variable.

Owing to this situation of short-term contracts and the condition that the club has to decide as to whether it needs a player or it does not, we have grown used to the supposition that without this or that club affirming that it is letting its player go, intimating about signing him is an affront to the other club.

In that case, a legitimate affront to a club by implication is to break a rule, since what the club will be objecting to is something acknowledged among all Premier League clubs, so it becomes a rule.

The pundits were using this local norm about either registration or talking to the player concerning the signing.

There is a chance in that sense that Ivory Coast has similar normative precepts on signing players as we have, assuming they have similar registration conditions like ourselves.

It is a rather poor professional level of contracting players where a blanket rule of one-year signing is applied, to ensure that players put in their best, a condition adopted perhaps due to negative experience earlier.

It implies that talking to the ASEC Mimosas player had to wait until the last week of the season, or its aftermath depending on the calendar they are using, as here the league is just crawling out of the stage, and players wait for the news.

Noticeably, it was at about the same time that the Ivorian player was being sounded out, that the Jangwani Street club leadership had just bid farewell to another expatriate player who appears to have good offers elsewhere.

In that case, he was not seeking a contract extension and said his good-byes even with three or so matches to be finished, despite that the league outcome was by and large settled, and at times when one makes such byes he may leave immediately, depending on his state of mind, and what the coach will say.

If there are pending payments he may not rapidly leave, unless he pointedly decides to ignore all claims.

Such a method of departure can be described as a '13th-month approach' where a player is provided with a month's salary of the club he is proceeding to, in place of the final monthly payment from the club he is leaving, the reason being that the new club doesn't wish to hear of any complications thereafter.

Adding a month before the start of formal engagement is an insurance policy against vagaries of the weather, that is, unknown shifts and turns in the transfer market.

Given the media rhap-

sody about Aziz Ki, there is a genuine possibility that in his visit to Cote d'Ivoire, Yanga strongman Hersi Said was just as prepared, and would have been quietly persuaded that nothing happening in between will change what was agreed.

These aspects are generally missed in the discussion on the signing, perched excessively on the legality of talking to a player whose contract has even a week, or a few days before it expires. The trouble was that the pundits were trying to make out that these are general rules about signing, not habits relating to this or that league environment.

The usual condition is that a recruiting agent can talk to a player if contract renewal negotiations have ended and are likely to be a free player at an approaching date, or he chose not to enter such talks as he wishes to leave.

He will still be playing for the club up to the last engagements meanwhile as he is completing his departure arrangements, and this could be so for the new signing.

In a different scenario, the recruiting agent or club bigwig as in this case would have to approach his club counterparts to lay out a respectable transfer fee, and it does not appear that any such issue cropped up.



Popular Congolese dance music singer Christian Bella (L) entertains a gathering of parents and their children that were missing over 20 years ago, hosted by a radio station, Clouds FM, via the Leo Tena program in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Dar athletes garner Olympic Solidarity scholarship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FIVE Tanzanian athletes have been awarded scholarships by the Olympic Solidarity (OS) to prepare for the 2024 Olympic Games, Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) announced yesterday.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary-general, said his committee applied for scholarships for 16 athletes from athletics, boxing, judo, and swimming but the OS has granted the scholarships to five athletes.

Bayi said the OS scholarships are handed over to young promising athletes as the aim is to prepare them to be future champions.

He said the scholarships which are worth \$1,500 a month will begin once the athletes sign the contract and end in August 2024.

Bayi mentioned those who applied for the scholarships as athletes Gabriel Geay, Alphonse Simbu, Failuna Matanga, and Andrew Rhobi.

Other are boxers Alex Isendi, Mussa Maregesi, Justine Chota, Alex Sulwa, and Yusuf Changarawe.

The list moreover has swimmer Hilal Hemed, judo players Andrew Mlungu, Raphael Raphael, Vincent Nghumbi, Abdulrabi Alawi, and Anangisye Pwele.

He mentioned those who are awarded the scholarships by the OS as athletes Geay, Simbu, and Failuna, as well as judo player Mlungu and swimmer Hemed.

The TOC official said the boxers did not meet the required conditions which include competing in World Boxing

Championships.

He asked the beneficiaries to make use of the opportunity to prepare well for the Paris Olympics.

Bayi stated: "We applied for scholarships for 16 local athletes but the OS has offered us five scholarships, this is good for the country."

"This is the opportunity for our local athletes to prepare well ahead of the Paris Olympics," he said.

He disclosed that OS with advice from the National Olympic Committee (NOC) can terminate the scholarship contract if there is a breach of one of the eight terms of conditions that have been stipulated on page two, paragraph eight of the contract.

Bayi mentioned some of the reasons for contract termination as a change of nationality of the athletes, failure to present a report to OS after every four months, drop in form, and health condition.

According to him, the first beneficiaries of the OS Scholarships were Michael Sarwatt and Marko Hhawu who went to the United States of America (USA).

The country's other junior runner, Hawa Hussein, had gone to Kip Keino High Attitude Training Center in Kenya to prepare for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

In preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics, athlete Fabian Joseph was the beneficiary while swimmer Collins Saliboko was the beneficiary of training for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

KMC FC eyes victory over Simba SC in Premier League

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM's Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has returned to camp in the city to begin preparations for the next Premier League tie against Simba SC slated for Sunday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

KMC FC is smarting from a 1-1 draw with Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania in a top-flight match that was held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

The Kinondoni-based outfit will host Simba SC whilst reeling from a 4-1 defeat to the latter in the first phase match played at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC Information, and Communication Officer said preparations for the game against Simba SC officially started on Wednesday under head coach Thierry Hitimana.

She noted they are aware they

will be in for a tough game, which will have the clubs seeking good results but she assured KMC FC fans that they are going to fight on the pitch to search for three points.

Christina pointed out: "Yesterday we did not achieve the goals we needed in the sense of getting three points but that does not give us a scare, we are still preparing for the upcoming games, we know that all remaining matches are tough but we will make sure we win."

The official noted their squad has no injuries, so its fans and all Tanzanians should continue to support them as the top-flight is not over, adding that they will ensure the team finishes in a good position.

So far KMC FC has played 26 games and collected a total of 32 points to hold on to ninth place in the NBC Premier League standings.

The Kinondoni Municipal Club has four top-flight matches left that

will pit it against Simba SC, Mbeya Kwanza FC, Biashara United, and Dodoma Jiji FC.

In another development, former Yanga winger Said Ntibanzokiza 'Saido' left for his home country, Burundi, early this week and hinted that he will return to Dar es Salaam next season.

Saido, whose contract with Yanga came to an end in May, visited its camp stormed the Jangwani Street outfit's camp to bid his teammates and the technical bench farewell, and boarded a plane.

The winger that scored seven goals for Yanga and provided four assists disclosed that he will not return to Yanga but next season he will be in Tanzania.

"I am going home to rest but I will return, God willing. I will not return to Yanga but I will continue to respect it from the times we were together," he said.

Saido is being hunted by three teams, led by Simba SC that already started talks with him and given him the terms and conditions. Azam FC and Singida Big Stars are other outfits seeking the winger's signature.

Clarifying which of the teams he will return to play for next season, he made it clear that he has not yet reached an agreement with any team but believes he will soon sign a new contract.

The player stated: "All those teams are good and some have talked to me but I have not signed, it is a minor issue that has forced me to opt out of finalizing the agreement and if it is fulfilled then I will sign God willing."

He is said to have negotiated with Simba SC and gave the club terms of a one-year contract that will feature a long-term clause to play and leave when he finds another outfit.

FIFA picks 2026 World Cup cities, predicts US 'No 1 sport'

NEW YORK

THE 16 cities of the first World Cup spread across three nations were revealed, and FIFA President Gianni Infantino made a bold statement summing up the goal of the 2026 tournament, to be played largely in the United States.

"By 2026, soccer – or futbol – will be the No. 1 sport in this part of the world," he proclaimed.

Roughly four years before soccer's showcase comes to the U.S., Mexico and Canada, there already were winners and losers Thursday: Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Philadelphia, Seattle and Kansas City, Missouri, were among the cities picked after missing out on hosting the 1994 tournament.

Baltimore, Cincinnati, Denver, Nashville, Tennessee, and Orlando, Florida, missed the cut.

Eleven U.S. stadiums were taken, all from the NFL. Arlington, Texas; East Rutherford, New Jersey; Foxborough, Massachusetts; and Inglewood and Santa Clara, California, were holdover areas from the 1994 tournament that boosted soccer's American prominence.

Mexico City's Estadio Azteca, which hosted the 1970 and '86 finals, will become the first stadium in three World Cups, selected along with Guadalajara's Estadio Akron and Monterrey's Estadio BBVA.

Toronto's BMO Field and Vancouver, British Columbia's BC Place were picked for Canada's first time hosting, while Edmonton, Alberta's Commonwealth Stadium was dropped.

Following the withdrawal of outmoded FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland, Baltimore's omission means this will be a rare World Cup with no matches in the vicinity of a host's capital.

"You can't imagine a World Cup coming to the U.S., the capital city not taking a major role," said Colin Smith, FIFA's chief competitions and events officer.

Infantino promised a fan fest on Washington's National Mall, and locations across the three nations are in play for training sites.

"The story is always who doesn't get chosen," U.S. Soccer Federation President Cindy Parlow Cone said.

Infantino's goal of reaching the top of U.S. sports appears to be quite a reach. The NFL averaged 17.1 million viewers for television and digital during its 2021 season, while the 2018 World Cup averaged 5.04 million on U.S. English- and Spanish-language TV.

"You are leading the world in many areas," Infantino said about North America, "the objective must be that you will be leading the world, as well, in the world's No. 1 sport."

"I know it was giggles and laughs," North and Central American and Caribbean Confederation President Victor Montagliani said. "He wasn't joking."

Infantino defended FIFA's financial demands on bidding cities and states, which included sales tax exemptions. He said World Cup revenue supports FIFA's 211 members and 75% could not sustain operations without the money.

"This is something which is definitely a fair compromise, taking into the account the interest of sport and the interests of the host countries," he said.

The 1994 tournament set records with a 3.59 million total attendance and average of 68,991. The capacities of the U.S. stadiums for 2026 are all 60,000 and higher.

"I think this part of the world doesn't realize what will happen here in 2026," Infantino said. "These three countries will be upside down. The world will be invading Canada, Mexico and the United States."

The bid plan selected in 2018 envisioned 60 games in the U.S. for the first 48-nation Cup, including all from the quarterfinals on, and 10 each in Mexico and Canada.

Specific sites for each round will be announced later, and Infantino said world-wide television times will be a factor for the final, which makes the Eastern and Central times zones more likely. FIFA has gradually moved back the kickoff time of the final from 3:30 p.m. EDT to 10 a.m. EDT for this year's tournament, which is 10 p.m. in Beijing.

The U.S. selections included none of the nine stadiums used in 1994. The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and Orlando's Camping World Stadium were the only ones remaining in contention, and they were among the sites dropped in negotiations with stadiums and cities that continued until right before the announcement.

New stadiums were selected in five areas used in 1994. AT&T Stadium in Texas instead of Dallas' Cotton Bowl, SoFi Stadium in Inglewood for the Rose Bowl and Levi's Stadium for Stanford Stadium.

Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, replaced torn-down sites that were adjacent, Giants Stadium and Foxboro Stadium.

Three U.S. venues have retractable roofs and Atlanta has a fixed roof. All of the U.S. stadiums but Miami and Kansas City opened in 2002 or later.

Venues have a broader array of pricey seats than in 1994 – the bid book listed a total of 3,757 luxury suites and 76,317 club seats, even before the opening of SoFi, which hosted this year's Super Bowl.

Eight of the 11 U.S. stadiums have artificial turf and promised to install temporary grass. Dietmar Exler, chief operating officer of AMB Sports & Entertainment, whose NFL Falcons and Major League Soccer team play at Mercedes-Benz, said growing lamps will be used.

"We will study very carefully with FIFA how we can handle and make sure we have the best natural turf available," he said. "That's one of the high priority areas for us to focus on."

Some venues, notably SoFi, cannot currently fit a 68-x-105 meter (75x-115 yard) field and would need renovations to remove seats near sidelines. FIFA made similar demands ahead of 1994 but backed off and allowed some narrower surfaces.

"We have to move out some of the pinch points," Smith said. "It doesn't have any material aspect on capacity."

Is big spending back? What we can expect from the transfer window

By Tor-Kristian Karlsen

WE've had a few very unusual years, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on finances around the world. Megastars like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have moved clubs, free transfers have made a massive impact and the Premier League's summer spending dropped year-on-year since 2019, though still making it past the €1.3 billion mark in 2021, according to Deloitte.

In general, the European leagues' spending has been dwarfed by that of the Premier League -- Serie A was second with €550m in 2021 -- but while the economic reverberations of the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis and the pandemic continue, the world of football seems to operate in its own bubble.

So, what will the transfer market look like this summer? Already we've seen some evidence that clubs are prepared to spend big, but what does that mean for the rest?

*The €100m transfers are back, but are more due?

Over two years ago, former Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness suggested that "transfer fees in excess of €100m will be a thing of the past for the next few years" due to the financial issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic. That period appears to be well and truly over now.

In 2021, Man City broke the British transfer record to sign Jack Grealish from Aston Villa for €117m, while Chelsea spent €115m to re-sign striker Romelu Lukaku from Inter Milan. But already this summer, with the window not even fully open, two deals pushing the €100m mark have been announced within the space of a week: AS Monaco midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni was presented by Real Madrid for a reported €80m transfer fee, plus €20m in add-ons, then Benfica forward Darwin Nunez joined Liverpool for €75m, plus €25m in performance-related bonuses.

Add in Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland's €60m move to Manchester City, after his release clause became active, and despite the world's financial issues, the biggest clubs in Europe still look prepared to spend huge transfer fees on young players with potential to improve. It's no coincidence that Haaland is 21, while Nunez and Tchouameni are both 22.

Though Real Madrid, Man City and Liverpool are three of the most successful and richest clubs of recent times, others may follow suit in a bid to close the gap on their rivals, and there are a few players who could move for a big fee this summer.

With 35 goals and 19 assists in 50 games for RB Leipzig last season, one would expect 24-year-old midfielder Christopher Nkunku to attract massive offers from the likes of Manchester United or Paris Saint-Germain. And while Leipzig always seem to get a decent transfer fee when they decide to



Aurelien Tchouameni's move to Real Madrid is one of the biggest transfer deals ever. (Agencies)

let a player depart, it is usually worth it as you're almost guaranteed a well-developed star who can make an immediate impact. However, reports in Germany have suggested the player has agreed to a new contract with a €60m release clause, which becomes active next summer, so he might be staying where he is for now.

Dortmund, too, are excellent at signing players on the cheap and moving them on for a major profit. Though there's little to suggest that 18-year-old Jude Bellingham is desperate to leave, or even that the club is prepared to listen to offers, Real Madrid have been linked with a €100m move to lure the England midfielder away from the Bundesliga, though that is more likely to happen in 2023.

West Ham's Declan Rice, one of the best defensive midfielders in the Premier League, is reportedly being followed by Chelsea and Man City, but the 23-year-old would arguably exceed the Grealish fee. Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong may come a little cheaper if they decide to move him on for around €80m plus add-ons, with Man United reportedly leading the chase, though that may still prove to be too expensive for their tastes.

*Clubs are looking for potential

As evidenced above, a self-imposed regime of signing top players below a certain age is becoming increasingly prevalent across Europe. Not too many years ago, club owners would have approached the transfer market with more bravado and less strategy, but now potential seems to be key. While we're not talking about a nine-figure fee, other top players in their early 20s such as AC Milan striker Rafael Leao, Bayer Leverkusen winger Mousa Diaby and Sevilla centre-back Jules Kounde may well be on clubs' radars for around €60m as they can develop and possibly raise their overall transfer value in a few years.

So, even if the market turns out to be a quiet one, there's every reason to look out for big moves involving players between the ages of 18 to 23.

Of course, that doesn't mean that clubs will avoid world-class players who are available. Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who is 33 and has a year left on his contract, will rival Haaland for the most eye-catching move of the summer if he gets his wish to leave, with Barcelona and PSG interested. However, while the Poland international could have commanded a fee of €100m a few years ago, his age and contract status mean Bayern will be lucky to get in the region of €40m now.

*Will Manchester United lead the way in spending?

While a number high-profile first-XI players have already left Old Trafford on free transfers -- including Paul Pogba, Jesse Lingard, Juan Mata, Nemanja Matic and Edinson Cavani -- and a new, principle-driven head coach in Ajax's Erik ten Hag has arrived, another summer of heavy spending seems on the cards for Man United.

The downside of having found their new head coach relatively late -- and not having a properly functioning sporting director in place (i.e. a Monchi at Sevilla or Fabio Paratici at Tottenham figure with a clear mandate to take charge of

the transfer business) -- is that United have been left on the back foot when it comes to persuading prospective players to join the new project.

Real Madrid had been on Tchouameni's trail for months, Man City wrapped up Haaland in April, Liverpool moved at lightning speed to land Nunez and Tottenham Hotspur have already agreed three deals (Yves Bissouma, Ivan Perisic and Fraser Forster), but Man United are still struggling to get out of the starting blocks when it comes to new arrivals. The long-negotiated deal to reunite Barcelona midfielder De Jong with his former boss ten Hag seems to be getting expensive to the point where one wonders whether the club ought to go for a player like Wolves' Ruben Neves or PSV's Ibrahim Sangare instead.

Yet rivals Arsenal and Chelsea haven't got started yet either and, despite the lack of incoming activity at Old Trafford so far, it's expected that ten Hag will enjoy substantial financial backing to start rebuilding his squad. Watch this space.

*Smaller clubs waiting for trickle-down effect

Further down the food chain the outlook is not quite as optimistic. Whereas transfers in the region of €10m-€40m used to be reasonably commonplace, there may be a hesitance to

spend early in the market among the mid-to-lower ranked teams from the bigger European leagues, with Aston Villa (€50m on Sevilla's Diego Carlos, Marseille's Boubacar Kamara, AS Roma's Robin Olsen and Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho) and Leeds United (€40m on FC Salzburg pair Brenden Aaronson and Rasmus Kristensen) two well-recognised exceptions.

However, the general feedback from the second or third line of clubs playing in the top leagues is that the landscape hasn't changed dramatically in comparison with the previous transfer windows. The overriding mantra coming from owners and CEOs is still one of austerity; the best many can hope for is to replace a departed player, or work out short-term or season-long loan deals (potentially with a sensible option to sign them permanently at the end.)

The one ray of hope is that the big spending at the top level will eventually benefit the leagues as a whole, as the wealth at the top starts to trickle down, though that may take some time to make a full impact.

*The fear of free transfers

The multitude of reasons for an increase in the number of high-profile free transfers -- Messi, David Alaba, Sergio Ramos and Gianluigi Donnarumma (last summer); Pogba, Antonio Rudiger, Paulo Dybala, Franck Kessie and Ousmane Dembele (this summer) -- was covered in a previous piece on ESPN.

However, it's worth noting that the fear of losing a player for free in 2023 will drive potential transfers. Lewandowski, whose contract expires in 2023, will likely get his desired move so that Bayern are able to recoup a fee for one of the world's best players, while they can use that €40m to sign Liverpool forward Sadio Mane, who is in a similar situation at Anfield. Liverpool will be loath to see the same thing happen with Mohamed Salah too, though contract negotiations are more advanced with the Egypt international.

While Kylian Mbappe opted to snub Real Madrid to stay with PSG, this summer has already seen Rudiger depart for Madrid for nothing, with Pogba set to leave United for a return to Juventus too; Barcelona will benefit (signing Milan midfielder Kessie and Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen) but may lose out

(if winger Dembele can't agree new terms) from the trend too. So the top clubs are all too aware they may end up having to let one of their best players walk away.

Some of the top players out of contract in 2023 include Man City's Raheem Sterling, Bayern's Serge Gnabry, Leicester's Youri Tielemans, Inter's Milan Skriniar and Valencia's Carlos Soler. So, like it or not, they will be the subject of interest until they pen new terms.

*Keeping wage expenditure under control is still key

One persistent complaint among professional clubs across Europe, regardless of level, is the huge amounts spent on player salaries. While it's a problem of their own making, clubs are being forced to reduce that side of things, causing a few knock-on effects.

There are few objections against the top stars keeping their lucrative paydays, but having squad players eating up a disproportionately large slice of the salary budget is a burden many clubs want to reduce.

Spurred on by the economic hit from the COVID-19 pandemic, the general trend is to promote academy graduates to fill the slots freed up by players who have been released. Over the past few years, Arsenal, for example, took the decision to let seven players go who were still under contract -- Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Mesut Ozil, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Shkodran Mustafi, Sead Kolasinac, Wilfried Zaha and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang -- as it made more financial sense in the long run. Eddie Nketiah, Emile Smith Rowe and Bukayo Saka were given more chances in the first XI and shone last season as a result.

Though results may occasionally suffer, it does make more economic sense to hand out minutes to homegrown teenagers with potential instead of players over the age of 28 that have already reached their performance ceiling. The added bonus is that it's usually a move popular with fans, who tend to give homegrown players more leeway in terms of criticism if their performances dip.

*Tor-Kristian Karlsen is a Norwegian football scout and executive and is the former chief executive and sporting director at AS Monaco. He will write regularly for ESPN on the business of soccer and the process of scouting.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Is big spending back?
What we can expect from
the transfer window

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Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) vice-president, Henry Tandau (L), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam mid this week about the committee getting support for Tanzania's athletes preparations for the 2024 Olympics to be hosted by France. Sitting (R) is the TOC secretary-general, Fibert Bayi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tanzania urged to form amputee football league

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE World Amputee Football Federation (WAFF) has advised Tanzania to have serious and well-organized amputee football leagues.

The advice was issued by WAFF Secretary-General Simon Baker at the end of a three-day workshop for coaches, referees, and amputee football players that took place in Zanzibar.

Currently, both Mainland Tanzania and the Isles have no serious and well-organized amputee football leagues.

Baker said instead of putting much effort into qualifying for international tournaments, Zanzibar Amputee Football Federation (ZAFF) and Tanzania Amputee Football Federation (TAFF) should focus on domestic leagues that, according to him, are platforms for identifying and exposing new talents.

He said in absence of serious amputee football leagues, the country's amputee football cannot develop and the national team will remain a punching bag to other nations.

Baker issued an example of a showing by Tanzania's national amputee team, Tembo Warriors, in the 2022 Amp Futbol Cup in Poland where the squad is performing miserably.

"The focus now should be on serious local leagues, you should not only think of the national team but also start from the grassroots and then you will gradually move to the national team," he said.

He also said WAFF is ready to give ZAFF a provisional two-year membership but the Isles federation will have no voting rights.

"The WAFF is are ready to give Zanzibar a provisional membership which will run up to two years, in the two years ZAFF will not pay a membership fee but it will not have any voting rights."

"The ZAFF will start paying a membership fee and gain voting rights when it is a full member of WAFF," he said.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) vice-president Vincent Kaduma had, in his remarks, hailed WAFF official observation, saying that is the way to go.

"We cannot put much focus on the national team when we do not have new talents, we need a strong and competitive local amputee league which will be used as the platform to identify new talents," he said.

The workshop brought together 40 players from Pemba and Zanzibar, and five coaches and referees from either side have been sponsored by the International Committee Of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Kaduma said the workshop was hosted by Zanzibar Amputee Football Association.

The training's participants were trained on injury and protection for players with disabilities and ICRC instructors are Simon Baker, Subhash Sinha, and Juan Blandon that was an assistant.

The ZAFF is now fully registered, its registration was supported by ICRC.

After its formation, ICRC donated assorted sports items to the association which included crutches, jerseys, and balls, and also conducted a seminar on how to organize and manage amputee football.

The TPC and ICRC are in a partnership aiming at seeing sports among people with disabilities are improving.

The TPC, through the partnership, necessitated the formation of the Zanzibar Amputee Football Association.

Namungo FC loses ground on Premier League top-four race, Azam FC garners advantage



Namungo FC attacker, Obrey Chirwa (R), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania's defender Hussein Bakari when the sides locked horns in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash played in Lindi on Thursday. Namungo FC lost 2-1. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NAMUNGO FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NAMUNGO FC no longer has CAF Confederation Cup qualification in its own hands.

A 2-1 loss to Polisi Tanzania in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League match which took place in Lindi on Thursday saw Namungo FC relinquish the initiative in its fight with Azam FC and Geita Gold FC for a finish in the league's top four and a return to one of Africa's inter-club competitions.

The top three Premier League teams qualify automatically for next season's CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup.

The CAF Champions League spots go to the league winners and first runners-up and these

have all been decided with champions-elect Young Africans, alias 'Yanga', and dethroned Simba SC claiming the tickets.

The CAF Confederation Cup spots go to the third-placed side and the winners of the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

If Yanga that has qualified for the Federation Cup triumphs over Coastal Union, an extra CAF Confederation Cup spot goes to the team which will end fourth.

Heading into the final three rounds, Namungo FC occupies fifth place – three points below

third-placed Azam FC.

Azam FC gained vital ground on Namungo FC with a 2-0 home victory over bottom-placed Mbeya Kwanza FC on Wednesday.

Against Polisi Tanzania at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi, hosts Namungo FC took the lead after two minutes.

It seemed midfielder Idd Farjala gave Namungo FC the lead when Selemani Bwenzi's low cross from the left was turned into the net at Polisi Tanzania central defender Mohamed Mmanga's near post, and Farjala wheeled away in celebration.

But it quickly became clear that center-back Hussein Bakari had deflected the ball past his goalkeeper as he desperately sought to keep the ball away from the waiting Farjala.

Polisi Tanzania began to climb back into the game and leveled the score line through attacker Tariq Seif in the 32nd minute.

Seif also scored the winner in the second half to take his tally to five goals.

Namungo FC responded by throwing numbers forward in a desperate attempt to save the game but was well thwarted by the Polisi Tanzania defense.

Namungo FC assistant coach Jamhuri Kihwelu, who did not shy away from speak-

ing about his team's underperformance, noted: "Polisi Tanzania deserved to win the match, they were comfortably better than us."

Kihwelu said: "As I said earlier, it is not easy to play after a break, sometimes you end up losing the momentum and rhythm."

He pointed out: "In this league, you can drop points anywhere. Every game is tough, it is the way the modern game is."

"The top four is still open, look at Polisi Tanzania, they were struggling but are now in contention for a top-four finish, anything can happen, we are still in the top four race."

On Monday, Namungo FC hosts Coastal Union while Azam FC entertains Prisons on Wednesday. The penultimate games of the season will see all the three teams on the road.

Azam FC will travel to Dodoma Jiji FC, Geita Gold FC will visit Polisi Tanzania in Kilimanjaro and Namungo FC take on Mtibwa Sugar at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro.

In the final game of the season, Namungo FC will take on Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium, while Azam FC will host Biashara United. Geita Gold FC will finish their campaign away to Coastal Union.

Tanzania women's cricket squad makes it to 2022 Kwibuka T20 tourney final

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA senior women's cricket team has secured progression to the 2022 Kwibuka T20 tournament's final after commanding a 10-wicket drubbing of Brazil women's side in a tie that took place in Rwanda on Thursday.

The in-form Tanzania women's squad was once again dominant on the pitch, easily tormenting its Brazil counterpart and maintaining an unbeaten run.

Brazil women's side could only notch 57 runs, dropping nine wickets in 19.1 overs, when the team had won the toss and elected to start batting in the tie that took place at IPR Kicukiro cricket ground.

Top-order batter Lauracardoso Martins Villas-Boas was the batter with the most runs during the squad's innings, ending with 17 runs that included two boundaries.

The squad's skipper Robertamoretty Avery had time to notch 10 runs as her team was having trouble facing the Tanzania women's squad's bowling unit's ruthlessness.

The other top-order batter Renatade Souza was four runs short of a two-digit figure from her 23-ball spell at the crease.

Low-order batter Nicolcevone Monteiro posted

five runs during the latter stages as the team's wickets continued tumbling.

Tanzania women's team's bowling unit had no mercy for Brazil women's team's batting unit, with the former's performer Tabu Omary leading the onslaught.

Tabu that won the Player of the Match prize when

Tanzania confronted Rwanda on Tuesday was once again in impressive form against Brazil, notching three wickets and giving away 12 runs in 3.2 overs.

She was ably assisted by Perice Zakayo and Tatu Bakari that recorded two wickets apiece in their respective four-over stints.

Tanzania women's squad batting unit hardly drained a sweat in its pursuit of the target, notching 58 runs without losing a wicket in mere 7.3 overs.

Skipper Fatuma Omary solidly partnered fellow opening batter, Shufaa Hamza, and won the tie for the showdown's pace setters.

Fatuma kept on making her experience count, nailing 22 runs not out that comprised a four, while Shufaa Hamza, pushed to the opening batting role for the first time, scored 24 runs not out that included four fours.

Tanzania women's squad's quest for the successful chase was boosted

by 12 extras that Brazil women's team had given away.

The day's other matches ended with wins for Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya. Rwanda beat Nigeria by 23 runs at IPR Kicukiro cricket ground, with Marie Diane Biminyimana garnering Player of the Match's prize for the tournament hosts.

Kenya stepped up its pursuit of qualification for the showdown's final, notching a 44-run victory over Germany.

Uganda clobbered Botswana by nine wickets, with Janet Mbabazi winning the Player of the Match award for the duel's winners.

Tanzania, which has notched a victory in seven matches it has taken part in, will likely confront the closest challenger Kenya, which is lately positioned second, in the final that has been scheduled for today.

The showdown's fifth place and seventh place play-off ties had been slated for yesterday, the third-place play-off, and the final will take place today.

Brazil women's squad is one of two competitors from outside the African continent invited to battle it out in the annual showdown. Germany's senior women's cricket team is the other squad.



Tanzania senior women's cricket team's Tabu Omary (R) is presented with the Player of the Match award by an officer shortly after the squad had locked horns with Nigeria women's team in Kigali on Wednesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Flexibles by David Chikoko

