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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8705 PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 2022

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Insurers failing to compensate claimants risk losing licences

By Guardian Reporter

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Nathan Belete, the World Bank representative for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, at the State Lodge in Arusha yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter, Ruvu

THE water rationing which has been going on for several weeks in Dar es Salaam has now come to an end with ongoing rains in source regions.

Regional commissioner Amos Makalla said this to journalists yesterday after inspecting the Lower Ruvu plant in Coast Region, noting that the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA) is now pumping 590 million litres of water.

The actual demand is 544million litres so it has a surplus of 46m litres, a shift from shortages arising from the drought that saw rivers drying up, impinging on supply to the holding dam and water treatment capacity.

The government took urgent measures of strengthening security over water sources, removing structures built along river banks and reviving 162 emergency water wells, reducing acuteness of water rationing, he said.

DAWASA should now focus on large projects on the outskirts of the city such as Mabwepande, Wazo, Mivumoni, Tegeta A, Goba and Makongo to improve water supply in those areas, he said.

People living near water sources must protect them to stem the challenges arising from climate change, he said, noting that despite climate change, much of the water shortage was due to human activities.

"So we as communities have a responsibility to ensure that we protect water resources," he emphasized.

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KINAPA fires devastated 34.2 sq km of vegetation

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE fires which burned on Mount Kilimanjaro during the last week of October, engulfed over 34.2 square kilometers of vegetation.

William Mwakilema, CEO for Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), said at a press conference to provide a summary on the fire outbreaks that TANAPA is

already taking more precautions against future outbreaks.

"Fire problems on Kilimanjaro had already been dealt with in the past. That is why all areas that used to experience fire outbreaks no longer suffer such occurrences," he said.

The conservation commissioner said that the fire which started on the 21st of October occurred in the southwest zone which

had no previous exposure to outbreaks.

The previous day Udetu and Samanga parts on the Rombo escarpment of the mountain had an outbreak, and later on October 29, another fire erupted near River Karanga, Umbwe and Baranko areas.

The following day the untamed fire spread to Mandara and Kasoko near the crater on the Marangu route section, he said.

A substantial portion of the vegetation was damaged while various animal species like snakes escaped, and many slow moving creatures perished or burrowed underneath, he explained.

Noting that tourism business continued without problems, he remarked that it was during the low season, with relatively fewer tourists. However all the routes leading to and from the mountain had rangers

and other park officials to ensure safety for climbers, he declared.

The report indicates that the fires were caused by minor fires at resting points as the weather was becoming hot, with climbers and porters often setting up kettle or pot steaming. Drought contributed to the outbreaks as dried twigs easily caught flames being blown by the wind, he stated.

Military units stationed nearby helped to combat the fires, deploying more than 800 soldiers, two helicopters and vehicles for the special operation, he said.

The Mweka College of Wildlife Management, the police, the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators, the Guides and Porters Association as well as Zara Adventure and Mauly also reinforced the effort, he added.



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (L), accompanied by Shinyanga municipal mayor Elias Masumbuko (2nd-L) inspects the dormitory for children with disabilities that burned down at Buhangija Centre, with three children losing their lives. The RC visited the disaster-hit school on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

'Plain SGR wagons just for long routes'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ABOUT 14 new wagons out of 59 passenger coaches arriving from South Korea will be used for long routes in the standard gauge railway (SGR), a top administrator has stated. Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Works and Transport minister, issued this explanation at a function to receive the new coaches at the port of Dar es Salaam yesterday, after critics on social media said the wagons

were not as fancy as the ones promised earlier and displayed prototypes. He urged officials at the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) to come out and clarify such issues to the public whenever technical queries occur instead of leaving issues open ended. The new passenger wagons and 45 reconditioned ones were delivered by Sun aShin Rolling Stock Technology Ltd (SSRST) of South Korea at a total cost

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FROM PAGE 1

of 128bn/- intended for long routes. The new wagons are economy class, the other 45 wagons are business class and expected to arrive in May, he said, noting that globally, trains travelling beyond 200 kilometres per hour are speed trains.

Those below that optimal speed are ordinary electric trains, where the new electric trains on SGR will travel at 120 kilometres per hour, he said, reiterating his remarks on another issue, as to the public getting information from right sources.

Obtaining information from unauthorised sources misleads the public and ignites tensions among the people, he said, pointing out that the government has paid out \$26.6m to Euro Wagon Co. in Turkey to procure two electric engines and 30 passenger wagons.

A total of \$295.7m was paid to Hyundai Totem of South Korea for purchase of 17 electric engines and sets of electric multiple units (EMU) and one electric locomotive simulator, he said.

The government has also signed a contract for 1,430 cargo wagons from China, scheduled to arrive next year, billed at over 882bn/-, to be used when the rail line is completed, he said.

Seemingly reacting to social media affirmations, TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa said that no cases had been filed against TRC in Germany, stating that the wagons manufactured in Germany had attained 56 percent. The public will be informed when it was over.

Noting that he was shocked to see posts that don't reflect the reality, he said all the plans and preparations were underway, and the new wagons will arrive in the country next year.

"The new wagons received are part of the TRC preparation to start operations on the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro section that has attained 97 percent completion so far, he said.

TRC had also signed an operations contract with Korail, a railway operating firm in Korea, whose staff will be training local personnel how to run the electric train, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango accompanied by former National Assembly Speaker Pius Msekwa (L) and his wife Anna Abdallah (C) shortly after arriving at their residence in Ukerewe district, Mwanza region to pay a courtesy call during his official visit in the district yesterday. Photo: VPO

Insurers failing to compensate claimants risk losing licenses

FROM PAGE 1

to take out loans and improve their business activities. The central bank has lowered interest charges on loans to financial institutions by three

percent, but the rates charged by banks and financial institutions on borrowers remain at nine percent, he said. Dr Charles Mwamwaja, the Treasury commissioner for financial development said

in a contribution that people used the gathering to obtain clarification on financial sector policies and laws, along with opportunities provided by lending institutions. The Treasury had collected

views from the public on how to improve the financial sector to make it more vibrant, he said, noting that the set target is to make 80 percent of the population aware of financial matters by 2025.

This will be done via the financial education program, as more than 40 percent of adults lack financial literacy despite the vital role of financial inclusion for national development, he added.



Dr Dorothy Gwajima, minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (C) cuts a ribbon to launch special convoy vehicle during the launch of the 16-days of activism against gender-based violence at Leaders Club Kinondoni in Dar es Salaam yesterday. On her (R) is the WILDAF chairman Dr Monica Mhoja and (2nd L) is the Ministry's deputy Permanent Secretary Amoni Mpanju. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Upstream rains rectify Dar water supply

FROM PAGE 1

Cyprian Luhemeja, the DAWASA CEO hailed government efforts and religious leaders who led praying for rain.

Last month authorities in Dar es Salaam placed an alert for residents to prepare for shortages as DAWASA noticed the drop in water levels at the treatment plants, reducing supply by a third.

Rains have been reported in highland areas in particular, with the north eastern zone of Kilimanjaro and Usambara Mountains having plenty of rain, while aerial maps show that most of Tanzania

except the coastline and a large portion of the south western and central parts did not have rains as yet.

In the commercial sector, fermented milk was returning to kiosks as earlier only industrially processed yogurt was available, as producers cut back on fermentation owing to a shortage of surplus raw milk, vendors said.

The RC did not say if the newly opened wells shall be maintained, while a section of news observers wondered if the limitation recently sought on larger herds of livestock using up water flowing to the treatment plants would still be pursued.

Mozambican authorities deport 80 Malawians

MAPUTO

IMMIGRATION authorities in Mozambique have deported at least 80 Malawians who went to the country without travel documents.

Dedza Border Post Immigration Office spokesperson James Tambula said among the deported are minors and women believed to be victims of human trafficking.

The deportees were on Tuesday at Dedza District Social Welfare Office pending return to their respective homes in Traditional Authority Kachere in the Central Region district.

They were found in the former Portuguese colony without official documents and reportedly travelled to that country to work in farms.

Police have arrested the driver who was caught ferrying the Malawians in his vehicle.

Republic of Malawi, is a landlocked country in Southeastern Africa that was formerly known as Nyasaland. It is bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and Mozambique to the east, south and southwest.

Malawi spans over 118,484 km² (45,747 sq mi) and has an es-

timated population of 19,431,566 (as of January 2021). Malawi's capital (and largest city) is Lilongwe. Its second-largest is Blantyre, its third-largest is Mzuzu and its fourth-largest is its former capital, Zomba. The name Malawi comes from the Maravi, an old name for the Chewa people who inhabit the area. The country is nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa" because of the friendliness of its people.

The part of Africa now known as Malawi was settled around the 10th century by migrating Bantu groups. Centuries later, in 1891, the area was colonised by the British and became a protectorate of the United

Kingdom known as Nyasaland. In 1953, it became a protectorate within the semi-independent Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

The Federation was dissolved in 1963. In 1964, the protectorate was ended: Nyasaland became an independent country under Queen Elizabeth II, and was renamed Malawi. Two years later it became a republic.

It gained full independence from the United Kingdom, and by 1970 had become a totalitarian one-party state under the presidency of Hastings Banda, who remained in this role until 1994. Today, Ma-

lawi has a democratic, multi-party republic headed by an elected president.

Lazarus Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party led the Tonse Alliance grouping of nine political parties and won the court-mandated Presidential Election rerun held on 23 June 2020 after the May 2019 Presidential Election was annulled due to massive electoral irregularities.

The country's military, the Malawian Defence Force, includes an army, a navy, and an air wing. Malawi's foreign policy is pro-Western.

AGENCIES



University of Iringa (UOI) outgoing Chancellor (retired) Bishop Elinaza Sendoro (2nd R) welcomes (retired) Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Venance Mabeyo shortly after being installed as the new Chancellor of the university's during the 25th graduation ceremony for the year 2021-2022 on Thursday. Looking on (R) is the Vice Chancellor Prof Ndelilio Urio. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Dodoma's first sugar factory contracts sugarcane farmers ahead of production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

A total of 26 farmers in Dodoma region have benefited from a contract farming agreement to enable them to cultivate a total of 463 hectares of sugarcane so as to serve the envisaged sugar factory which was a good stage.

Dubbed 'Sukari Halisi (Dabalo Sugar)' the maiden \$3.5 million-worth sugar plant in the central zone requires at least 25,000 tons of sugarcane to enable it to produce a total of 2,500 tons of sugar in its first year of production.

In an interview with this paper, Satish Purandare, managing director of Purandare Industries (I) Ltd informed that construction of the facility at Dabalo ward in Chamwino was at an encouraging stage and that farmers and communities should get prepared to start benefiting from it.

"In the first year, we are looking to start producing at least 2,500 tonnes of sugar, the extent which will be scaled up to 5000 tonnes in the next production year," the Indian-based investor unveiled.

He expressed that agricultural machines and other key machinery for the relevant products have already arrived in the region in readiness to

be installed by high-profile experts soon after finalizing works for the construction of the factory's main structure.

He added: "If all goes well official production is expected to commence by October 2023, and we're looking forward to producing quality sugar and marketing it at reasonable prices to allow even common Tanzanians to afford it."

He further said the coming state-of-the-art sugar plant is expected to provide direct working contracts to between 500 and 600 locals, with priority to Dodoma residents.

"And the involved farmers have already received special training from agro sugarcane pundits from India on how to grow the canes professionally and they have already started to grow NCO 365 sugarcane variety as recommended by the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT)," he said.

Purandare said the factory has also assisted the farmers to get loans from key financial institutions, including NMB Bank Plc, in order to manage their plantations professionally and that the factory will be purchasing the produced sugarcane at profitable prices.

"The factory's major market vision priority will first be Dodoma region in

Govt to establish gender desks for middle, higher learning institutions

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will from January next year start making follow-ups on the establishment of gender desks for middle and higher learning institutions, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima has said.

Dr Gwajima was speaking at the launch of the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) at Leaders grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The commemorations will run until December 10, this year.

The theme for this year's activism campaign against GBV is "Every life is worthy, end violence against women and children."

The event was organized by the Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) in collaboration with MKUKI coalition—a network comprising organizations working to end GBV in rural and urban areas.

"We will do this in collaboration with stakeholders. This will enable us to know whether higher learning institutions and colleges have implemented the directive which is geared at eliminating gender-based violence," said the minister, noting the exercise will be conducted in collaboration with stakeholders.

For those who have not established the gender desks, the government would want to know the factors behind the failure, she added.

She said her docket has started

the process of reviewing policy and law on gender issues.

Executive Director of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Anna Kulaya said this year's theme aims to sensitize every citizen, institution and government to take part in the fight against GBV because its impacts are huge and may sometimes lead to the death of women and girls.

Kulaya said acts of violence against women and girls have been on the increase in recent years whereas the police report indicates that between January and December 2021, a total of 29,373 people were subjected to sexual violence, among them, 20,897 women and 8,476 men. She said that 68.6 per cent of all the reported deaths were

against women.

She noted that they have decided to intensify the campaign against GBV whereas through the MKUKI coalition—a network comprising over 70 organizations will collaborate with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special groups to conduct major campaigns that will involve families, individuals and institutions in a number of regions.

Under the MKUKI coalition, organizations collaborate in ending GBV in rural and urban areas.

"We will use the campaign to raise awareness and condemn acts of violence and murder against women. It is possible to have a society without violence and murder against women. Let's break the si-

lence and take action," she said.

She said they are planning to use the 16 days of the campaign to do various activities to increase the participation of community members in ending gender violence.

The campaign, according to her will be conducted in Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Geita, Mara, Arusha and Coast regions. She said they will also visit and provided education to communities, schools, bus stations and places where the World Cup football matches are being streamed so as to reach more people.

"At schools, we will conduct discussions with parents, guardians, teachers and students on the various ways to prevent and ultimately eradicate gender-based violence.

WILDAF Chairperson, Dr Monica Mogoke, asked the government to finalize the preparation of the new National Action Plan to end gender violence against women and children.

"The government through the ministry should fast-track finalising the new document as well as fast-track review of the gender policy in order to give guidelines for the ministry, institutions and other stakeholders in how to implement international conventions on eliminating gender violence," Dr Mogoke remarked.

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Zlatan Milisic reiterated the UN's commitment to supporting the government in fighting violence against women and children.



Karume Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) the first year civil engineering degree students on practical training for house construction at Mbweni in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

Government plans to engage in competitive economic growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

GIBERT Moga, acting Permanent Secretary in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) has said the government through Phase II of the Five-year Development Plan 2021/22-25/26 plans to engage in competitive economic growth to bring development to Tanzanians.

Moga made the remarks here on Wednesday when opening a training on financial, good governance and accountability for local government authorities and Tanzania Association of Accountants (TAA).

He said the government is determined to take various measures to improve infrastructures, transport, and availability of energy as well as boost the environment for conducting business and investment to spur competition in the private sector.

In FY 2022/23 a total of 2.99trn/- has been allocated for development projects in the local council authorities, I, therefore, call on you to make sure the money is appropriately managed to ensure the money value is seen on the projects which have to be completed within the agreed time," he said.

He further said the government has beefed up auditing, the measure that will reduce loss of revenue as well as strict control in the financial management of the projects.

He added that PO-RALG is ready to collaborate with TAA in financial issues and other areas which will help in making sure our experts are empowered according to technological changes. For her part, the Assistant Director (Finance) in the Local Government Department, Ummay Wayayu called on the experts to utilise the training gained to bring about positive results in the local government.

Meanwhile, TAA's president, Peter Mwambija thanked the government for placing a friendly environment for businessmen.

She appealed to the government to continue placing controls by plugging loopholes that contribute to loss of funds in local government authorities.

Training on gender equality, land ownership, leadership brings positive changes to women in Lulongwe village

By Beatrice Philemon

TRAINING on gender equality, land ownership and leadership has brought positive changes to women in Lulongwe and Milingwa villages in Morogoro region as they can now contest for various posts in elections and participate in forest conservation.

Lulongwe village chairman, Aziz Suka

told journalists that the training conducted under the conserving forests through sustainable, forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania (CoForEST) has changed the mindsets of women, thus making them more confident.

Journalists were on a mission to explore recorded successes under CoForEST implemented from 2019 to 2022.

It is implemented by the Tanzania For-

est Conservation Group (TFCG) in collaboration with Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

"We are thankful to TFCG and MJUMITA for coming up with this project because our people have been trained on gender, gender equality, conservation agriculture and how to participate in village and

hamlet meetings," he said, adding that currently, villagers understand better the concept of sustainable forest harvesting, forest conservation, financial management and good governance.

Suka noted that the training has changed people's perception towards women leaders, allowing them to contest in various posts as well as taking part in decision-making meetings.

He said allowing women and youth to take part in decision-making meetings have increased the level of trust between the village government and villagers.

Suka said the project has helped women and men to set up small businesses and are now engaged in sustainable charcoal making, and food vending and have established three village community banks (VICOBAs) comprising 27 members to en-

VACANCY



ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position	: Manager – Underground Mine Production
Contract type & Duration	: Unspecified time
Department	: Underground Mining
Reporting to	: Senior Manager - Underground Mining
Number of Positions	: One (1)

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

To build, develop, and lead an effective team capable to deliver the strategy to transition Geita Gold Mine to a major underground operation, to be executed in line with specific instructions from Senior Manager – Underground Mining and requirements of relevant Tanzanian Mining Legislation

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor of Mining Engineering (BEng) or an equivalent tertiary qualification.
- Underground Mine Managers Certificate.
- Site Entry requirements which may include mines Health Surveillance.
- GGML is an equal opportunity employer: Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

EXPERIENCE:

- 10+ years' proven experience in mine production in underground mining environment of which at least three (3) years is at management level within an underground mine department.
- Experience working with International UG mining contractors who operate underground mechanized trackless equipment will be highly regarded.
- Proven experience and ability to create and manage budgets for a UG operation.
- High skill level with UG mine planning experience.
- Demonstrated experience in an underground mining production environment.
- Proven track record of managing and leading large and diverse teams
- Hands on approach and service orientated outlook.

MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Safety:

- Identify and interpret safety risks and resolve emerging issues; and ensuring that appropriate focus and resources are available to achieve safety objectives.

Mining Production Processes & Practices:

- Understands key underground production and development processes in large scale trackless mining environments.
- Knows when to engage Specialist's support.
- Understanding of safe and effective underground production practices, management, support systems.
- Establishing Paste and CAF infrastructure in Underground environment.
- Commissioning Underground Paste and CAF operations in underground environment.
- Able to manage performance based on interpretation of data and can initiate and drive the operational improvements as required.
- Demonstrated ability of delivering to production and cost targets.

Operational Management:

- Ability to effectively lead and communicate to all levels of the team.
- Understands key processes and systems to drive the best performance from all team members.

Working with and managing U/G mine contractors:

- Training and developing new and inexperienced workers to become safe and effective underground.
- Understanding of the key skills & knowledge required by all team members in order to carry out their roles effectively and safely.
- Demonstrated ability of being able to identify and develop emerging talents within a multi-discipline team.
- Strong understanding of mining cost drivers and their impact to the overall financial results of the operation.
- Ability to develop operational budgets in consultation with Senior Underground Manager and other service departments.

Planning:

- Understanding of good mine planning processes and the ability to drive the establishment of required planning systems and approaches.

Contract Management:

- Strong knowledge in underground contract management practices and demonstrated ability in managing underground mining contracts.

Project Management:

- Understands AGA project management standards and has applied them in a minor project to conceptual level.
- Ability to lead a minor project and interact with test work and engineering consultant service providers.

Innovation:

- Thinks creatively to develop multiple, workable options.
- Generates innovative solutions, which continuously improve the performance of existing assets, products, services or processes.
- Demonstrating an openness to new ideas and new ways of working.

Leadership:

- Build, develop and lead the mining team in line with instructions given by the Senior Underground Manager.

Environmental:

- Establish and maintain processes to ensure that all environmental risks and emerging issues are identified, and mitigation plans to put in place.

Planning:

- Establish and maintain processes to ensure the development of optimised short-term, and medium-term plans that ensure delivery of the budget requirements and the operations strategy.

Delivery:

- Ensure that the use of all resources is optimised to ensure delivery of the plan.
- Identify areas for improvement in operational blueprints (systems, processes, procedures and tasks) to ensure adherence to plan, reduce variation and maximise cost effective utilisation.
- Develop and implement systems to collect and manage operational data and to monitor performance.
- Establish and maintain systems for identifying opportunities to drive operational excellence.
- Ensure collaboration with all departments to achieve streamlined delivery to plan.

Compliance Accountabilities:

- Awareness/management of declaration of conflict of interest of direct reports
- Awareness/management of SOX control accountabilities
- Awareness/management of Delegation of Authority
- Awareness/management of reporting (weekly/monthly/quarterly/annual) requirements

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to lead senior technical specialists.
- 1 to 2 years' experience working with the P500 and Operational Excellence (OE) initiatives or equivalent.
- Worked in highly mechanized Underground operations.
- Advanced knowledge in contract management practices, technical consultants and operational mining contracts.
- Advanced understanding of project management standards and has applied them in a minor - medium project to conceptual level.
- Demonstrate advance level of knowledge of planning systems and practices from long term to short term mine planning.
- The ability to work across all disciplines, where rigorous engagement and interaction is expected.
- The ability to handle conflict resolution.
- The ability to utilize equipment, office software -MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) to prepare correspondence, reports, forms, mailings.
- The ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing with good presentation and facilitation skills.
- The ability to use statistical methods to analyse, validate & verify analytical data with a strong attention to detail.
- The ability to work and communicate with people at all levels/good interpersonal skills.

MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please apply through our recruitment portal by following the link below. Please click the link or type the URL address on a website browser to access the application portal.
- On the portal you will be required to upload your detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees. Please do not attach certificates that are not related to the qualifications stated above.
- You will also be required to upload a cover / application letter addressed to "Senior Manager Human Resources" Geita Gold Mining Ltd". Subject should be "Manager – Underground Mine Production"

Application Link: <https://career5.successfactors.eu/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=20673&company=AGAprd>

- If you struggle to apply via the link provided, please head over to our website <https://www.geitamine.com/en/people/> for a step-by-step guide on how to apply for jobs on our recruitment portal (SuccessFactors).
- You will be required to present original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
- Internal Applicants (those currently employed by AngloGold Ashanti) must have their application letter endorsed by their Head of Department (HOD) or Manager once Removed (MoR).

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications should reach the above on or before **11th December 2022 at 5:30 Pm**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com

VACANCY



ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position	: Superintendent 2 – Underground Drill & Blast
Contract type & Duration	: Unspecified time
Department	: Underground Mining
Reporting to	: Senior Manager - Underground Mining
Number of Positions	: One (1)

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

To support, develop and train an effective local team and to implement best practices for Drill & Blast within an Underground mine environment. The mining method is long hole Open Stopping utilizing both Longitudinal and Transverse methods. The training will predominantly be within Underground production areas with Production Drillers and Production Charge Up operators and working with Mining Engineers.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor of Mining Engineering preferred not essential.
- Blasting Certificate
- Site Entry requirements which may include mines Health Surveillance.
- GGML is an equal opportunity employer: Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

EXPERIENCE:

- 10+ years' proven experience in underground mine production with extensive experience on drilling and blasting on a senior role.
- Experience working with international mining contractors managing surface and / or underground drilling and blasting operations will be highly regarded.
- Experience working with International UG mining contractors who operate underground mechanized trackless equipment will be highly regarded.
- Proven ability to follow daily/weekly/monthly plans and achieve targets set for both KPI's and compliance to plan.
- Proven track record of managing and leading large and diverse teams
- Hands on approach and service orientated outlook.

MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Produce short, medium- and long-term stopping schedules in a timely manner in line with mine plan in liaison with Mine Planning Engineers
- Ensure preparation and delivery of stope notes and the coaching and training of drill and blast engineers on the stope note process.
- Design and review of drill and blast plans for execution in line with mine plan and operational requirements.
- Report on all safety, production and financial performance indicators related to Drill and Blast.
- Ensure all statutory reporting requirements are met in relation to safety and environmental incidents within established deadlines within department.
- Effectively manage the UG Drill and Blast section while satisfactorily achieving Company targets within budgeted costs.
- Manage the GGML Underground Drill and Blast section along with the mining contractors when required.
- Attend weekly safety meetings with contractor and staff and ensure any responsibilities for the agreed action plans are met and outcomes are achieved in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate adherence to GGML safety and health policy and procedures
- Assist UG Production Manager with procedure development where necessary.
- Comply with all company environmental standards.
- Assist with the preparation of plans and collation of the Annual Environmental Reports.
- Ensure all statutory reporting requirements are met in relation to safety and environmental incidents within established deadlines within department.
- Report on all safety, production and financial performance indicators related to Drill and Blast.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Able to incorporate the Company's Safety and Environmental policies during the conduct of work so that mine designs and outcomes directly under their control are in accordance with the Company's and statutory requirements.
- Responsible for short, medium- and long-term stope planning for the underground mine in line with mine plan.
- Able to examine drill and blast parameters and equipment to optimise performance to improve on drilling and blasting efficiencies and cost.
- Able to update Drill and Blast guidelines in line with industry best practice and technology.
- Able to prepare schedules of stopes and required in stope development from the underground mine plan in accordance with the company's objective to provide sufficient ore feed for the plant.
- Able to lead the stope closure process and compiles closure notes to be presented to all stakeholders for sign off.
- Able to provide input into design of mine ventilation and other mine services.
- The ability to work across all disciplines, where rigorous engagement and interaction is expected.
- The ability to handle conflict resolution.
- The ability to utilize equipment, office software -MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) to prepare correspondence, reports, forms, mailings.
- The ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing with good presentation and facilitation skills.
- The ability to use statistical methods to analyse, validate & verify analytical data with a strong attention to detail.
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Application Link:

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School in Temeke to start teaching ICT subjects thanks to computers donation

By Guardian Reporter

KURASINI Secondary School in Temeke Municipal in Dar es Salaam will from January next year start teaching Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subjects after receiving 30 computers, and support from stakeholders.

Headteacher for the school, Amry Jaribu made the announcement yesterday at a computer laboratory handover ceremony donated by Helios Towers Tanzania Limited.

He said the computer support will go a long way toward empowering pupils with digital and ICT knowledge from a lower level which will be essential as they continue learning.

"ICT is an important component in the education sector in preparing pupils so that they can be able to solve global challenges," he said.

The headteacher said the school has a total of 2,222 pupils adding that the school was experiencing learning challenges due to a lack of resources especially computers to help students gain practical know-how.

Jaribu called for other stakehold-

ers to emulate Helios Towers saying more support to the school will facilitate learning and hence mould a digitally literate society.

He called upon authorities and other stakeholders to provide ICT textbooks to help in teaching the subjects to come next year.

The support was donated in collaboration with Camara education, a charity organisation that provides computer, teacher training and innovative learning programmes to schools across Africa.

Helios Towers Managing Director Gwakisa Stadi said the support is part of the company's tradition to invest in society adding that the focus is on sectors that are sustainable such as education. "We want to connect the unconnected, therefore we have to invest in knowledge through digital education which is a key component in today's world," he said.

Temeke Municipal Youth Development Officer Anna Marika hailed the company for the support saying this will help raise pass-rate and also help students to gain knowledge in ICT which is now marketable.



Busega district commissioner in Simiyu region, Gabriel Zakaria (R) receives the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF)'s guidelines booklet from PSSSF's principal public relations officer Abdul Njaidi at the ongoing financial service week in Mwanza earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mwinyi stresses need to produce more competent health experts

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has underscored the need to invest heavily in producing more competent health experts so as to increase efficiency in fighting kidney diseases in the country.

DR Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when addressing the Nephrology Society of Tanzania (NESOT) 8th Annual Scientific Conference held in Zanzibar's Urban/West Region.

Themed: "Bridging the gaps and optimising kidney care: Tanzanian perspective, the conference brought together doctors, nurses

and stakeholders inside the country.

He said there is need to increase more specialists so as to strengthen the fight against surging diseases including kidney which has been listed as one of the big challenges.

Tanzania is among the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with a huge burden of non-communicable diseases including kidney diseases. The prevalence of chronic kidney diseases (CKD) in Tanzania is ranging between 7 and 15 percent. There is limited data on the burden of acute kidney injury and diseases in Tanzania, but there are evolving data to show a high burden of this

condition." He wanted NESOT to invest efforts in encouraging young people to join the profession for the country to have enough experts.

Dr Mwinyi however said that to address the challenge, the government has continued to take possible measures which include increasing the number of hemodialysis centres to serve kidney patients.

"The major focus now is to improve access to these services by advocating for the expansion of services to cover all areas of the country," he said.

He however said that apart from the challenges, Tanzania has recorded positive steps by initiating

kidney transplant services whereby over 80 patients have received the service at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH).

He wanted Zanzibar's health ministry leaders and those from the Mnazi Mmoja Referral Hospital to think about how to establish a kidney transplant service in the Isles.

Health Minister Nassor Ahmeid Mazrui said that the government has prioritized producing experts in the areas that face a serious shortage of professionals, including doctors and nurses.

He said that in order to overcome the challenge faced by kidney pa-

tients from Pemba who have to travel to Unguja to get the services, the Ministry has installed five blood dialysis machines at the Abdalla Mzee Hospital.

He also said that the ministry plans to install ten dialysis machines in every district hospital.

Dr Onesmo Kisanga, NESOT chairman named some of the diseases that contributed to kidney challenges which include Malaria related diseases, snake bites, use of medicines without a doctor's prescription.

He commended the government for establishing a kidney transplant service in the country, something

which has benefited over 90 people.

This conference will provide a platform for discussions on ways of optimising renal care, as well as addressing human resources challenges. This will be realised with dedicated plenary sessions for paediatrics nephrology and renal nursing.

The broad theme of this conference is 'Optimising renal services in Tanzania in the era of Covid-19', this broad theme has been supplemented with sub-themes to broaden the discussion and capture solutions to meet the challenges facing our health system.



Women from Lubugu ward in Magu district, Mwanza region drawing clean and safe water from one of the 30 water outlets under the Nsolabunza project built by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA). The Agency provides the service for three villages in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Vitus Audax

Farmers in Chamwino District trained on how to use agroecology practices, techs to cheat effects of climate change

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

AGRICULTURE stakeholders are working to help impart farmers within Chamwino District to start using agroecology practices and technologies as a way to cheat the effects of climate change.

The stakeholders in the campaign include Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) and Action Aid Tanzania.

They convened in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region on Thursday to launch the said initiative that aims to impart farmers with needed agroecology practices and technologies to battle the effects of climate change.

During a daylong -meeting, the stakeholders practically trained farmers on how to use landrace seeds variety as well as agroecology practices to improve crop production and productivity.

SAT Project Manager, Elizabeth Girangai said that the application of agroecology practices is a reliable solution to help local farmers contain the negative effects of climate change.

"Among others, we also train the farmers to use water-manure fertilizer and types of organic fertilizers, to plant in special lines and recommended spaces," she said.

She said the initiative also seeks to assist farmers to use local-made technologies to maintain soil fertility and moisture at their plantations and to make use of local-made pesticides which do not contain dangerous chemicals from industries.

Joram Wimmo, ActionAid Country Coordinator, said the initiative will be implemented for four consecutive years with an eye to assisting a number of farmers within the drought-prone district.

The officer said agroecology has proved to be an important agro-practical system in helping local farmers to reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture and guaranteeing sustainable and healthy ecosystems to ensure food and nutrition security.

"We're remaining optimistic that through the implementation of this project a number of farmers will even manage to improve their income and livelihood through realizing bumper harvest, the impressive situation which will allow them to market their produce," he expressed.

The Ministry of Agriculture, (Environmental Management Unity) is implementing numerous strategies meant to promote agroecology in the country.

Thirty women face various acts of violence every day

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THIRTY women are everyday subjected to various types of violence, including sexual acts, prostitution, rape and beatings, a situation that highly affects the progress of the group.

Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) information officer Monica John said yesterday that the majority of women who face violence challenges fail to reach their full potential in life.

She noted that a report from the Legal and

Human Rights Centre (LHRC) states that in 2019, a total of 11,838 women were subjected to various acts of violence.

She said in the report that every month 928 women are subjected to acts of violence thus affecting their economic activities.

"LHRC report of 2019 shows that the Police Force reported over 10,000 cases of violence which is a very big number and translates how the country has a long way to go in the war against GBV," she said.

Monica added that as per research conducted by LHRC, 52 percent of the citizens

who were reached admitted to the thriving of acts of sexual violence, rape and prostitution in the society.

She urged the public to stop hiding GBV incidents and suspects but should effectively participate by providing co-operation at the court, something that will eliminate the challenge in the country.

According to her, most of the victim's side end up negotiating with suspects of violence thus killing the whole case.

"We should then all together, everyone

in his/her position stands up, condemn and speak out about violent acts, and this is where we can help those who are living a difficult life due to violence. Men have to also join the race," she added.

She said the event to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, has continued to help increase public awareness with many people now reporting the incidents but more efforts are needed to ensure that suspects are held accountable.

"In these days, TGNP will much of its

efforts educating and promoting human rights, call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls so as to create an equitable society," she explained.

Head of Police Gender Desk, Inspector Lovesness Mtemi said the Police Force has continued to implement various strategies so as to fight GBV incidents while encouraging the public to report the cases.

She also called upon men who are subjected to violent acts to also report so as to jointly address all kinds of violence.

Arrange for bus routes heading to new market along Bahi road, Majaliwa directs city council

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has ordered the management of Dodoma city to meet with the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to discuss arrangements for the introduction of new commuter bus trips heading to the newly established entrepreneurs' market along the Bahi road.

He said that along with the implementation of the directives, the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) in Dodoma Region should make improvements at the stand near the market area to allow commuters to use the facility.

Majaliwa gave the directives on Thursday after he toured the newly established entrepreneurs' market along Bahi road in the city.

He has also asked the Dodoma city council to manage the provision of loans to traders at the new market to boost their capital, thus expanding their businesses.

"May I congratulate you for deciding to relocate to this new market; you are going to benefit", he said, noting the government

is determined to improve the business environment for both small and large-scale traders.

He said the government will make sure they are provided with all the necessary requirements and social services to ensure they conduct their businesses smoothly.

The premier asked the city director to work on the challenges that arose after traders moved to the market, including the improvement of roads, drainage systems and installation of traffic lights in collaboration with TARURA.

Responding, Dodoma City Director Joseph Mafuru said the city council has allocated 400m/- for the provision of loans to the traders. He said they are finalizing processes to start issuing the loans by December this year.

Deputy Minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Dr Festo Dugange said that the construction of the market follows a good intention by President Samia Suluhu Hassan to improve the business environment and make sure that entrepreneurs do not walk with their products in the streets.



China Dasheng Bank CEO Cheng Ji (3rd L) and the chairman of the Chinese business persons at Kariakoo, Juma Shi (2nd R) cut a ribbon to launch the bank's branch at the junction of Jamhuri and Agrey streets in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second (L) is the bank's director Jimmy Mrosso. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

WHO, Qatar and FIFA launch major digital health initiative for children and adolescents

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ON the eve of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the World Health Organisation, the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar and FIFA launched a new digital app designed to help increase physical activity and improve the health and well-being of millions of young people.

Dubbed: 'GenMove, Season 1' is a games app that uses advanced movement tracking combined with artificial intelligence (AI) technology to provide 8-15-year-olds with a vigorous video game experience. The games call for a range of different movements that develop different physical skills and are suitable for

children with all levels of fitness.

WHO recommends all children and adolescents get an average of 60 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity per day, including activities that strengthen muscles and bones at least 3 times a week.

Yet, more than 80 percent of adolescents do not meet these recommendations and it is estimated that children and adolescents can spend more than 8 hours of their waking day being sedentary and inactive, a behaviour associated with poor fitness, weight gain and reduced sleep. The app is hoped to spur many similar initiatives to get children more active around the world.

"Regular physical activity has ma-

ior, lifelong benefits for physical and mental health, and is essential for the healthy development of children," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

He said WHO is proud to launch the GenMove Season 1 app with Qatar today. This kind of digital innovation can be a powerful tool to reach young people and get them moving, especially children who might not play sports regularly.

The app was launched early this week by Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health of Qatar, at the Walk the Talk - Health for All Challenge being held for the first time in the country. The 3- and 5-kilometre walks are being organised to

engage people of all ages and abilities, and to promote the benefits of physical activity.

"Qatar is proud to launch this important innovation for children on the eve of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022," said Dr Alkuwari. "We are committed to doing as much as possible to increase physical activity and build the health of young people here in Qatar and around the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted so hard on young people - limiting physical education and school sports - so it is vital we invest in promoting physical activity and leverage digital technologies to provide new and fun ways to be active."

GenMove games are built around

popular sports such as football and involve actions such as jumping, reaching and kicking to build kids' confidence and enjoyment of moving. The games can be played inside or outside and need only a mobile phone or tablet (IOS or Android) and a small space to get children active.

Alisson Becker, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Health Promotion and Brazil's national goalkeeper, said: "I love GenMove. Technology opens the world for everybody, but sometimes it can make you stay seated for too much time. So, the GenMove platform helps you with that. At the same time, you can have fun with your kids, or themselves alone, and be doing something healthy."

"The cost to the public health care systems of physical inactivity is very high," says Dr Fiona Bull, head of the Physical Activity Unit at WHO. "Therefore, getting children to enjoy being active and build habits into every day is critical to preventing future noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease, obesity, obesity, hypertension, diabetes and many cancers."

GenMove is being teamed up with a complementary football-themed FIFA campaign "Bring the Moves" - which encourages young people to share their goal-celebration moves online and generate a following of active young people throughout the World Cup.



Small traders abandon their tables inside the rainwater trench along Morogoro Road at Mbezi Mwisho in Ubungo municipality yesterday while others displayed their merchandise on the pedestrian path that causes inconvenience to the public. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TRA in Mbeya Region collects 73.2 billion/- in 2021/2022 FY

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mbeya Region has collected 73.2bn/- in the 2021/2022 financial year, the amount which is high compared to 68bn/- collected in the previous year.

The success is attributed to good relations between TRA and taxpayers whereas most of them have paid taxes voluntarily.

TRA Assistant Manager in the region, Nuhu Suleiman told journalists on Thursday that the increase is equivalent to 7 percent. He was speaking at an event to recognise and celebrate the most compliant businesses and individual taxpayers in remitting their taxes.

He said that in October 2022, TRA collected 5.8bn/- which is high compared to 4.7bn/- collected in the same period in 2021. He said this year's October collections are an increment of 25 percent.

He added that the success was built on good relations and reconciliation that boosted tax collections without the use of excessive powers.

"As we celebrate the week to appreciate our taxpayers, we make sure that we share the benefits with the community by helping those in need. We have visited the Ruanda prison in Mbeya and donated various items to prisoners as well as patients at the Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital," he said, adding they have provided 100 mosquito nets to expectant mothers and admitted at the hospital.

A Senior Nursing at the hospital, Maridhia Mvungi thanked TRA for the donation saying it will help protect them from malaria.

A senior official at the Ruanda prison, Deotada Timothy said it is rare for government agencies and institutions to donate to the prison.

She said that TRA's action to provide assistance to inmates at the Ruanda prison has reduced the burden on the Prison Service in serving them.

He asked them to continue assisting the prison as well as vulnerable people, noting prisoners at Ruanda are in need of various things including clothes, mattresses and food.

USD21m allocated to improve Mzumbe University's teaching environment

By Guardian Reporter

A total of \$21 million has been allocated to Mzumbe University in Morogoro Region for boosting its teaching environment including the establishment of university programmes that go in tandem with current job market.

The money is being provided by the World Bank as loan to the government for

the implementation of Tanzania's economic transformation under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology implemented in universities and other institutions under the Ministry.

Acting Mzumbe University Vice Chancellor, Prof William Mwegoha made the remarks in his report to the Mzumbe University Chancellor, retired Zanzibar President Dr Mohamed Ali Shein at the 21st university

graduation at the campus.

Prof Mwegoha said projects earmarked for implementation include the construction of lecture halls that will spend 79.2 percent of the entire project money, review of the curricula and initiating new curricula to satisfy the job market.

The money will also be used to improve ICT and infrastructures thereof, boost Mzumbe University collaboration with ex-

ternal stakeholders, empowering university staff and establishing a new Campus in Tanga Region.

In regard to research, Prof Mwegoha said they are implementing a total of 18 projects sponsored by various stakeholders in health, education, science and technology, commerce and entrepreneurship for the youth, economy, law and human rights.

He added that out of the 18 projects,

seven involving research are sponsored by Mzumbe University while its 77 programmes have been endorsed by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU).

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Mzumbe University Council, Prof Saida Yahya Othman said the existence of any university is in research; hence more efforts on researches should be initiated for solving social challenges.

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2022

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

Conservation and sustainable management of forests are essential to biodiversity

CLIMATE change and other forces are chipping away at the world's forests on a daily basis. On March 21, the International Day of Forests put the spotlight on the great variety of animal, plant and other life supported by the world's forests with the theme, "Forests and Biodiversity: Too precious to lose." While this observance encourages us to appreciate the benefits of forests—from Pacific coastal redwoods to tropical mangroves—it is more of an urgent call to action than a celebration.

Forests are home to most life on land, an estimated 80 per cent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. This natural wealth goes far beyond the 60,000 species of trees that have been identified to date. It includes plants, animals, organisms and ecosystems which help to keep our air, soil and water healthy and which provide us with food, fuel and shelter. Roughly one billion people depend directly on forests for their food, and that figure does not include the farms that rely on nearby forests for pollinators like bees and bats.

All this biodiversity is under serious threat from climate change and other forces that are chipping away at the world's forests on a daily basis. An estimated 73 per cent of deforestation in the world is driven by the clearing of land for agriculture. How, then, do we meet our needs as a growing population without damaging the very forests and biodiversity on which we all depend?

The conservation and sustainable management of forests is essential to biodiversity. So, too, is a better understanding of the conditions and activities that affect forests, such as food and timber

production, urbanization, poverty, and land access.

Last year, the first-ever global report on food-related biodiversity, produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), showed that biodiversity-friendly practices in food production were actually on the rise. Eighty per cent of the 91 countries surveyed indicated they were using organic agriculture, sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration or other approaches to conserve and restore forest resources.

Still, much more needs to be done. Many countries have started to introduce policies and other tools to support sustainable land use but often, these fall short of yielding results. There are various reasons for this, including insufficient implementation or not targeting the true causes of biodiversity loss.

We need to improve the actual implementation of existing solutions, if we want to manage forests and biodiversity in more sustainable ways. We need to back up these efforts with increased monitoring of the effects of various factors on biodiversity, and greater legal and financial incentives for people and investors who influence decisions on land use.

FAO recently adopted a strategy to help countries mainstream biodiversity-friendly practices across agricultural sectors. The aim is to support the development of strategies, policies and practices that reflect the essential role that forests play in various aspects of our lives, whether they sit within protected areas, near agricultural fields, or in urban areas.

Disruptive innovations changing business models in Africa

THERE is an ongoing trend to spur the economic growth that is already on a positive trend in Africa and Tanzania is no exception to greater heights, and more so to impact on people's lives in meaningful ways.

This was apparent at the Innovating Economies Summit, one of the many initiatives around the world under the aegis of The Economist. The summit, held in Nairobi last year, noted how Africa is innovating for itself and facilitating home-grown innovations.

It sought to explore how the continent can more effectively navigate towards relevant solutions, given the many infrastructural challenges.

While it had many strands of discussion - from increasing productivity and efficiency, including in health care, to financing and linkages to the global knowledge economy - one of the most illustrative was a segment dwelling on strengthening the continent's innovation ecosystems, and of which there are ample examples of how they are impacting people's lives around the region.

So far, the numbers on the Mobilis website indicate that it has installed over 70,000 solar home systems for households and businesses in East Africa.

But the example discussed at the Summit, demonstrating how mobile money technology combined with the latest solar systems have fuelled the rapid expansion "leapfrogging" East Africa's poor infrastructure. The mobile money platforms enabled M-Kopa (kopa means borrow in Swahili) to "crack it," thereby saving people in the lowest income bracket money they would have used to buy kerosene to light their

homes, batteries to power their torches and radios and a long trek to someone with power to charge their mobile phones. With more than 400,000 households connected to solar power across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, it remains the leader globally and was the first to demonstrate the business model and convenience for the underserved in a situation of inadequate power infrastructure.

As it is, most Africans still do not have access to proper loans, savings facilities or insurance, a situation mobile technology is already proving core anchor to exploit.

The entrance of Commercial Bank of Africa in Rwanda is a case in point, aiming to offer savings and loans facilities to the underserved through mobile technology.

The bank has already been quite successful with m-shwari, a savings facility with Kenya's Safaricom, and mKash with Uganda's MTN. It has done the same in Tanzania. Insurance is another area already being tapped through mobile technology in Tanzania and Uganda, as well as in Ghana and Senegal, by the multinational microfinance firm, Milvik, partnering with insurance businesses and telecom providers.

The Innovative Economies Summit was something of a mirror to ourselves on what is possible on the continent through home-grown solutions. But it was on the insistence that the challenges besetting the continent could be overcome.

For instance, it noted how, by 2030, sub-Saharan Africa could be adding more working-age people to the global labour force than the rest of the world combined.

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Three truths to address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the UN

By Peter A Gallo

THE US government has recently published 'Engagement Principles' on Protection from Sexual Exploitation Abuse & Sexual Harassment within International Organisations', and while any involvement from Member States is to be encouraged, these principles do not address the fundamental need for either deterrence or for accountability.

The concept of a "survivor-centred approach" - sadly - is an irrelevant sound bite to appease a political lobby. Post-incident care and support for the victim is not only admirable but very necessary but serves no deterrent purpose, and any bearing it might have on the prosecution of an offender will be indirect at best.

Nothing done for victims after an incident will prevent future victims being similarly assaulted.

One of the accepted tenets of criminology is that criminal activity is not discouraged by procedures, committees, working groups or focal points, nor is there any deterrent effect in increasing the penalty for anyone convicted of the offence; criminal activity is minimised by maximising the likelihood of the perpetrator being held accountable for their actions. The UN chooses to ignore that, and will not acknowledge three basic truths the Member States must recognise:

FIRST: that any sexual assault is a serious criminal offence that should be prosecuted as such.

In the real world, where both a criminal case and a civil one arise from the same event; the civil case will be sisted to give priority to the more important criminal prosecution. The UN, however, does the opposite and insists that their administrative investigation take priority over the criminal investigation of the same incident.

As a result, even where a rape is reported in the UN, the chances of the perpetrator being successfully prosecuted in a criminal court is minimised to the point where the risk is insignificant.

SECOND: that while UN personnel require and deserve the protection of the 1946 Convention on Privileges & Immunities, that Convention does not grant immunity for sexual offences.

Abuse of the concept of immunity has greatly influenced the evolution of the UN culture into one of narcissistic entitlement, where sexual predators believe they can act with impunity.

Functional Immunity was afforded to UN staff members under

the Convention which states, very clearly, in Section 18:

Officials of the United Nations shall: (a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity; (Emphasis added.)

Given that any sexual activity - whether consensual, contractual, or coerced - is not part of the "official duties" of any UN staff member; it is self-evident that no immunity can apply in the case of any sexual offence. If such an offence appears to have been committed; the host nation must therefore have jurisdiction over the matter.

The Convention was adopted to protect UN staff against harassment by a hostile government, and in those conditions, there will always be a risk that criminal charges might be fabricated. There is no doubt, therefore that the UN must take an interest in any accusations against staff members, but as soon as their preliminary enquiries establish reasonable grounds to believe that a sexual offence has been committed; the matter should be handed over to local law enforcement immediately - for them to proceed with a criminal investigation.

The Convention was never intended to protect offenders from the consequences of their own criminality. That is made clear in Section 20 which reads:

Privileges and immunities are granted to officials in the interests of the United Nations and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves.

The Secretary-General shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the United Nations.

If the Secretary-General can give an example of how the prosecution of a sexual predator could possibly "prejudice to the interests of the UN" - the world deserves an explanation.

The UN interprets the Convention to protect UN staff members from sexual offences even when no staff member is accused of any such thing, as was demonstrated in 2015 by the Organization's response when French authorities sought to investigate allegations against French peacekeepers in the Central African Republic.

The Convention states in Section 21:

The United Nations shall cooperate at all times with the appropriate



authorities of Members to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this article.

That is a provision the Secretariat appears to ignore, because "immunity" was cited as the reason why UN staff members could not assist French investigators by introducing them to victims. The UN has never explained how that could be justified.

Immunity was created for the best of reasons, it has now become part of the problem.

THIRD: that 'self-regulation' by the UN has clearly been a failure; the Organization cannot properly investigate itself.

What most people fail to appreciate about the corruption in the UN is that it is almost always "procedurally correct" - which may mean the resulting administrative decision cannot be challenged before the UN Dispute Tribunal, it does not make the decision ethical or legitimate - but OIOS investigations will not pursue any such line of enquiry for fear of what it might reveal.

Complaints about malpractices, misconduct, bias or abuses of authority by investigators are common, but are routinely ignored - because there is no independent oversight of OIOS (Office of Internal Oversight Services) and the management of the office is tied up in the same network of mutually supportive patronage that is ingrained in the UN culture.

The OIOS "leadership" is widely believed to do the bidding of the USG/DMSPC in particular, legitimising the most patent retaliation - because the USG/DMSPC protects them from any accountability for their own shortcomings. The former Director of Investigations admitting that their primary objective was simply "to get the Americans off our backs" - for which, naturally, he was promoted.

As for sexual misconduct investigations; the term "survivor-centred approach" makes little sense. It is described as an innovative approach but in any sexual assault, the victim has always been the most important witness - so how exactly were these cases actually investigated in the past?

Post-incident care for the victim has no bearing on the burden of proof. Cases must be proved by established facts, and that requires diligent and competent investigators - not "investigators" promoted for their personal loyalty, or whose misconduct has routinely been overlooked for the same reason.

Gross incompetence by managers, rampant misconduct and corruption anywhere in the UN must be considered serious in its own right, but incompetence, misconduct and corruption in the investigative function is more serious because that facilitates the corruption everywhere else.

Einstein is said to have defined insanity as doing same thing over and over, and expecting a different result, but that has been the UN's approach to investigating sexual misconduct for the last 20 years.

The solution clearly lies with someone capable of thinking differently - but within the UN culture; anyone who dares to think differently is a dangerous heretic who cannot be promoted.

Peter Gallo is a lawyer and former OIOS investigator, whose disagreements with the Organization began when OIOS sought to demand that as an investigator, he must "never ask questions just to satisfy his curiosity" - a bizarre instruction that the UN did not consider even unusual, despite the fact that no one was ever able to point out a single example of his ever having done so... He has written extensively on the UN's failure to properly investigate misconduct, been quoted in the media, featured on television documentaries and twice testified before congressional committees on the subject.

By Telesphor Magobe

Each one of us has a role to play to fight violence against women and girls



YESTERDAY Tanzania joined other countries across the world to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the launch of 16-day campaign of Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls. The campaign started on November 25 and will continue to December 10 when the world will mark International Human Rights Day.

Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls aims at preventing and ending violence against women and girls across the world. It also calls for global action to increase public awareness, promote advocacy and create opportunities for discussion on challenges facing women and girls and address them. It is an occasion as a nation to take necessary steps to ensure both men and women and boys and girls are equally respected and treated for what they are.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. The UN defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

One form of violence against women and girls is rape (including marital rape), an act which strips a woman or girl of her dignity. Rape is a criminal offence in Tanzania (Section 130 of the Penal Code). Subsection (1) states: “It is an offence for a man to rape a girl or a woman.” As a form of violence, rape causes untold physical, sexual and psychological suffering to a woman or girl.

Paradoxically, marital rape (a husband’s forcible sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent, according to Black’s Law Dictionary Eighth Edition, 2004) is not a criminal offence in Tanzania, except when it is committed between separated or divorced spouses [Section 130(2)(a) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16)].

However, it is a criminal offence in some jurisdictions and where it is not criminalised like in Tanzania, the husband enjoys marital exemption (immunity) to the crime of rape, which in my opinion is an injustice to his wife or wives.

Marriage, by virtue of Section 9(1) of the Law of Marriage Act, 1970 (R.E. 2019) is “the voluntary union of a man and a woman and is intended to last for their joint lives” and so the enjoyment of sex in marriage should also be voluntary (nobody should be forced into it).

According to the Penal Code, rape is the offence committed by force, threats or intimidation and by threatening to kill or hurt a girl or woman in unlawful detention [Subsection (2)(b)] or it may be committed against a girl or woman who is mentally unsound or intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.

It is also regarded as rape when committed against a girl aged below 18 years with or without her consent unless she is a wife aged at least 15 years and is not separated from the man [Subsection (2)(e)].

I have particularly highlighted rape (including mari-

tal rape) as a form of violence against a woman or girl, but there are other forms of violence such as abduction of women or girls, sexual assault and indecent assault on women or girls, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, forced pregnancy, forced marriage, forced sterilisation and female genital mutilation (FGM) which should be fought against by all means. There cannot be more embarrassment than when a woman or girl feels she is stripped of her dignity whether in public or private life.



The Law and You

Judicial Bench Book on Violence Against Women in Commonwealth East Africa: Commonwealth Secretariat (2017, p. 26) states that: “The continuation of harmful practices perpetuated by culture and tradition has serious health consequences for the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls. Such practices deprive women and girls of the right to enjoy the highest standards possible of good health.”

In the case of Leonard s/o Sakata v DPP (2019), the Court of Appeal of Tanzania upheld the judgment of the High Court of Tanzania in Sumbawanga in which the appellant was convicted of raping a Standard II schoolgirl aged below 18 years contrary to sections 130(1), (2)(e) & 131(1) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) and was sentenced to 30 years of imprisonment. He appealed against both the conviction and judgement.

Referring to the case of George Claud Kasanda v R, Criminal Appeal No 376 of 2017 (unreported), the Court of Appeal described statutory rape, saying: “In essence... Section 130(2)(e) of the Penal Code creates an offence now famously referred to as statutory rape.”

“It is termed so for a simple reason that it is an offence to have carnal knowledge of a girl who is below 18 years whether or not there is consent. In that sense age is of great essence in proving such an offence.” Thus, the Court of Appeal of Tanzania held that the appellant had failed and dismissed his appeal in its entirety for want of merit in Mbeya in February this year.

It suffices to say that women and girls need adequate protection lest they fall victim to the perpetrators of rape or other forms of violence. They need respect like any other human being needs it and shouldn’t be subjected to any abuse or violence just because they are women or girls.

Today’s proverb: “A clear conscience is a coat of mail.”
The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tma-gobe@gmail.com

The last thing the climate needs is more hot air spoken at COP conferences

By Ufrieda Ho

IARRIVED in Sharm el-Sheikh a COP virgin and left the UN climate summit in Egypt feeling screwed over... and ready for something other than deferred hope that a conference of the parties (COP) gathering in a year’s time is going to deliver anything more satisfying.

The annual high-level gathering, already in its 27th iteration, is meant to be an opportunity to reach consensus to advance collaborative global action to respond with urgency and clarity to the impacts of climate change. It fell short.

There was the eleventh-hour breakthrough in an agreement on a Loss and Damage fund. That was a key win, signalling unequivocal recognition, finally, that the world’s biggest carbon emitters must contribute to a financing mechanism to compensate the most vulnerable nations impacted by climate change that is not of their making.

It came 30 years late, though, and with qualifiers in the wording of the final text.

The vagueness of the frameworks for the fund, including the conditions and extents of liability; setting out retrospective payouts and the extended time frames means COP outcomes and processes once again settle into the default of a slow stutter forward to trudge out details over the next 12 months.

It’s desperately out of step for the climate emergency that’s rushing at us. It could also not be missed that COP27, hosted by Egypt this year, raised red flags for human rights atrocities and a tightening squeeze on civil liberties and freedoms under Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi’s regime.

Read more in Daily Maverick: “Climate change summit: Gimmicks, slogans and pleasant noises amid human rights abuse”

And then COP27 in parts just resembled a hollow trade show.

There were country pavilions upon



Protesters demonstrate on 12 November 2022 at the COP27 climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. (Photo: Sean Gallup / Getty Images)

pavilions with gloss and spin mixed in with a few mascots of polar bears and dinosaurs waddling among the ballooning presence of fossil fuel punters and other corporates hoping to bag a deal.

This year, watchdog organisation Global Witness said there was 25% more representation from fossil fuel lobbyists compared with COP26 in Glasgow. COP27 also ended with the dirty addiction to fossil fuels again swept under the carpet.

Developing nations, including host country Egypt, and South Africa, might sound the call for richer nations to pay up, but they remain shackled to the idea that fossil fuels are still the key to unlocking industrial growth.

This wilful blinking doesn’t allow for a meaningful look at renewables or a keener focus on the likes of shaping up different models for beneficiation, effective community benefiting, sharing or demanding transformation and accountability of extractive industries. The United Nations Development Programme this year put fossil fuel subsidies at \$423-billion dollars of public funds, and said “despite international commitments, subsidies are not being phased out but are increasing”.

Adding to these COP sins was the carbon footprint of more than 35,000 people who had to be flown in and accommodated in the resort town on the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula. And a key sponsorship for COP27 came from Coca-Cola – named the world’s leading polluter of plastics in 2021.

It makes COP a tragi-comedy; a show performed each year with the same cast of actors: the politicians and world leaders, the lobbyists and polluting industry giants, the civil society campaigners, activists and NGOs and media, all taking up the familiar roles and playing their part in a song and dance of politics, power and illu-

sions. It raises the possibility that COP’s time to bow out might have arrived. At 27, it’s ripe to join the “27 Club” of the likes of Kurt Cobain, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jimi Hendrix and Amy Winehouse.

Burying COP in its current form would clear the way for new rules of engagement and the adoption of less clunky ways to take authoritative action and bind countries to act. COP, after all, came about pitting developed nations against developing nations – it’s a line in the sand that means the gulf in trust that now exists was inevitable.

Closer interrogation of the intricacies of power imbalances, individual vulnerabilities and greed are more useful to understand that outcomes always hinge on the highest bidder and bilateral pressures. It’s the same for how climate ambitions only hold long and strong enough for a politician’s term in office.

For activists and civil society, there are lessons after COP27 that the fight for climate action can and must survive without the need to fly halfway across the world to protest outside closed-door negotiations.

There should also be less reliance on the presence of icons like Greta Thunberg, Naomi Klein or Leonardo DiCaprio. Thunberg and Klein publicly boycotted Egypt’s COP because of the host country’s human rights record.

Representation and diversity are how people recognise themselves and validate their lived realities in the face of more devastating impacts of climate change. It can spur them on to find locally appropriate ways to resist the doom of a planet turned to uninhabitable crispy bits.

It means different voices in the room matter. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley was refreshingly una-

pologetic and scathing at COP27. She called out rich nations and the World Bank for hiding behind loans and insurance mechanisms instead of committing to new and additional funding.

There are positives in pushbacks through legal channels and reform as well as through science and research that are more responsive and strident. Also blipping are new private sector partnerships and global political initiatives. These campaigns are made as public commitments, so open themselves up to scrutiny for spin and greenwashing.

In the legal sphere, the likes of the Ecocide Law Alliance have since 2019 pushed for the introduction of the crime of ecocide to be included in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Increasingly, there are stronger regulatory frameworks for listed companies to measure and disclose their decarbonisation targets and campaigns.

In science, new work on attribution studies, using meteorological data, monitoring and stronger networks of scientists around the world helps join the dots between recent extreme weather events and climate change. It gives science-based evidence for climate change and helps depoliticise the noise over the issues of liability.

There is the UN-backed Race to Zero campaign focused on business leadership to use science-based pathways to commit businesses to halve global emissions by 2030 and to move to a zero carbon world by the middle of the century.

The First Movers Coalition sets the intention to use the purchasing power of multinational companies to decarbonise seven “hard-to-abate” industrial sectors of aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking and carbon removal technologies that account for 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions. According to the World Economic Forum, the more than 50 companies in the coalition “assemble ambitious corporate purchasing pledges” with the aim of opting to purchase low-carbon technologies to drive up their competitiveness.

Also officially launched at this year’s COP was the Climate Parliament. The initiative aims to educate and inform members of parliaments and congresses on climate issues so they are better equipped to exercise leadership and share knowledge on issues of climate action within their governments.

By Han Xin

Chinese electronic signature industry on fast track

As an important tool for digital transformation, electronic signature technology is widely applied by various industries in China.

With electronic signature technology, a test drive can be scheduled online, real estate contracts can be registered with an electronic signature service, and financial products can be purchased on online platforms.

Electronic signature is a way of confirming and signing electronic documents in electronic forms based on the Internet. Over the recent years, the electronic signature industry has rapidly grown in China, releasing huge development potential.

For instance, electronic stamp, an efficient and reliable way that has the same legal validity as physical stamps, was used in a power supply company in Fuyang district, Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province. According to an employee of the company, the application of electronic stamps is expected to save over a million yuan (\$140,017) for the company each year.

Electronic signature technology benefits not only enterprises, but also individuals. At the end of June this year, Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu province comprehensively launched electronic signature services for real estate transactions. House buyers can sign their names on a mobile application or a mini program to have their contracts registered.

"Electronic signature verifies identities with biometrics, bank card information and other authentication methods. It makes sure that contracts represent the will of signatories through login encryption, SMS verification and other approaches. Besides, it employs timestamp technology so that the signing is traceable and irreversible," said Liu Quan, director of the research institute of cyber security under the China Center for Information Industry Development (CCID).

With these technologies employed, contracts and agreements can be inked even if parties involved are at different locations, and counterfeit signatures would no longer be a problem. Liu added.

Over the recent years, electronic signature has seen a stable expansion of its market in China and has been applied in a number of sectors such as finance, e-government, healthcare and real estate.

According to a CCID report, the market size of electronic signature in China had grown from 22 billion yuan in 2017 to 30.86 billion yuan in 2021.

"In general, electronic signature has gained a big market in China. Its industrial chain is being improved. The providers of software and hardware as well as electronic signature services, terminal users, and other entities in the industry are growing rapidly," said Liu. The rapid development of the



On May 15, 2020, a 2020 graduate of Nanchang Institute of Technology, east China's Jiangxi province, shows an electronic employment contract he signed a day before. The contract is the first electronic employment contract inked in Jiangxi province. (Photo by Li Jie/People's Daily Online)

industry is attributed to many aspects. On the one hand, policy support and mature technologies have paved a path for the normalized application of electronic signature. On the other hand, enterprises' increasing demand for digital transformation has constantly released the potential of the industry.

Li Tao, an employee of a major company, told People's Daily that the implementation of paperless offices could save the company 320,000 pieces of paper each year, and electronic signature as well as other digital tools have improved the company's efficiency amid COVID-19.

According to statistics released by iiMedia Research, a world-renowned third-party data mining and analysis organization for new economic industries, electronic signatures were used over 50 billion times in China in 2020, surging 317 percent from a year ago.

As electronic signatures are more and more utilized and gain increasing recognition from users, the industry will embrace constant growth.

People's Daily



An official with the market regulation bureau of Lianyun district, Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province ships a business license to an enterprise that applied for the document online, Feb. 17, 2020. (Photo by Wang Chun/People's Daily Online)

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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

WHO: Nearly 40 million children are susceptible to growing measles threat

By Guardian Reporter

MEASLES vaccination coverage has steadily declined since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, a record high of nearly 40 million children missed a measles vaccine dose, 25 million children missed their first dose and an additional 14.7 million children missed their second dose, a joint publication by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported.

This decline is a significant setback in global progress towards achieving and maintaining measles elimination and leaves millions of children susceptible to infection.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "The paradox of the pandemic is that while vaccines against COVID-19 were developed in record time and deployed in the largest vaccination campaign in history, routine immunization programmes were badly disrupted, and millions of kids missed out on life-saving vaccinations against deadly diseases like measles. Getting immunization programmes back on track is absolutely critical. Behind every statistic in this report is a child at risk of a preventable disease."

CDC Director Dr Rochelle Walensky said: "The record number of children under-immunized and susceptible to measles shows the profound damage immunization systems have sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic. Measles outbreaks illustrate weaknesses in immunization programs, but public health officials can use outbreak response to identify communities at risk, understand causes of under-vaccination, and help deliver locally tailored solutions to ensure vaccinations are available to all."

In 2021, there were an estimated 9 million cases and 128 000 deaths from measles worldwide. Twenty-two countries experienced large and disruptive outbreaks. Declines in vaccine coverage, weakened measles surveillance, and continued interruptions and delays in immunization activities due to COVID-19, as well as persistent large outbreaks in 2022, mean that measles is an imminent threat in every region of the world.

Measles is one of the most contagious human viruses but is almost entirely preventable through vaccination.

Coverage of 95percent or greater of 2 doses of measles-containing vac-



cine is needed to create herd immunity in order to protect communities and achieve and maintain measles elimination.

The world is well under that, with only 81 percent of children receiving their first measles-containing vaccine dose, and only 71 percent of children receiving their second measles-containing vaccine dose.

These are the lowest global coverage rates of the first dose of measles vaccination since 2008, although coverage varies by country.

Measles is a threat everywhere, as the virus can quickly spread to multiple communities and across international borders.

No WHO region has achieved and sustained measles elimination. Since 2016, 10 countries that had previously eliminated measles experienced outbreaks and re-established transmission.

In 2021, nearly 61 million measles vaccine doses were postponed or missed due to COVID-19-related delays in immunization campaigns in 18 countries.

Delays increase the risk of measles outbreaks, so the time for public health officials to accelerate vaccination efforts and strengthen surveillance is now. CDC and WHO urge coordinated and collaborative action from all partners at global, regional, national, and local levels to prioritize efforts to find and immunize all unprotected children, including those who were missed during the last two years.

Measles outbreaks illustrate weaknesses in immunization programs and other essential health services.

To mitigate risk of outbreaks, countries and global stakeholders must invest in robust surveillance systems.

Under the Immunization Agenda 2030 global immunization strategy, global immunization partners remain committed to supporting investments in strengthening surveillance as a means to detect outbreaks quickly, respond with urgency, and immunize all children who are not yet protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

S.A president: Wealthy nations should contribute resources for climate actions

JOHANNESBURG

INDUSTRIALIZED nations should contribute substantial resources to low- and middle-income countries to fund their climate actions, South Africa's president said Tuesday.

Addressing the British Houses of Parliament during the start of his two-day state visit, Cyril Ramaphosa said countries that carry the least responsibility for global warming are the

most vulnerable to its effects.

"They do not have the resources needed to adapt to drought, floods and rising sea levels," he said.

"This places a responsibility on industrialized nations to contribute substantial resources to low- and middle-income countries to fund their climate actions."

Ramaphosa said the contributions should not be seen as charity but rather compensa-

tion for the harm done - and the harm yet to be done - to people in developing economies as a consequence of the industrialization of wealthy countries.

"We greatly appreciate the commitment of the United Kingdom to the implementation of a just energy transition in South Africa," he said.

Ramaphosa said he is pleased that the final outcomes of the recent UN climate

change conference COP27 held in Egypt hold out the promise of concerted action to address climate change.

He also said that unless the world acts with urgency and purpose to close the gap between the wealthy and the poor, hardship and suffering will only deepen.

Ramaphosa said the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the huge disparities in wealth, power and technology and

health capacity.

"Therefore, as we work to rebuild in the wake of the pandemic, it is essential that we address the inequality within and between nations."

He said if inequality is not addressed, then instability, conflict and terrorism will increase.

"We need to address the deficiencies in access to education, healthcare, safe water, sustainable energy and economic op-

portunity if we hope to end the poverty that is handed down from one generation to the next." Ramaphosa is the first head of state to be hosted for a state visit by King Charles III since his inauguration.

Ramaphosa said his state visit is an opportunity to reinvigorate the ties of commerce, trade and investment between South Africa and the UK.

"The United Kingdom is the largest foreign investor in

South Africa and the country's fifth largest export destination," he said, adding that over the last two decades, the UK has been South Africa's largest source of tourist visitors outside of Africa.

Ramaphosa said a strong partnership between South Africa and the UK could make a significant contribution to multilateralism and the achievement of consensus on critical global issues.

Officials from US grains council attend agriculture trade mission in E.Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

OFFICIALS from the United States Grains Council staff (USGA), agribusiness and producer members recently took part in the USGA Agriculture Trade Mission (ATM) in East Africa.

Held in Nairobi, Kenya, and Zanzibar, Tanzania, the ATM shows the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitment to expanding and diversifying market opportunities globally for US agriculture.

Over 30 agribusinesses and farm organisations from across the US participated in the programme together with the USGA's Foreign Agricultural Service team. Participants were able to meet directly with customers and potential importers of their commodities and products.

"It was a great opportunity for U.S. businesses to strengthen or forge new relationships in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as regionally," said Cary Sifferath, USGC vice president.

The mission provided a key opportunity for the Council to bring together U.S. agribusiness and producer members to see first-hand the opportunities in East Africa - a long-term region of focus for the Council.

Three USGC member-leaders, USGC Secretary/Treasurer Verity Ulibarri, Jim Massey, USGC sorghum sector director; and John Hagios, vice president of feed ingredients at The Andersons and USGC Value Added Advisory Team leader, attended the ATM.

While in East Africa, the visiting team had the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders involved in the Council's recently completed sorghum poultry feeding trials in Kenya.

In addition, a visit to the dairy farm where the Council is looking to conduct local feeding trials with DDGS took place - Kenya would be brand new market for DDGS should market access be realized.

With a population of more than 50 million people, Kenya remains one of the leading economies in East Africa. It is generally considered the economic, commercial and financial hub of East Africa.

During the mission in Nairobi, the Council conducted a series of side visits



with key partners on the ground, including with the Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (AKEFEMA). The Council met with AKEFEMA to discuss recent developments in the Kenya feed industry to better understand the current state of the feed and livestock industry and to discuss opportunities for US feed grains use there.

Commodities of keen interest in Kenya include sorghum, yellow corn and distiller's dried grains with solubles, which can collectively serve as alternative feed grain ingredients in the market during times of shortage.

Held jointly with AKEFEMA, the Council hosted a

feed grains industry roundtable with more than 50 AKEFEMA members to discuss U.S. grain production and logistics as well as the nutritional advantages of using sorghum, DDGS and yellow corn in animal feed production.

"Our roundtable meeting with AKEFEMA allowed us to work on the capacity building within the Kenyan feed industry - that is a goal of AKEFEMA," Sifferath said.

"In addition, we discussed overcoming the hurdles to get U.S. feed grain products like sorghum, yellow corn and DDGS into Kenya for the feed industry to have access to these products from the US."

Looking forward, the Council is excited to continue to partner with the Kenya feed industry to gain confidence and trust in US feed grains.

This will include moving forward with a DDGS QSP trial in Nairobi later this year as well as working with AKEFEMA to continue to support the local feed manufacturers to improve efficiencies and overall productivity through a series of feed manufacturing training programmes.

The visiting U.S. officials meet with Kenyan farmers recently.

Uganda sees 'downward trend' in Ebola cases, health minister

KAMPALA

OFFICIALS say some districts have gone for at least two weeks without registering new infections.

Uganda has recorded a drop in the number of new Ebola cases, with some districts going for at least two weeks without registering

new infections, health ministry officials said.

The development is a major sign the East African country is having a measure of success in efforts to combat its latest outbreak of the deadly haemorrhagic fever disease more than two months after it was declared.

Central Uganda's Mubende

district was where the outbreak was originally declared on September 20. It and another district, Kassanda, are considered to be the epicentres for the disease's spread. Movement in and out of them has been restricted.

"We are seeing a downward trend in the number of cases," Health Minister Jane Ruth

Aceng said on the local NTV news service late on Wednesday, citing the absence of new cases in the two districts over many days.

"We are also not seeing new cases in Kampala, in the greater Kampala metropolitan area, neither are we seeing cases in Masaka and Jinja," two other cities, she said.

A spokesperson for the health ministry, Emmanuel Ainebyoona, told Reuters news agency on Thursday that Mubende had gone for at least 16 days without a new case and that Kampala, the capital, had not recorded new infections for at least two weeks.

The virus circulating in

Uganda is the Sudan strain of Ebola, for which there is no proven vaccine, unlike the more common Zaire strain, which spread during recent outbreaks in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

But three candidate vaccines against the Sudan strain are planned for a clinical trial

in Uganda.

The World Health Organization and aid groups are also providing Uganda with assistance to cope with the outbreak.

The country has so far recorded 141 cases and 55 deaths, according to the health ministry.

BUSINESS



Global oil market flashes warnings on demand spike

SHANGAI

The global oil market keeps sending up flares on the outlook for weaker demand. In the latest, a closely-watched gauge of Asian crude consumption tumbled to a seven-month low as surging virus cases in China trigger lockdown-like restrictions in the world's biggest importer.

The premium of Oman futures over Dubai swaps fell below \$1 a barrel on the Dubai Mercantile Exchange on Thursday. It's plunged about 80% this month.

Oil markets have weakened in November, with a host of widely-watched metrics flashing warning signs and dragging futures prices lower. Among them, the prompt spreads for both Brent crude and leading US grade West Texas Intermediate have dipped into contango, a bearish pricing pattern that indicates ample near-term supply. As the red flags proliferate, Brent futures declined to their cheapest price since January earlier this week.

Expectations for a recovery in Chinese oil demand are fading as daily Covid-19 cases have hit record levels, spurring officials to step up containment measures and movement curbs. Amid the challenging backdrop, some Chinese refiners are refraining from buying cargoes of a favored Russian grade, cutting demand just as traders wait for more details on a Group of Seven plan to cap Russian oil alongside European Union sanctions

that start on Dec. 5.

Brent futures headed for a third weekly drop on Friday amid further signs from China that anti-virus restrictions in key cities are multiplying as officials seek to quell Covid-19 outbreaks. In Beijing, the capital that's home to 22 million people, there's been a fresh round of curbs, with residents asked not to leave.

The Oman futures-Dubai swaps gauge, which slipped below \$1 for one day in April, has mostly commanded multiple-dollar premiums since the invasion of Ukraine. It spiked as high as \$15 in March as many buyers started shunning Russian oil, raising the appeal of Mideast crude and boosting the premium.

With physical trading this month mostly concluded for January-loading cargoes, spot premiums for key Persian Gulf grades have declined sharply. While China's Rongsheng Petrochemical Co. did purchase about 7 million barrels mid-month, that wasn't enough to lift the sentiment, traders of those grades said.

Meanwhile, another physical market indicator -- inter-month Dubai swaps -- flipped into contango on Friday, signaling bearishness for December through April, PVM Oil Associates data showed. Before this week, the last time it was in contango was in April 2021.

Brent traded at \$85.72 a barrel on Friday after hitting \$82.31 on Monday, the lowest intraday price since January.

BoT warns unlicensed firms, individual lenders

By Guardian Reporter

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has issued a warning to unlicensed lenders, including individuals and company, saying they should stop doing so immediately.

The warning was issued on Thursday this week by the microfinance management department of the directorate of financial sector supervision.

The warning has been issued as number of unlicensed lenders; both companies and individual are continuing to lend funds to Tanzanians with exorbitant interest rates.

BoT said unlicensed lending activity is illegal against the law and firms and individual involved in the business may face the penalty of 20mn/- penalty or two years in jail

"Bank of Tanzania has discovered that there are some institutions, companies and individuals who are currently involved with lending without licenses, which is contrary to section 16 (1) of the microfinance services Act 2018," reads the central bank public notice.

The central bank went on informing the public that institutions, companies and individuals who have no licenses are not allowed to conduct a lending business.

"Apart from this notice, BoT would like to warn the citizen to avoid borrowing or doing business with unlicensed

institutions, companies and individuals who are not licensed," it says.

BoT therefore said in a notice that the list of licensed institutions, companies and individuals to conduct lending businesses are obtained from its website.

The Guardian survey shows individual lenders in rural areas are currently lending funds to people at an interest rate of 30 percent per month, which is equivalent to 360 percent per annum.

This is against the current market lending interest rate by banks and licensed financial institutions of 16-20 percent per annum.

The survey also shows most of the lenders are now operating in rural areas and few are in urban areas, with local government authorities offices are being used as guarantors of the loans.

In urban areas, unlicensed lenders are charging an interest of 20 percent per month with securities which include personal property and in case someone fails to repay, the debt accumulates further.

For example, if someone borrows 100,000/- he/she is supposed to repay 120,000 within 30 days and if another month passed, the borrower will be obliged to pay 144,000/- and the third month will accumulate to 172,000/-.

Oman, Tanzania to set up multimodal logistics park

Muscat

Asyad Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tanzania Post to explore the potential of establishing a multimodal logistics business park and e-commerce hub in the city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Building on its advanced e-commerce solutions, Asyad is expanding its presence to the Tanzanian markets in furtherance to its long-standing partnership with Tanzania Post.

The expansion aims to boost cross-border trade and increase the flow of e-commerce between the two countries, all while expanding their collective reach through East Africa and the Middle East using Tanzania Post as the entry gateway.

The MoU was signed by Nasser al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, and Macrice Daniel Mbodo, Postmaster General of TPC, in Muscat on Thursday this week.

The memorandum aims at augmenting revenues and employing Asyad Group's offering and expertise to enable and accelerate Tanzania Post's express and e-commerce capabilities.

As per the MoU, the multimodal logistics business park will be designed to serve as a one-stop-shop solution for all services required to ensure the development of a world-class e-commerce hub. These include a range of products and services, such as warehousing, fulfilment centre and cold chain solutions, as well as courier express parcels (CEP), container freight solutions and freight forwarding, driven by logistics technology and digital solutions.



Nasser al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, and Macrice Daniel Mbodo, Postmaster General of TPC, after signing the MoU in Muscat on Thursday. Photo by Oman News Agency

The MoU also targets conducting a feasibility study to provide a strategic direction for the project execution roadmap and investment strategy, taking the original partnership between Tanzania Post and Asyad to the next level.

This involves assessing the overall feasibility of establishing a fully-fledged logistics park in Tanzania offering multimodal logistics services that connect Oman to Tanzania and open the East Africa region for end-to-end logistics using Tanzania as a regional logistics hub.

Nape Moses Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania, said that this MoU will contribute to expanding the partnership be-

tween the two sides in the fields of logistics and trade exchange.

On his turn, Nasser al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, said, "This MoU signed between Asyad Group and Tanzania Post is a significant addition to the Group's toolkit, as it helps translate our commercial plans to position Oman as a global logistics hub and a transit gateway to East Africa, the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf and India. We are proud to pursue our efforts to enter the Tanzanian market in a way that further improves the global logistics sector and enables its development in the East Africa Region. We plan to utilise this cooperation to continue to launch our world-class logistics services in African markets which

will unlock bilateral trade opportunities and allow us to deploy additional commercial and logistics offerings, with a key focus on e-commerce activities in the rapidly growing Tanzanian market," he said.

Macrice Daniel Mbodo, Postmaster General of Tanzanian Posts Corporation (TPC), said, "Asyad Group is the leading provider of e-commerce supply chain solutions in Oman, and we will work closely together under this partnership to empower our businesses to reach customers in Oman and the world and connect the Tanzanian and Omani markets with top-notch logistics solutions." - ONA

TechnoServe, Citi Foundation partner to empowering SMEs

By Francis Kajubi

CITI Foundation and international nonprofit TechnoServe yesterday launched the sixth phase of the Pan-African Youth Entrepreneurship Development (PAYED-6) program, a partnership to support the growth of micro-retailers in Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, and Côte d'Ivoire.

The PAYED 6 program will support the 1,600 youth micro-retailers with training in business, financial management, marketing, inventory management, and customer-service skills.

The program will implement fully digital training for all participants, building upon the digital

young micro-retailers acquire the skills and connections they need to grow their businesses.

Micro enterprises continue to be a backbone for the economies of Africa, with micro-retailers taking on an increasingly important role in ensuring access to critical goods like food, medicine, and hygiene products in their communities.

He said Citi employees in Tanzania will continue to volunteer in the program by providing training on business skills.

"The program will recruit entrepreneurial youth in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Nairobi, Kenya; Port Harcourt, Nigeria; and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire;

tools that have been tried and tested in the previous phases and further enhancing their effectiveness.

Speaking at the launch of the program in Dar-es-Salaam yesterday, Citi Tanzania CEO Geoffrey Mchangila said the initiative is aligned to Citi's values of creating sustainability and enabling economic progress.

This sixth phase of the

PAYED program will target a number of sectors within micro-retail, including fast-moving consumer goods, cosmetics, clothes, and phone shops," he said.

Citi's Europe Middle East and Africa Head, David Livingstone, said half the participants will be women, and five percent of program participants will be persons with disabilities, helping to create a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"I commend the team on this partnership that will create a platform where micro retailers will have a peer-to-peer learning environment, capacity building, mentorship, and access to information sessions on trends in the sector" said Livingstone.

Alice Waweru, PAYED regional program manager said "Although COVID-19 and other economic downturns have affected many micro businesses globally and especially in Africa, the youth businesses in the PAYED program showed strong resilience and a remarkable surge of innovation, which have helped them to continue growing and creating new employment opportunities."

Tunsime Kyando, PAYED program manager and Country Director TechnoServe Tanzania thanked Citi and the Citi Foundation for yet another phase of the program that will allow us to bring this support to an increased number of youth entrepreneurs.

"In Tanzania PAYED project does not only affect youth Micro retail, but also the government and other stakeholders across the value chain. We appreciate the partnership with Citi foundation and look for more opportunities for decent job creation among youth through the Micro retail sector in Tanzania" said Kyando.

According to her, through the project TechnoServe will work with the government, financial institutions, suppliers and digital service providers to position youth entrepreneurs and micro retail sector in Tanzania visible and more strategic for sustainable economy and creation of more decent job opportunities.



Citi Head of Europe, Middle East, and Africa, David Livingstone (left) shakes hands with Tunsime Kyando, Country director TechnoServe Tanzania during the launch of PAYED-6 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. On the right are Citi Tanzania CEO Geoffrey Mchangila and Alice Waweru, TechnoServe regional programme manager, PAYED programme, Sub-Saharan Africa. Photo: Courtesy of TechnoServe.

Ghana plans to buy oil with gold instead of dollars

ACCRA

Ghana's government is working on a new policy to buy oil products with gold rather than U.S. dollar reserves, Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia (pictured) said on Facebook.

The move is meant to tackle dwindling foreign currency reserves coupled with demand for dollars by oil importers, which is weakening the local cedi and increasing living costs.

Ghana's Gross International Reserves stood at around \$6.6 billion at the end of September 2022, equating to less than three months of imports cover. That is down from around \$9.7 billion at the end of last year, according to the government.

If implemented as planned for the first quarter of 2023, the new policy "will fundamentally change our balance



of payments and significantly reduce the persistent depreciation of our currency," Bawumia said.

Using gold would prevent the ex-

change rate from directly impacting fuel or utility prices as domestic sellers would no longer need foreign exchange to import oil products, he

explained.

"The barter of gold for oil represents a major structural change," he added.

The proposed policy is uncommon. While countries sometimes trade oil for other goods or commodities, such deals typically involve an oil-producing nation receiving non-oil goods rather than the opposite.

Ghana produces crude oil but it has relied on imports for refined oil products since its only refinery shut down after an explosion in 2017.

Bawumia's announcement was posted as Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta announced measures to cut spending and boost revenues in a bid to tackle a spiraling debt crisis.

In a 2023 budget presentation to parliament on Thursday, Ofori-Atta warned the West African nation was at high risk of debt distress and that the cedi's depreciation was seriously affecting Ghana's ability to manage its public debt.

The government is negotiating a relief package with the International Monetary Fund as the cocoa, gold and oil-producing nation faces its worst economic crisis in a generation.

Twitter shuts down Brussels office, cut jobs

BRUSSELS

Twitter's decision to shut down its Brussels office and the laying off of thousands of employees are drawing concerns on whether the company can comply with new tough European Union rules against illegal online content, EU justice chief Didier Reynders said on Thursday.

Reynders, who met with Twitter representatives at the social media platform's European headquarters in Dublin, sought clarifications from the company, a European Commission official told Reuters.

"Twitter representatives reaffirmed the commitment of the company to ensure full compliance with EU rules. Commissioner Reynders took note of it and asked Twitter to translate this commitment into concrete measures," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The new rules known as the Digital Services Act, which will apply from February 2024, require online platforms to do more to police the internet for illegal content or risk fines as much as 6% of their annual global turnover.

Twitter has fired top executives and enforced steep job cuts with little warning following billionaire Elon Musk's tumultuous takeover of the company last month. About half of the workforce - around 3,700 employees - has been laid off while more than 1,000 have resigned.

Twitter's last two Brussels-based employees are no longer with the company, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. The team, which interacted with Commission officials on policy and regulatory issues, had originally numbered six people.

Reynders also warned Twitter and other tech companies to do more to tackle online hate speech after the latest data showed they had removed less content this year than in previous years.

Cotton smallholder farmers to benefit from WFP project

WASHINGTON

Global stocks and currencies were mixed amid a subdued tone in markets on Friday. Treasuries climbed as trading resumed after the Thanksgiving holiday in the US.

Futures contracts for the S&P 500 and Nasdaq 100 rose following recent commentary from Federal Reserve officials that supported the case a slower pace of interest-rate increases. European equities futures inched lower.

Hong Kong-listed technology stocks led declines among Chinese shares as investors weighed recent gains against an upswing in Covid-19 infections. Mainland benchmarks managed to eke out small gains in the face of lockdown-like re-

strictions affecting parts of Beijing.

The dollar fluctuated after three straight days of losses.

US markets will have a shortened session on Friday after the full-day closure Thursday.

Yields on Japan's benchmark 10-year bond rose one basis point to 0.25%, the top of the central bank's target band, after Tokyo's inflation picked up more speed to hit its fastest pace in 40 years.

Malaysia's ringgit extended a rally as the appointment of a new prime minister cleared the political gridlock that has gripped the nation since recent elections.

The won climbed after the central bank governor said he needed to see strong signs of inflation under control before dis-

cussing any prospect of a pivot away from policy tightening.

The outlook for Chinese markets is improving, despite the current flareup in virus cases, according to Jun Bei Liu, a portfolio manager at Tribeca Investment Partners.

"In the next 12 months things will get better. We have seen this playbook before across other economies," she said on Bloomberg Television. "We'll begin to see outperformance very soon in the next few quarters."

Oil headed for a third weekly loss as the European Union weighs a higher-than-expected price cap on flows of Russian crude and slowdown concerns threaten the outlook for energy demand.



Tesla to recall 67,698 vehicles in China

BEIJING

Electric carmaker Tesla is recalling 67,698 vehicles in China over software problems, which involve imported Model S and Model X vehicles, China's top watchdog said Friday.

The recall covers parts of the vehicles produced between Sept. 25, 2013 and Nov. 21, 2020, according to a statement filed with the State Administration for Market Regulation.

Due to software faults, the battery management system will miscalculate and display warnings such as "maintenance required" and "safe parking" on the screen. As a result, the vehicle will gradually stop power output and this may lead to collisions in extreme cases.

The company has promised to conduct free software updates on the recalled vehicles to fix the problem.

NCBA writes off sh11bn Fuliza, M-Shwari loans

NAIROBI

NCBA Bank will write off more than Sh11.25 billion of bad loans under its digital platforms being the hardest-hit lender in the recent banking sector framework aimed at removing Kenyans from negative credit listing.

The lender has said it is engaging borrowers under digital platforms - Fuliza and M-Shwari - who have defaulted on short-term loans to cancel 50 per cent of the amount and repay half within six months.

This comes after the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) announced a credit repair framework seeking to remove phone digital borrowers from negative listing on credit reference bureaus (CRBs) and improve their credit standing.

The outstanding value of non-performing loans (NPLs) disbursed through digital platforms was estimated at Sh30 billion at the end of October. Out of this, Fuliza and Mshwari combined account for Sh22.5 billion over a 10-year period, with a significant part under the overdraft facility shared with Safaricom and KCB, Fuliza.

This means NCBA Bank which controls the lion's share in the digital lending market of about 75 per cent will cancel the largest share of these loans at Sh11.25 billion as the country's banking industry moves to adopt the credit score method.

"Of the Sh15 billion, M-Shwari and Fuliza combined we are accounting for Sh11 billion of that. The context is important; we are looking as far as back as 10 years against most digital lenders who have existed from the last year," NCBA chief finance officer David Abuya said.



"We have already instituted this change. We have already completed the reclassification of more than five million M-Shwari and Fuliza customers. The communications to each individual began going out on Wednesday."

The framework is expected to en-

able more than 4.2 million mobile phone digital borrowers negatively listed with CRBs to repay the balance and be issued with a credit score if they complete within the window of up to May 31, 2023.

The framework will cover loans with a repayment period of 30 days

or less and those offered by banks, microfinance banks and mortgage finance companies through mobile phones.

"Our plans are well advanced and effective December 1, all recent customers will be getting a discount of at least 50 per cent. We will also be con-

sidering enhancing that discount for customers who would be able to pay back sooner," Abuya added.

The total value is Sh30 billion, representing 0.8 per cent of the gross banking sector loan portfolio of Sh3.6 trillion at the end of October 2022.

China local governments face debt squeeze

BEIJING

Signs are growing in China that local government debt burdens are becoming unsustainable.

China's 31 provincial governments have a stockpile of outstanding bonds that's close to the Ministry of Finance's risk threshold of 120% of income. Breaching that line could mean regions will face more regulatory hurdles to borrow, hampering their ability to drive up economic growth.

In addition, local authorities will face a massive maturity wall over the next five years as bonds worth almost 15 trillion yuan (\$2.1 trillion) -- more than 40% of their outstanding debt -- fall due.

While there's little risk of provincial governments defaulting, they will run into increasing difficulty in repaying their debts. More and more bonds will need to be sold to roll over maturing ones rather than to finance new spending and as a result, investment growth may suffer.

A major cause of the financial squeeze is the property crisis. Revenue from land sales -- which in the past made up about 30% of local gov-



China President Xi Jinping during the CCP meeting

ernments' income -- has plummeted. On top of that, trillions of yuan in tax breaks were doled out to businesses to help them cope with the economy's slowdown over the past few years.

The central government recently acknowledged for the first time concerns about special local bond repayment risks, urging Shenzhen, the technology hub that neighbors Hong Kong, to consider setting up a provision fund to prevent debt payment risks. Shenzhen's finances are in better shape than many other cities or provinces, and it's a sort of test area for fiscal reforms.

At an October meeting of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, the country's parliament, some delegates warned it would be "difficult to repay as scheduled" local government debt maturing in the next couple of years. They called for contingency plans to be made early.

Economists like Ding Shuang at Standard Chartered Plc say the national government should take on more of the debt burden by borrowing more. Yu Yongding, a former central bank adviser, and other economists made a similar call in a report earlier this month, saying

the central government should sell more debt, particularly of general bonds which could be used to invest in infrastructure.

"It should be the central government, rather than provinces, to add leverage -- regional finances have turned quite weak over the past few years," Ding said. "The government will come under more and more pressure to make the change. It is a matter of time."

China set the risk threshold for provincial debt at 120% of their "comprehensive financial resources" -- widely regarded as the combined income from the general public budget and the government fund budget, as well as transfer payments from the central government.

Before 2020, the ratio was fairly stable, with Beijing's push to curb debt helping to bring it down slightly. The ratio has surged since then as the government ramped up fiscal stimulus during the pandemic. Provincial debt jumped to 118% of income by the end of September from 83% in 2019, according to Bloomberg calculations based

on official data.

Local governments' revenue, by contrast, has weakened substantially, largely due to the property slump and the plunge in land sales. The annual increase in overall local income weakened to just 2.5% last year, compared with 7.1% in 2019 and double-digit growth in the two years prior to that.

"The stubbornly faster growth of explicit government borrowing than the authorities' financial resources means their debt pressure will continue to rise," Yewei Yang, chief bond analyst at Guosheng Securities Co. wrote in a November note. "That will pose new challenges to the room for fiscal policy in future and fiscal health and stability."

The northern port city of Tianjin has the highest debt-to-income ratio among all provincial-level authorities, partly because it gets the least transfer payments from the central government, Yang estimated. The burdens faced by Jilin and Liaoning in the northeast, along with Chongqing, Guizhou and Yunnan in the southwest, are

also among the heaviest in the country, he said.

Tianjin's outstanding debt was about 207% of its overall income last year, almost double the national level of 106%, Bloomberg calculations based on government figures show.

To bring overall borrowing below the threshold, high-risk regions will be required to curb the size of their investment projects, cut public spending, and dispose of assets, according to a report by the Ministry of Finance. Some provinces, such as Anhui in central China, have already moved to ban risky areas from adding new debt.

The fastest growing portion of provinces' debt pool is special bonds. These are funds mainly raised to finance infrastructure investment, which helps to drive economic growth. Nearly 11 trillion yuan of new special bonds have been issued since 2020, more than double what was sold in the five years from 2015, when local governments were first allowed to issue the notes on their own.

Dollar set for weekly loss

SINGAPORE

The US dollar stood close to a three-month low and was headed for a weekly loss on Friday, as the prospect of the Federal Reserve slowing monetary policy tightening as soon as December preoccupied investors and kept the mood buoyant.

Trading was thin overnight due to the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States, though a softer dollar remained in focus.

Sterling rose more than 0.5% overnight and last stood at \$1.2103, close to its over three-month high of \$1.2153 hit in the previous session and on track for a nearly 2% weekly gain.

The Aussie firmed to \$0.6765 and was on track for a weekly gain of more than 1%.

The euro gained 0.02% to \$1.0413, edging toward an over four-month high of \$1.0481 hit last week.

"We've still got the third successive day of positive risk sentiment ... I think that is keeping the U.S. dollar subdued pretty much across the board," said Ray Attrill, head of FX strategy at National Australia Bank.

Minutes from the Fed's November meeting released earlier this week showed that a "substantial majority" of policymakers agreed it would "likely soon be appropriate" to slow the pace of interest rate rises -- remarks that sent the greenback tumbling.

The Fed's aggressive rate increases and market expectations of how high the central bank could take them has been a huge driver of the dollar's 10% surge this year.

Against a basket of currencies, the U.S. dollar index stood at 105.83, testing its three-month trough of 105.30 hit last week. It is down more than 1% for the week.

Also aiding risk sentiment slightly was a survey that showed that German business morale rose further than expected in November.

The Fed aside, accounts of the European Central Bank's October meeting released overnight showed that policymakers fear

that inflation may be getting entrenched in the euro zone. While the ECB firmly committed to further rate rises, markets are now expecting a more modest, 50 basis point move at the December meeting.

"We have the euro zone inflation numbers next week, so I think they are going to be a big test of market pricing ... were we to get another upside surprise on that, then I think that would bring 75 bp back on the agenda," said Attrill.

Elsewhere, the Japanese yen was last at 138.635 to the dollar, after rising some 0.7% overnight.

Core consumer prices in Japan's capital rose at their fastest annual pace in 40 years in November, exceeding the central bank's 2% target for a sixth straight month, government data showed.

The New Zealand dollar slid 0.1% to \$0.6257 but remained close to its three-month peak hit in the previous session.

The kiwi was eyeing a weekly gain of more than 1.5%, aided by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's 75 bp rate increase this week and its hawkish rate outlook.

In China, markets were also closely watching for an expected cut in banks' reserve requirement ratio (RRR).

China will use timely cuts in banks' RRR, alongside other monetary policy tools, to keep liquidity reasonably ample, state media quoted a cabinet meeting as saying.

"We believe it's likely the PBoC (People's Bank of China) may cut RRR by 25 bp for most banks in the next couple of weeks (or even days)," said analysts at Nomura.

"That being said, the RRR is likely to only have a limited positive impact, as we believe the real hurdle for the economy lies in local officials' more zealous implementation of COVID restrictions rather than insufficient loanable funds."

The offshore Chinese yuan was last at 7.1625 to the dollar and was headed for a weekly loss, as COVID worries continue to weigh.



ITV		CAPITAL											
<p>TUESDAY 22 Nov</p> <p>5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:25 Jagina rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 World Cup review</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Afya ya jamii</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>13:35 Shikabamba</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shikabamba</p> <p>14:10 Kipindi maalum rpt: PSSSF</p> <p>14:25 Igizo rpt: Rebeca</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live</p> <p>19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF</p> <p>21:45 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>19:00 Jarida la wanawake</p> <p>19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Abu Yako</p> <p>21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:40 Kipindi maalum: Pesa Fasta</p> <p>22:00 Ripoti maalum</p> <p>22:30 Soap: Uzalo</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>THURSDAY 24 Nov</p> <p>5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 World Cup review</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: TET</p> <p>13:30 Shamsnam za pwani rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Shamsnam za pwani rpt</p> <p>14:30 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Jagina</p> <p>18:45 Kipindi Maalum: PSSSF</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri Wako</p> <p>19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>14:30 hakama ya TZ</p> <p>15:00 DW: Afrimax rpt</p> <p>16:30 Meza Huru</p> <p>17:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:30 The Base (DJ Show)</p> <p>18:00 Kiisam</p> <p>18:15 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>18:30 Uchumi wetu</p> <p>19:00 Shamba lulu</p> <p>19:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipima Joto</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>FRIDAY 25 Nov</p> <p>5:00 Igizo rpt: Uzalo</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri Wako</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 World Cup review</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt</p> <p>13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ</p>	<p>SATURDAY 26 Nov</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Usafiri wako</p> <p>11:00 World Cup review</p> <p>12:00 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt</p> <p>12:40 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>13:20 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>14:15 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt</p> <p>16:15 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:30 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>17:00 Shamsnam za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka</p> <p>21:15 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>21:40 Art and Lifestyle</p> <p>22:10 ITV Top 10</p> <p>22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>01:15 DWTV</p>	<p>SUNDAY 27 Nov</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt</p> <p>11:50 Bongo Movie rpt:</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:30 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:30 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Rebeca</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko</p> <p>21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology</p> <p>21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe</p> <p>21:30 Mjuzi Zaidi</p> <p>22:15 Bongo movie:</p> <p>23:30 Soap: Uzalo rpt</p> <p>02:05 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>Tues 22 Nov</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Club 101 rpt</p> <p>11:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>11:30 Monday agenda rpt</p> <p>12:15 Spots gazette</p> <p>12:45 Filler doc</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00</p> <p>Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Culinary Delights Rpt</p> <p>16:30 Capchat rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Innovation</p> <p>19:30 Our Earth</p> <p>20:00 Décor Rpt</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime</p> <p>22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt</p> <p>22:30 Eco@Africa</p> <p>23:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Club 101 rpt</p> <p>11:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>11:30 Capchat</p> <p>12:30 Décor</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00</p> <p>Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Dw News Africa rpt</p> <p>16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Rev</p> <p>19:00 Out & About Rpt</p> <p>20:00 Abu Yako</p> <p>20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30</p> <p>Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>Wed 23 Nov</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Club 101 rpt</p> <p>11:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Our Earth</p> <p>12:30 Dw News Africa rpt</p> <p>12:30 Turning the spotlight</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00</p> <p>Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Business Edition Rpt</p> <p>16:30 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>17:00 Innovation rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Sports Gazette</p> <p>19:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>20:00 Monday Agenda Rpt</p> <p>20:45 Out n' About</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Dakika 45:</p> <p>22:45 The Décor</p> <p>23:15 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>08:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 Rev rpt</p> <p>09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>10:00 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>10:30 Innovation rpt</p> <p>11:00 Out n'about rpt</p> <p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt</p> <p>12:30 Our Earth rpt</p> <p>13:00 Business edition rpt</p> <p>13:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15</p> <p>Eco@Africa</p> <p>17:45 Bundesliga kick off</p> <p>18:15 Capchat rpt</p> <p>19:15 Mizengwe</p> <p>19:30 The Décor</p> <p>20:00 Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>20:30 Tomorrow Today</p> <p>21:00 Out n' About</p> <p>21:30 Music: Club 101 rpt</p> <p>23:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>01:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>Thurs 24 Nov</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Club 101 rpt</p> <p>11:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:00 Spots gazette</p> <p>12:00 Innovation</p> <p>12:30 Culinary</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Tomorrow Today</p> <p>16:30 Business edition rpt</p> <p>17:00 In good shape</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the spotlight</p> <p>19:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>20:00 Our Earth rpt</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30</p> <p>Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>23:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>08:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Dw</p> <p>12:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Dw</p> <p>15:15 Abu yako</p> <p>15:30 Rev rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Décor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Jagina</p> <p>20:30 Out & About rpt</p> <p>21:00 Dw News Africa</p> <p>21:30 Capchat live</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>Frid 25 Nov</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p>



Vatican court hears secretly taped phone call with pope

VATICAN CITY

A COURT at a Vatican corruption trial on Thursday heard a secretly recorded telephone call between the main defendant, embattled Cardinal Angelo Becciu, and Pope Francis.

The recording was made without the pope's knowledge by someone in a room with Becciu in July 2021, shortly before the trial began and while the pope was still recovering from major intestinal surgery, the court was told.

Reporters were asked to leave the room while the tape was played but lawyers who heard it said Becciu asked the pope to confirm that the pontiff had authorized a payment to help release a nun who had been kidnapped in Africa.

The lawyers said that on the call pope seemed perplexed and confused by why Becciu was calling and that the pontiff repeatedly asked the cardinal to

send him a written note about what he wanted.

In 2018, Becciu, then the third most powerful person in the Vatican, hired co-defendant Cecilia Marogna, a self-styled security analyst, to free a Columbian nun who was kidnapped in Mali by an al Qaeda-linked group.

Marogna, 44, received 575,000 euros (\$598,630) from the Secretariat of State, the Vatican's most important department, in 2018 to 2019 when Becciu was working there. The money was sent to a company she had set up in Slovenia and she received some in cash, the court has been told.

The police discovered Marogna had spent much of the money for personal use, including luxury brand clothing and visits to health spas.

She is charged with embezzlement and Becciu is charged with embezzlement, corruption, and abuse of office.



Cardinal Angelo Becciu attends the consistory inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, on Aug 27, 2022. File photo

They, like the other eight defendants, have denied all wrongdoing.

The chief prosecutor at the trial, Alessandro Diddi, told reporters on Thursday that he had begun a new tangent of his investigation in which he suspects Becciu of criminal conspiracy. He said he deposited the details with the court.

Becciu's lawyers said in a statement they were not aware of any new accusations. The statement did not comment on the secretly recorded phone call.

A year before the trial started, Francis fired Becciu on suspicion of nepotism. Becciu denies doing anything to help his family financially.

On Thursday Becciu faced his main accuser, his former top aide Monsignor Alberto Perlasca. He told the court how he was ordered to make payments he considered unusual.

He said he sent 100,000 euros to a charity in Sardinia, not knowing at the time that it was linked to Becciu's family.

Becciu has said the charity helped create jobs in a poor area.

The trial revolves around the purchase of a building in London by the Secretariat of State. The 10 defendants include former Vatican employees and Italian middle men who the prosecution says extorted the Vatican.

Agencies

Trump sued again by writer for defamation, battery, over alleged rape

NEW YORK

DONALD Trump was sued for defamation a second time on Thursday by a writer who accused the former US president of lying by denying that he raped her 27 years ago.

In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, the former Elle magazine columnist E. Jean Carroll also accused Trump of battery in an alleged encounter at the Bergdorf Goodman department store in Manhattan.

Carroll, 78, brought the battery claim under New York's Adult Survivors Act, a new law giving sexual assault victims a one-year window to sue their alleged abusers, even if the abuse occurred long ago and statutes of limitations have expired.

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, was the first day that accusers could sue.

Trump, 76, has denied raping Carroll or knowing her at the time, and said she was "not my type."

His first denial in June 2019 prompted her to sue for defa-

mation five months later.

He repeated the denial in an Oct 12 post on his Truth Social account, calling Carroll's claim a "hoax" and "lie," prompting the new defamation claim.

Both sides are awaiting appeals court decisions addressing Trump's argument that he was legally immune from Carroll's first lawsuit because he had spoken in his capacity as president.

If courts agreed that the US government, which has sovereign immunity from defamation claims, could be substituted for Trump as a defendant, Carroll's first lawsuit would fail.

That would likely not affect her second lawsuit because Trump is a private citizen, having left the White House in January 2021.

Carroll is seeking unspecified damages. To support her battery claim, she said Trump caused her lasting psychological harm, and left her unable to sustain a romantic relationship. The first lawsuit is scheduled for trial on Feb 6, 2023, before US District Judge Lewis Kaplan in Manhattan, but will



Former US President Donald Trump announces that he will once again run for US president in the 2024 US presidential election during an event at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, US Nov 15, 2022. FILE PHOTO / REUTERS

likely be delayed because of the appeals process.

At a hearing on Tuesday, Carroll's lawyer Roberta Kaplan asked for an April 10 trial covering both lawsuits, saying they have substantial overlap. Trump's lawyer Alina Habba sought a May 8 trial for only the first lawsuit. She also told the judge a longer delay made

sense because Trump had not hired a lawyer for the second lawsuit.

"Your client in the present action, Ms Habba, has known this was coming for months, and he would be well-advised to decide who is representing him in it," the judge responded.

Judge Kaplan said he may decide early next week how to schedule both lawsuits.

Agencies

Zelensky calls for alienation of Crimea from Russia, which is ruled out – Kremlin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW sees Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's statement about Kiev's wish to retake Crimea "by non-military means" as a discussion about the alienation of Russian territories, which is out of the question, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"For us, this is nothing but a discussion over an aliena-

tion of a territory from Russia. There can be no other understanding here. This is out of the question," Peskov said, when asked for a comment on Zelensky's statement.

"Such speculations indicate once again the unpreparedness, unwillingness and inability of the Ukrainian side to be ready to resolve the problem by non-military methods," Peskov added.

Earlier, Zelensky in an in-



terview with the British daily Financial Times said that he would be "only in favor", if someone was ready to offer a way of retaking Crimea by non-military means.

Peskov pointed out that a number of media outlets "absolutely misrepresented the essence of that statement," interpreting it "almost as President Zelensky's readiness to deal with this issue not by military means, but by peace

talks."

"This is an absolutely wrong interpretation," Peskov emphasized. "You know that from the very beginning - in fact, the president [of Russia Vladimir Putin] mentioned this more than once, even before the start of the special military operation - Ukraine's constitution says that Crimea must be retaken by force. De facto Ukraine has not given up on this."

Agencies

In Britain, nurses prepare for unprecedented strike over pay

LONDON

CHUKWUDUBEM Ifeajuna, a nurse in the south of England, loves his job, but next month will walk out for two days as part of British nurses' biggest ever strike action, which he says is necessary for staff and patient welfare alike.

The industrial action on Dec 15 and Dec 20 is unprecedented in the British nursing union's 106-year history, and comes as the state-run National Health Service (NHS) braces for one of its toughest winters ever.

Ifeajuna has seen members of his team leave to work in supermarkets, where there is less stress and better pay, while he has had to cut back on spending.

"I have a few staff who are using food banks at the moment. I've had to cut down on a lot of things with the kids which I can't afford to provide for them because of the high cost of living. So it's really really tough, for everyone, not just myself," he told Reuters.

"We are striking because we deserve to be paid better. We haven't had decent pay for over a decade now."

Strike action is also impacting Britain's rail, postal and education sectors as workers struggle with soaring prices. Patricia Marquis, director of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) union in England, said the government must listen.

"This is not something that nurses do at the drop of a hat," she told Reuters.

'Most vicious of cycles'

The RCN says experienced nurses like Ifeajuna are 20 percent worse off in real terms than they were in 2010 after a string of below-inflation pay awards, and are seeking a pay-rise of 5 percent above RPI (retail price index) inflation.

That would amount to a payrise of 19.2 percent, based on October's inflation data. The government says the RCN demands would cost 10 billion pounds (\$12.14 billion) a year and are unaffordable.

But the RCN's Marquis said that without higher pay, staff would continue to leave the profession, increasing the pressure on those who remain and ultimately damaging patient care.

Billy Palmer, at the Nuffield Trust health think-tank, told Reuters that those who were considering leaving "often cite issues around not having enough staff to do a good job", but their departure further exacerbates the staffing problem.



A man receives a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at Babington Hospital in Belper on Dec 16, 2021. File photo

EU regulator warns of COVID-19 rise in 'cold winter,' urges revaccination efforts

THE HAGUE

THE EU's medicines regulator on Thursday urged Europe to prepare for a new wave of COVID-19 as "cold winter months" arrive.

"Over the last weeks we have not seen a major increase in COVID-19 case rates in the EU as a result of rising immunity following vaccinations and natural infections," Marco Cavaleri, head of Health Threats and Vaccines Strategy of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), told an online press briefing.

"However, this could change rapidly as we are getting into the cold winter months," Cavaleri said. "This virus is maintaining a fast pace in its evolution and new sub variants of Omicron such as BQ.1.1 and its offsprings are on the rise and replacing Omicron BA.5."

These strains show "an increased propensity for immune evasion and growth advantage," he noted, expressing concern that new sub variants like BQ.1.1 are "escaping neutralization by the currently available monoclonal antibody products, which is expected to translate into poor clinical efficacy."

Vaccine booster uptake in the last few months has been "rather disappointing," with the European average rate at only 29 percent in people at highest risk, including those aged above 60 with chronic conditions and immunocompromised, he said. It is of concern that those most at risk of hospitalization or severe COVID-19 are not adequately protected, he said, calling for more efforts to increase the revaccination rate of vulnerable groups to avoid rising hospitalization in the coming months. "The risk of severe COVID increases exponentially with age above 60. The older you are, the more you are at risk and vaccines can save your life," he added.

Xinhua

Western Sahara: UNSG meets King Mohammed VI amid Morocco's diplomatic gains

RABAT

KING Mohammed VI received on Wednesday the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres at the royal palace in Rabat, according to a statement from the royal court.

The UN Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to King Mohammed VI for the success of the 9th Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), held in Fez.

The forum aims to bring together experts and policymakers to discuss innovative ideas to solve a wide range of

world issues.

Guterres welcomed Morocco's adoption of a "strong and engaging" Declaration at the end of the UNAOC, adding that the adoption of the declaration is now "more than ever necessary in a troubled international context."

The UN Secretary further praised the Sovereign's ongoing commitment to promoting the values of openness, tolerance, dialogue, and respect for differences.

Highlighting Morocco's efforts to promote peace, Guterres called Morocco's contributions to the global peace process "constant and constructive."

Morocco is contributing to "the maintenance and consolidation of peace, the strengthening of stability, and the promotion of development, especially in Africa," the UN official said.

In the meeting, Guterres discussed with the Moroccan monarch the Western Sahara issue in light of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2654, adopted on October 27, 2022.

The resolution emphasized the importance of the involvement of all parties in the Western Sahara dispute to help find a mutually acceptable and an agreed-upon political solution to end the dispute over

Western Sahara.

The adoption comes in response to Algeria's reluctance to engage in the UN-led political process. The Algerian regime continues to claim to be merely an observer to the dispute.

Regarding the Sahara issue, King Mohammed VI reaffirmed Morocco's unwavering position in support of solving the dispute through the autonomy plan initiative that would safeguard Morocco's territorial integrity.

King Mohammed VI reiterated Morocco's support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal En-

voy, Stefan De Mistura, to oversee political stability in the region. The King equally affirmed Morocco's support for the UN body in the region MINURSO as an observer to the ceasefire.

The meeting between Morocco's King and Guterres took place with the presence of Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Miguel Graca, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Resident Abroad Nasser Bourita.

Agencies

COP27 draws mixed reactions in Pacific Island nations

SYDNEY

PACIFIC Island nations may not have got everything they hoped for at COP27, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt, but they, along with other poorer countries, did manage to get rich nations to agree to establish a loss and damage fund.

An achievement which Tuvalu's finance minister, Seve Paeniu, said was a "historic breakthrough" after almost three decades of climate talks.

Speaking on Radio New Zealand on Nov 22, Paeniu said: "This is something we have been seeking for years."

"This is a major breakthrough and a victory for the Pacific island countries."

Although details have yet to be worked out, the fund could see the richest, and worst carbon polluting countries, contributing to the cost of climate loss and damage that developing nations have incurred.

While welcoming the new fund, Paeniu, however, said that on the whole, COP27 was a "missed opportunity".

"It is regrettable that we haven't achieved equal success in our attempt to achieve the 1.5 degrees targets. It is regrettable that we haven't got strong language included in the cover decision before us on phasing out fossil fuels," he told RNZ, referring to a goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels.

The Marshall Islands' climate envoy, Kathy Jetmil-Kijiner, said world leaders need to take more responsibility and phase out fossil fuels immediately.

She told the COP27 closing plenary: "In my country, we face a level of threat that many in this room could only imagine. Act now, or like us, you won't have to imagine for long."

In an article published on Nov 20 on the academic website The Conversation, Matt McDonald, associate professor of international relations at the University of Queensland, noted that for 30 years developing nations have fought for an international fund to pay for



A hand reads "pay" calling for reparations for loss and damage at the COP27 UN Climate Summit, Nov 18, 2022, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. AP

the loss and damage they suffer because of climate change.

"At the COP27 climate summit they finally succeeded," he said.

However, he added: "While it's a historic moment, the agreement of loss and damage financing left many details yet to be sorted out. What's more, many critics have lamented the overall outcome of COP27, saying it falls well short of a sufficient response to the climate crisis."

He said there were hopes that COP27 would lead to new commitments on emissions reduction, renewed commitments for the transfer of resources to the developing world, and strong signals for

a transition away from fossil fuels.

While the Loss and damage Fund was a "big breakthrough", there is no clarity "in terms of donors, recipients or rules of accessing this fund", McDonald wrote.

Jacqueline Peel, director of Melbourne Climate Futures, a climate initiative of the University of Melbourne, said: "COP27 has shown that the fossil fuel industry and their country backers still wield considerable power."

"Their outsized presence in Egypt at this year's meeting has left a large black footprint on the cover text," she said.

"The commitment to 1.5 degrees is anaemic, the mitigation work pro-

gramme watered down, carbon markets left with some dark corners for shady deals, low emissions' recognized alongside renewable energy as energy sources of the future, and the failure to tighten Glasgow language on coal phase down to include other fossil fuels."

One of the few bright spots, she said, was the agreement on "new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change".

"It is a sign that ... a new era of accountability for climate change is dawning," Peel said.

The text on loss and damage is "ragged at the edges, a little lost itself and damaged after chaotic negotiation process but its inclusion – when just two weeks ago having the item on the agenda was itself a victory – is nothing short of miraculous", she said.

Peter Newman, professor of sustainability at Curtin University in Western Australia, said one of the things he noticed at the COP27 meeting was a "divergence of action deepening between states and non-state actors".

He said nation states are being barricaded into zero action by some states that are essentially fronts for large fossil fuel enterprises.

"They do not allow even the use of 'fossil fuels' or 'oil and gas' to be mentioned in documents or dialogue," Newton said.

"The baton has been passed to business, universities, cities and households to get on with the task of decarbonizing the future," he said, while outlining the need to rein in the "incredibly dangerous companies and their puppet states that want to drag us back from this transition".

Poll reveals level of Russian public's confidence in Putin

MOSCOW

THE proportion of Russian citizens' confidence in President Vladimir Putin rose to 0.7% and stood at 78.7%, according to the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center that published the results of a survey conducted from November 14 to 20 among 1,600 respondents aged over 18.

"When asked about trust in Putin, 78.7% of respondents answered positively (+0.7% over the week), the approval rate of the Russian president's work was 75% (+1.3% over the week)," the pollsters noted.

Positive assessment figures for the Prime Minister and the Russian government stood at 52.8% (+0.6%) and 49.1% (+0.1%), respectively," the report stressed. Mikhail Mishustin was trusted by 62% of respondents (+0.7% over the week).

Those surveyed also expressed their confidence in the heads of various parliamentary factions. Russia's Communist Party (CPRF) leader Gennady Zyuganov was trusted by 33.7% of respondents (+0.6%), Sergey Mironov, the leader of A Just Russia - For Truth, received 31.9% (-0.2%), the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Leonid Slutsky got 16.5% (-0.5%), and the leader of The New People party Alexey Nechaev procured 8.7% (+0.1%).

The poll also revealed that the level of support for the United Russia party stood at 38.8% (+0.3%), with the CPRF supported by 10.7% (+0.3%). The LDPR got 8.9% (no changes over the week), A Just Russia - For Truth was supported by 5.6% (no changes), and The New People party's figures came to 4.7% (-0.1%).



Agencies

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAS newly appointed Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday his primary focus would be on the cost of living as he takes office with a slowing economy and a country deeply split after a close election.

Anwar, 75, was sworn in as premier on Thursday, capping a three-decade political journey from a protégé of veteran leader Mahathir Mohamad to protest leader, a prisoner convicted of sodomy and opposition figurehead.

Anwar, who was appointed by Malaysia's king on Thursday following an inconclusive election, said his primary concern was the economy and he would have a smaller cabinet than those of previous administrations.

Malaysia's new PM Anwar says first priority is cost of living

"My priority now is addressing the cost of living," he told a news conference after reporting for duty at the prime minister's office.

Anwar has yet to announce any cabinet appointments for his coalition government. He had earlier indicated there would be two deputy prime ministers in his cabinet - one from former ruling alliance Barisan and another from smaller political blocs in Malaysia Borneo.

His appointment ended five days of unprecedented post-election crisis.

His rival, former prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin, had refused to concede, challenging Anwar to prove his majority in parliament. But on

Friday, Muhyiddin said he accepted Anwar's appointment and his bloc would play the role of the opposition.

The campaign for Saturday's election pitted Anwar's progressive, multi-ethnic coalition against Muhyiddin's mostly conservative ethnic-Malay, Muslim alliance.

But neither leader won a majority, which raised the risk of a standoff exacerbating instability in ethnically diverse Malaysia, which has had three prime ministers in as many years. The wrangling also risked delaying policy decisions needed to foster economic recovery.

The constitutional monarch, King Al-Sultan Abdullah, defused the crisis

by appointing Anwar after consultations with various politicians.

Anwar had over the course of his career been denied the premiership despite getting within striking distance several times. He also spent nearly a decade in jail for sodomy and corruption after what he says were politically motivated convictions. "Anwar's tasks have just started, to unite a very polarized and divided nation, based on race and religion," said former lawmaker and coalition ally Lim Kit Siang.

Markets surged on Thursday on the end of political deadlock, but investors will be monitoring how Anwar manages the aftermath of the elec-

tion.

Malaysian stocks on Friday morning were flat, after 4 percent gains the previous day, while the ringgit extended gains, up nearly 1 percent.

Two-thirds majority

Anwar's supporters expressed hope that his government would avert a return to historic tensions between the ethnic Malay, Muslim majority and ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

Anwar's coalition, known as Pakatan Harapan, won the most seats in Saturday's vote with 82, while Muhyiddin's Perikatan Nasional bloc won 73. They needed 112 - a simple majority - to form a government.

Agencies

China's Hefei builds world-leading high-tech zone

THE Hefei National High-tech Industry Development Zone (Hefei high-tech zone) in east China's Anhui province has explored a path of indigenous development featuring integrated scientific, technological, innovative and industrial progress.

It has generated a series of major innovative outcomes, such as a prototype of superconducting quantum computing, millimeter wave chips, the Micius satellite, proton knives, new steel materials for spacecraft, and atomic force microscopes.

On average, the Hefei high-tech zone sees the establishment of a company fueled by the commercialization of sci-tech outcomes on a daily basis and every week there are tech firms unveiling new innovations.

At the end of 2021, Geovis, a leading enterprise in the Chinese digital earth industry, reached an agreement with the Hefei high-tech zone to set up its global headquarters in Hefei. In just a few months, Geovis has registered four companies in the Hefei high-tech zone, which constitute an important part of the aerospace information industry in the high-tech zone.

Shao Zongyou, vice chairman and president of Geovis said that when the two sides were still in the negotiation stage, the Hefei high-tech zone has already shown that it attaches high importance to the development of the aerospace information industry and that it provides enterprises with resources matchmaking opportunities and other policy support.

To better grasp opportunities, the Hefei high-tech zone



The Hefei Software Park. (Photo provided by the Hefei National High-tech Industry Development Zone)

established a professional investment team that's visionary and familiar with industrial development and technologies.

At present, the Hefei high-tech zone is home to 53 enterprises and institutions engaged in the aerospace information industry, which employ nearly 5,000 people.

Over the past year, the high-tech zone signed and implemented 17 projects related to the aerospace information industry, with total investment of 16.7 billion yuan (\$2.34 billion). Besides, a batch of other quality projects are currently under negotiation.

Aligning the chains of innovation and industry is a guiding principle for the Hefei high-tech zone to advance industrial innovation.

The Yunfei Road in the high-tech zone, which is nicknamed the "Quantum Avenue," is home to some 20 quantum technology compa-

nies. It is a renowned "landmark" in the quantum technology industry.

In the "Speech Valley of China," China's first national-level industrial base in the artificial intelligence sector located in the Hefei high-tech zone, had attracted over 1,400 enterprises as of the end of 2021.

Wang Qiang, chairman of the Hefei Gaixin Development and Investment Group Company, noted that multiple 10-billion-yuan and 100-billion-yuan industrial clusters are taking shape in the Hefei high-tech zone thanks to the efforts made by the high-tech zone to develop the digital and green economy, as well as the healthcare and service sectors.

The Hefei high-tech zone has held a number of road shows, investment salons and investment summits to build matchmaking platforms

for investors and projects.

For instance, the Hefei Gaixin Development and Investment Group Company has launched a high-level exchange platform to assist enterprises to make innovations and promote in-depth integration between technology and finance.

Four sessions of the high-level exchange platform have been hosted since 2018, joined by over 150 companies in integrated circuit, big health, AI and intelligent manufacturing sectors, and 120 investment and financing institutions. The platform speeds up the commercialization of technologies and assists high-quality development of the regional economy.

An official from the Hefei high-tech zone said that the high-tech zone will unveil a master plan to introduce and foster a number of world-leading enterprises, according to which the numbers of high-tech firms and listed companies in the high-tech zone are expected to exceed 5,000 and 60, respectively. *People's Daily*

Australian inquiry finds ex-PM's secret ministries corroded trust

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA will introduce rules to increase transparency in ministerial appointments after an inquiry into secret ministerial appointments by then prime minister Scott Morrison found they corroded public trust in government.

Morrison (pictured), who lost power in a general election in May, secretly accumulated five ministerial roles during the coronavirus pandemic: health, finance, treasury, resources and home affairs.

Three ministers later said they did not know they were sharing power with Morrison.

An inquiry led by former High Court judge Virginia Bell found the appointments likely hurt public confidence in government. Echoing comments from the solicitor general, Bell said in a report issued on Friday, that the lack of parliamentary accountability undermined responsible government.

"Once the appointments became known, the secrecy with which they had been surrounded was corrosive of trust in government," Bell said.

Morrison said earlier the appointments were necessary during the pandemic to ensure con-

tinuity and as a precaution in case a minister was incapacitated. But the report raised doubts on both counts, arguing for example, that acting ministers could have been quickly appointed if needed.

In a statement shortly after the report was issued, Morrison noted the criticism but defended his actions as lawful and said he would continue in parliament.

Bell noted that because former prime minister Scott Morrison's extra powers had only been exercised once, the implications of the appointments were limited.

"As Prime Minister my awareness of issues regarding national security and the national interest was broader than that known to individual Ministers and certainly to the Inquiry," he said in a Facebook post.

"This limits the ability for third parties to draw definitive conclusions on such matters."

Bell recommended six changes, including legislation requiring public notice of ministerial appointments.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his government would adopt all six of the recommendations.

"We're shining sunlight on a shadow government that preferred to operate in darkness. A government that operated in a cult of secrecy and a culture of cover-up," Albanese told a news conference after the release of the report.

Bell noted that because Morrison's extra powers had only been exercised once, the implications of the appointments were limited.

While calling it "troubling" that then senior official Phil Gaetjens, who prepared briefs on the appointments, did not push for more disclosure, the inquiry said responsibility for the decisions lay with Morrison.

Morrison communicated with the inquiry through an attorney.





Tanzania's boxing legends Rashid Matumla (R) and Maneno Oswald pose for a photo when they went for a weigh in yesterday, the two will face each other in a special bout to reward President Samia Suluhu Hassan, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam today. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

MMJKT Club defends National Boxing Club Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S MMJKT Club has defended its top honour in the 2022 National Boxing Club Championship which ended at National Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

The championship attracted 13 local clubs and one Burundian club. MMJKT managed to defend its silverware by collecting 24 medals, with Ngome JWTZ coming second after collecting 13 medals.

Third and fourth places were won by Changombe and Mgulani that took seven medals and six medals respectively.

Kagera Club finished in the fifth position with five medals.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Open Boxing Federation Of Tanzania (OBFT) secretary-general Lukelo Wililo said they are happy with the level of competition shown by participating clubs.

He asked the top four clubs to start preparations for Club Championship Winners' showdown to be held from December 26-30 at a venue to be announced later.

Wililo said the December event will be used to select national team boxers who will represent the country in next year's international events.

"The National Boxing Club Championship has ended and MMJKT emerged as the champions, we are very delighted with the level of competition shown by all clubs."

Three contestants line up for AT vice president post

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has announced three candidates set to contest for the post of association's vice president in the election slated for Sunday in Dodoma.

AT Election Committee met in the region on Wednesday to verify the eligibility of the candidates and the names were released yesterday.

Vice chairman of the Election Committee Benjamin Karume said the three contestants are Shabani Hiki, Juma Ikaanga, and William Kallaghe.

According to the official, Felix Chunga is the only contestant for the post of AT assistant secretary.

Karume said he is happy that all 12 contestants attended the verification and disclosed those who feel to have been unfairly treated by the committee were free to appeal from Wednesday to yesterday through AT's legal medium.

There were no immediate comments from the candidates who were disqualified.

"We congratulate all clubs that battled it out in championships, as you know in boxing all are winners," he said.

John Selenge, MMJKT Club head coach hailed his club management for its efforts and support to the club.

He promised that they will start preparing for next year's Club Championship Winners' event.

"I'm happy with my boxers' performance in this club championship, credit should go to the management of the club, we will start preparations for next year's championship as we aim to win the championship five times in a row," he said.

Joseph Nkamaniye, serving as secretary-general of the Burundi Boxing Federation thanked OBFT for inviting them to the National Boxing Club Championship.

He said while in the country they have learned a lot which will help to develop the sport in his country.

"In Burundi boxing is at its infant level, so our coming here was to learn how to develop the sport in our country, to be honest, we have learned a lot," he said.

Clubs that battled it out in the four-day championships are MMJKT, Ngome JWTZ, Iringa Boxing Club, Kagera Boxing, Yombayomba Boxing Club, JKT Kibiti, JKT Mgulani, Urafiki Boxing Club, JKT Chang'ombe, Green Warriors, Dago Stars Boxing, Burundi Boxing, Band Coy, and Navy.

On Wednesday, AT information officer Lwiza John stated eight people have shown interest to eye the post of vice president.

The leader mentioned them as William Kallaghe, Suleiman Nyambui, Mohammed Kiganja, Juma Ikaanga, Yotham Guitage, Rahim Kalyango, Yohana Misese, and Shaaban Hiki.

Those eyeing the post of AT Executive Committee member representing Coast Region are Tabu John, Jilala Mwandu, Ally Mussa, and Thomas Tryphone while Chinga had declared his interest to contest for the position of assistant secretary.

She said the campaign began Wednesday and is set to conclude on Sunday.

The vacancies of vice president and AT Executive Committee member representing Coast Region fell vacant because John Bayo and Robert Kalyahe that were holding the posts resigned.

According to Lwiza, after the election, they will be AT Annual General Meeting.

Simba is hardly creating enough chances in Premier League ties

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN most of their games last season, Simba SC struggled to put their chances away.

Put simply, last season Simba SC were creating chances but struggled at converting them.

This could be explained by the poor form of their three strikers, Chris Mugal, John Bocco, and Meddie Kagere.

That said, while Simba SC looked more comfortable with Mugal in the team last season, he was their biggest culprit for missing clear-cut chances last season, drawing a high amount of criticism from fans and pundits.

Given the age of the three strikers, the obvious solution was to sign new players as replacements.

Kagere and Mugal were released while Bocco was retained. Habib Kyombo and Moses Phiri were added to boost the attacking department.

Phiri's goal-scoring credentials are unquestionable. He has won the Zambian Super League top scorer award and was also last season's first runner-up in the golden boot race.

At 29 years, he is at his peak performance. It is no surprise he hit the ground running. Phiri is Simba SC's top scorer with 11 goals in all competitions.

For Kyombo, he still has to prove himself at the highest level. This is his first big club at this stage. He needs time to step up in Bocco, Kagere, and Mugal shoes.

The expectation was that he would be a player who chips in rather than score consistently.

Then there was the strange addition of Dejan Georgievich who was a last-minute addition but did not last at Simba SC.



Ruvu Shooting defenders (in white jerseys) block Simba SC attacker John Bocco as they took on each other in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League duel that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

It is fair to say with the departure of two experienced strikers, Simba SC needed two quality additions.

None of this is necessarily a problem if the system is creating enough chances because Phiri has shown he can score, Simba SC's challenge, therefore, is to generate one that does. Here is where the problem lies.

And this season, with only 18 games to analyze, it is not as if they are creating more chances but managing to put more of them away – the squad is creating fewer chances but is a little bit more clinical.

For the xG fans, Simba SC was going at 1.8 per game last season – at the moment, it is 1.6.

Shots are down from 14 to 13 – highlighting a problem with chance creation at a time when they do not have a recognized center-forward.

They keep possession all the time but do not look like doing anything with it, not even in the penalty box.

They find it difficult to break down deep defenses and in their games against Namungo FC and Prisons they particularly struggled to create chances.

The 1-0 win against Prisons in September was very tight, with both coaches concentrating on trying to stop the other playing out from the back and regaining possession near the goal, and creating their opportunities that way.

It was similar against Mbeya City FC on Wednesday, especially in the second half. This is where fatigue or lack of full fitness seems to be most apparent.

Simba SC had much more joy in terms of getting into space against Ruvu Shooting and Mtibwa Sugar, often winning the ball high up and having room to run into.

In the two games, they scored nine goals and created the most number of chances at 13 and 10 respectively.

Some have pointed out the lack of a box-to-box midfielder, somebody good enough to connect the deep defense to the midfield and into the attack.

It is fair to say though he was not a box-to-box midfielder, Zambian Larry Bwalya contributed in that aspect despite his apparent limitations.

Bwalya connected the deep defense... he linked the midfield with his forward passes and composure on the ball.

Whatever the reasons, Simba SC is struggling to create the same amount of chances as they usually did in the title-winning campaigns – and those issues extend to finishing the chances they do create.

Simba SC must rediscover their attacking verve soon if they are to even come close to halting Young Africans SC's title charge.

When Premier League Board struggles with diminishing attendance in stadia

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A turn of mood is being noticed in the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) on the way the stadia are left virtually empty on most Premier League games, save those involving the city archrivals, Simba SC and Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

The board is increasingly disturbed by the fact that in other years there used to be many fans attending matches but of late the numbers seem to be thinning out, and this of course is upsetting for the board. The issue if there are workable remedies, frankly.

For the problem to be mentioned now it follows that it has visibly intensified this year compared to other years, and it is perhaps from this aspect that an explanation could be sought, or deduced.

A reason that isn't far to seek is the rapid spread of social television, and commercial setting up of 'hurting cubicles' where people watch matches endlessly.

In addition, the betting industry has made European soccer, or the UEFA circuit integral to soccer yearnings and sentiments at the local level too.

Put otherwise, betting makes Tanzania more a part of the UEFA circuit rather than being mindful of its league schedules first, as the TPLB would earnestly wish to believe.

Otherwise, they would easily realize that soccer interest hasn't at all diminished but that interest is located elsewhere, with fans dividing the time they would go to respective regional or city stadia with other soccer concerns, like the UEFA circuit first and foremost. Stadium going awaits fans being properly excited.

In that case, it is no surprise that the fans fill up stadia when there is a chance to see the two city rivals playing the regional Premier League sides, both in Dar es Salaam and more so in the regions.



Yanga fans cheer at their outfit's players during the 'Wananchi Day', the culmination of a week of social activities held by the club, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on August 29 last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

The only matches where full capacity is marginally assured are the city derbies, with the giants taking on one another for this or that tournament, twice for league fixtures, and occasionally for other contentions.

This is what the league board is puzzled to see, quizzing why it is the case.

What this implies is at least twofold, that TPLB and other administrators need to realize that the local Premier League is just an event like others among the fans and that it does not have the prior loyalty of the fans.

This sort of galls the conservative administrators of the same, and start looking around for a marketing method to bring back stadium attendance.

Yet a lot of marketing ideas are false as they stem from a well-known fallacy - 'if wishes were horses, beggars would ride,' casually.

In that case, the proposition that TPLB is coming up with is unworkable, namely to restore the local Premier League to the height of imagination among local fans, which implies the league displaces loyalties and concerns in outcomes relating to the UEFA and eventually CAF and FIFA circuits.

We aren't always involved in tournaments on the continental scene, and when we are, the fan base interest is only an extension of the city arch-rivalry as it is reproduced countrywide.

Our interest in the CAF Champions League or its second-tier version is hardly who wins the tournament but how far Simba SC or Yanga advance into the tournament(s), it is all that counts.

What is hence unlikely to happen is for the fans to restore loyalty to the local Premier League by visiting stadia, as they aren't boycotting the tournament, only enjoying every minute of it behind their television sets especially in 'hurting cubicles' in the neighbourhood.

It is even possible that entry rates vary for the local Premier League as distinct from the UEFA circuit, just as monthly television packages differ when they are a local selection, or filled with foreign programs. Nor is the betting beefed up by the local premier league, far from it.

TPLB and their superiors in the football federation ought at least to admit that there is no problem with the lack of going

to stadia, there is alternatively a problem with marketing the seats in each stadium.

What appears to be the case is that TFF and TPLB see gate entrance fees as a natural way of seeing matches or being interested in them, which is somewhat outdated.

There needs to be a new way of looking at the issue, in like manner as district councils build bus stops, and add rental spaces.

Soccer authorities at the national and regional levels ought to make a sort of study to find out optimal prices that people can pay to take a seat all year round, and then when it comes to matches where many seats are likely to be vacant, sell a limited number of seats to cover some of the seats, depending on the demand.

When a city rivals match comes up, they may not need to sell any tickets unless there were seats that weren't covered in the annual seat rental auction as the season started.

Such an auction will not fetch as much money as full stadia on a day-to-day basis but will strengthen advertising as optimal attendance is likely if one has rented a seat.

2 brothers, 2 teams, 2 contrasting experiences at World Cup

DOHA, Qatar

JOY for the Williams family of Spain on Wednesday at the World Cup. Then despair for the same Williams family, who are also of Ghana, on Thursday.

Williams brothers Iñaki and Nico have managed to mark both sides of their family's heritage in a remarkable way at this World Cup in Qatar by playing for two different countries. They were both born in Spain but their parents are from Ghana.

Nico was part of the young Spain team that beat Costa Rica 7-0 on Wednesday in the tournament's most compelling performance so far. He came on as a second-half substitute to make his World Cup debut in Spain's record win at the tournament.

A day later, big brother Iñaki played his first World Cup game for Ghana, a 3-2 loss to Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal.

That meant a complicated 24 hours in the family home back in Spain with celebrations for 20-year-old Nico no doubt swiftly followed by commiserations for 28-year-old Iñaki. The same for the two brothers, who Ghana coach Otto Addo said both feel as Spanish as they do Ghanaian.

"I know that they both have a good strong relationship with their mother and their fatherland," was how Addo put it.

Because of his love for his parents' country, Iñaki's integration into the Ghana team has been very easy, Addo added, even if he was born in Bilbao and raised in the Basque region.

Iñaki, a forward just like Nico, played the whole game for Ghana against Portugal and stood in the center circle at Stadium 974 in Doha at the end with his hands on his head and looking bitterly disappointed with the loss.

"Maybe for some it's difficult to understand but I think it's really possible to have two countries in your heart," Addo said of Iñaki. "And surely he has Ghana in his heart from day one. But also Spain."

The story behind the situation involves their parents' decision to leave Ghana nearly 30 years ago to find a better life in Europe.

Never could Felix and Maria Williams have thought they would end up with two sons playing at the World Cup when they trekked barefoot through parts of a desert and climbed a fence to get into Spain in the early 1990s. Maria was pregnant with Iñaki at the time.

They settled in Bilbao and both boys grew up to be soccer players. They still play soccer together for hometown team Athletic Bilbao.

The brothers' careers have always been connected, even after Iñaki decided this year to switch allegiance to Ghana and go back to his roots. Them playing for two different countries in the space of 24 hours was not the first time it has happened.

Iñaki made his debut for Ghana on Sept. 23 this year against Brazil. Nico made his first appearance for Spain against Switzerland a day later.

Meanwhile, Ghana coach Otto Addo criticized the American referee who awarded the penalty that resulted in Cristiano Ronaldo's record goal at the World Cup on Thursday, calling it "a special gift."

Ronaldo won and converted the second-half penalty, making him the first male player to score in five World Cups. Portugal went on to beat Ghana 3-2.

"If somebody scores a goal, congratulations. But this was really a gift. Really a gift," Addo said. "What more can I say? (It was) a special gift from the referee."

Addo's criticism of American referee Ismail Elfath was so direct that it could put him into trouble with FIFA.

When asked what he thought was the reason for Ghana's narrow defeat, Addo responded: "The referee."

Addo felt Ghana defender Mohammed Salisu didn't foul Ronaldo for the penalty, and he complained that the officials didn't use VAR to make sure. Salisu's thigh appeared to make slight contact with Ronaldo's leg before the Portugal captain went sprawling to the ground.

The 37-year-old Ronaldo, who was starting what's expected to be his last World Cup, converted the penalty for his piece of history.

"I think it was really the wrong decision," Addo said. "I don't know why VAR didn't come up. There's no explanation for me. And then it's difficult against a world-class team when they are leading."

Addo is a 47-year-old former Ghana player who is in his first international coaching job and at his first World Cup. He said he even tried to meet with Elfath after the game to ask him about the incident. Addo also complained that Elfath had missed numerous fouls on his players.

"I tried," Addo said. "I asked some people outside with FIFA if I can talk with the referee in a calm and a quiet way but they said he's in a meeting and it's not possible."

Cheshmi's late goal sends Iran to 2-0 win over Wales

AI RAYYAN, Qatar

ROUZBEH Cheshmi scored in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time to break a scoreless stalemate and Iran went on to defeat Wales 2-0 at the World Cup yesterday.

Cheshmi's strike from outside the box was just beyond the diving reach of Wales backup goalkeeper Danny Ward, who was pressed into duty when starter Wayne Hennessey was sent off in the 86th minute.

Ramin Rezaeian added a second goal moments later and Iran wildly celebrated while some of the Welsh players dropped in disbelief to the field.

Hennessey was ejected in the 86th minute for a high challenge on Mehdi Taremi.

Gareth Bale made his 110th appearance for Wales, the most all-time for the national team, but the Welsh appeared sluggish early after a 1-1 draw with the United States in their Group B opener.

Iran, which fell 6-2 to England in its opener to fall to last place in the group, fared better against Wales.

But outside Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, the on-going protests in Iran spilled over to the World Cup with pro-government fans harassing anti-government national team supporters.

Wales was making just its second overall appearance at the World Cup and first since 1958.

Bale, who played for Major League Soccer's LAFC this past season, remained stuck on 41 goals for the national team, despite surpassing teammate Chris Gunter



Referee Mario Alberto Escobar Toca shows a red card to Wales' goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey during the World Cup group B soccer match between Wales and Iran, at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Friday, Nov. 25, 2022. (AP Photo)

(109) for most all-time appearances.

Iran goalkeeper Ali Beiranvand was ruled out of the game after he sustained a concussion in the opener. Hossein Hosseini started in his place.

Iran, which qualified for the last two World Cups, has never advanced to the knockout round.

The Iranian team has been peppered since its arrival in Qatar with questions about unrest back home. The players, who did not sing the country's national anthem in their opener in an apparent show of solidarity with protestors, linked arms and sang on Friday.

The two teams had never played each other at a World Cup. Wales won their only friendly match 1-0 in 1978.

Meanwhile, a chant has been doing the rounds among Saudi Arabia supporters – and even some from Brazil – in the fan parks and streets of Doha at the World Cup.

"Where is Messi? We broke his eye!" they sing in Arabic, using a slang expression meaning to bring shame on a person.

Messi and his Argentina team are being mocked after a hum-

bling 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia that has left their presence at the tournament in big – and completely unforeseen – danger.

Argentina needs to immediately bounce back against Mexico on Saturday, otherwise an embarrassing early exit awaits.

"We always said we were going to look to win every game," Messi said, "and now more than ever."

A compatriot – indeed the team's former coach – could mastermind the fatal blow to Argentina.

Gerardo Martino led his native Argentina from 2014-16, losing the Copa America final in back-to-back years in that time before quitting.

Now Martino is Mexico's coach and looking to guide the team into the last 16 – perhaps at the expense of Argentina – and beyond. After all, Mexico has famously lost its first match of the knockout stage in each of the last seven World Cups, twice to Argentina, in 2006 and 2010.

This time, the teams' meeting comes in the group stage but it already has the feel of a do-or-die occasion just seven days into the tournament.

Especially for Argen-

tina. "I don't think the result they had (against Saudi Arabia) changes their way of playing," said Martino, whose team tied its opening Group C game with Poland 1-1.

With Argentina, something has to change, that's for sure.

This is Lionel Scaloni's first crisis as Argentina coach – he hadn't lost a game before the Saudis' rally at Lusail Stadium on Tuesday – and it remains to be seen how he reacts. Will he give the same players a chance to make amends? Or did he see enough bad things in the opening group game to necessitate some changes to his lineup?

Center back Cristian Romero, full backs Nahuel Molina and Nicolás Tagliafico, and midfielders Rodrigo De Paul and Leandro Paredes seem most at risk. Of course, Messi is going nowhere from the starting lineup, even if he could be deployed differently.

"There is no other choice but to get up and move on," Scaloni said.

"We continue to think in the same way. Before the game (against Saudi Arabia), they made us favorites, but in a World Cup these things can happen. You have to work on the aspects that didn't go well."

Mexico has never beaten Argentina in three attempts at the World Cup, and Martino's worst defeat as Mexico coach was at the hands of his countrymen. That was in September 2019, when Lautaro Martínez scored a hat trick in a 4-0 win.

Argentina will take a win of any kind on Saturday back at Lusail Stadium, where the World Cup final will also be played on Dec. 18. It

would be folly for either team to be looking that far ahead.

Meanwhile, Brazil star Neymar underwent tests and was receiving treatment at the team's hotel Friday after injuring his right ankle in the 2-0 defeat of Serbia in their World Cup opener. The team did not give any detail on the extent of his injury.

Neymar sprained his ankle in the second half of a bruising match against Serbia on Thursday. He was in tears while sitting on the bench and after the match limped off the field on his way to the locker room.

"Difficult game, but it was important to win," Neymar said on his social media accounts not long after he left Lusail Stadium without talking to the media. "Congratulations team, first step taken. Six more to go."

In an Instagram story after the match, Neymar posted a text that mentioned the need to "have faith."

"It's about believing that everything will be OK despite the chaos. It's the certainty that the best is yet to come. It's understanding that everything has its own timing," the text said.

Brazil coach Tite had already expressed optimism about Neymar's condition.

"You can be sure that Neymar will still play in this World Cup," he said after the match. "I'm certain about that."

Team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said after the game it was too early to know the extent of the injury. He said they started treating the injury the moment Neymar left the field, and continued after the match.

Neymar was substi-

tuted in the 79th minute, about 10 minutes after hurting his ankle while being tackled by Serbia defender Nikola Milenković.

Neymar had already been tackled many times before during the match, and was seen grimacing and limping a few other occasions. He was fouled nine times, the most of all World Cup players after the first round of matches in the group stage.

"We'll remain upbeat, it's the characteristic of this team," Brazil goalkeeper Alisson said. "These adverse circumstances will only make the group stronger."

Brazil's next match is Monday against Switzerland. The five-time world champions end their group-stage campaign against Cameroon on Dec. 2. Brazil leads Group G along with Switzerland, which opened with a win against Cameroon.

If Neymar can't play, his replacement would likely be Rodrygo, who came in as a second-half substitute against Serbia on Thursday.

The 30-year-old Neymar was also hurt at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, when his tournament ended with a back injury in the quarterfinals against Colombia. He had to be taken off the field on a stretcher, and Brazil ended up losing to Germany 7-1 in the semifinals.

Neymar's right foot has caused him problems in the past, being among the series of injuries he suffered since the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Another right ankle sprain led him to miss the 2019 Copa América that Brazil won.

World Cup fans put off by prices, beer limits commute by air

DOHA, Qatar

TRAVEL at this World Cup was supposed to be easy in the tiny host nation of Qatar, after fans had to take long flights between cities at the last three tournaments.

The eight stadiums in Qatar are in or near the capital, so fans don't have to go too far to get to matches – in theory. The country billed its World Cup as environmentally sustainable in part because of how compact it is, but the reality is quite different.

Tens of thousands of foreign fans are turning to shuttle flights between Doha and neighboring Dubai for a number of reasons – high hotel prices, a scarcity of accommodation and alcohol limits.

It might sound extreme, expensive and environmentally questionable, but the daily flights have become a popular choice as fans opt to sleep somewhere other than Qatar.

Dubai, the freewheeling commercial capital of the United Arab Emirates, is the region's top destination outside Doha. State airlines like FlyDubai, the emirate's budget carrier, are marshaling resources, operating 10 times the number of usual flights to Doha.

Neighboring Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia also have organized air shuttles to cash in on the World Cup tourism boom. Every few minutes, a Boeing or Airbus rumbles overhead Doha's old airport.

The concept of air shuttles isn't new to the Gulf, where many who live and work in ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia or dry Kuwait hop over to Dubai for the weekend to drink freely and have fun in the glittering metropolis.

Unlike fans who had to take long-distance flights at the World Cups in South Africa (2010), Brazil (2014) and Russia (2018), the Dubai-Doha route is shorter in most cases.

But short flights, often defined as trips shorter than 500 kilometers (311 miles), are more polluting than long ones per person for every kilometer traveled because of how much fuel is used for take off and landing.

More than a dozen World Cup fans interviewed Thursday who chose to stay in neighboring countries said it came down to cost. Many couldn't find an affordable place to sleep in Doha, or any place at all. As hotel prices soared in the months leading up to the tournament, frugal fans scrambled for

spots in Qatar's far-flung fan villages filled with canvas tents or shipping containers.

"We wanted to stay for five days in Doha. But it was too expensive. We didn't want those weird fan zones," said Ana Santos, a Brazilian fan arriving at Doha's airport on Thursday with her husband.

"In Dubai, we found a fancy hotel for not too much money. ... The flights are so crowded so we're not the only ones."

After eight years of lying idle, Doha's former airport is back to life as thousands of shuttle flight passengers squeeze through its halls. On Thursday, Qataris in traditional dress passed out juicy dates and Arabic coffee to ar-

iving fans who cheered and snapped photos while draped in their national flags.

Other fans on shuttle flights were turned off by Qatar's alcohol restrictions. The city's few hotels are almost the only places allowed to serve alcohol, after a last-minute ban on beer in stadiums. Doha's sole liquor store is open only to Qatari residents with an official permit.

Meanwhile Dubai's pulsing nightclubs, pubs, bars and other tourist spots are awash with spirits – and at lower prices than in Doha, where a single beer goes for \$14 at the official fan festival. Even in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates' more conservative

capital, tourists can buy alcohol at liquor stores without a license.

"We want to have a Dubai experience. That's more interesting for us," said Bernard Boateng Duah, a doctor from western Ghana who bought an all-inclusive Dubai hotel package that gives him match-day flights, as well as unlimited food and alcohol. "We wanted more freedom."

Many fans described the shuttles as a fairly seamless process – arriving at the Dubai airport less than an hour before takeoff, zipping through lines without luggage and flying for about 50 minutes before landing in Doha just in time for their game.

But others found it stressful and draining.



Gwiji by David Chikoko

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Cheshmi's late goal sends Iran to 2-0 win over Wales

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TO NIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

MJADALA

eastafrica RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues. The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shopping process.

Yanga looking to go three points clear at the top



Yanga's Congolese attacker, Fiston Mayele (C), seeks to get the better of Mbeya City FC defender as the outfits faced each other in a previous NBC Premier League clash at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya in June. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

en in their last three league matches with the Jangwani Street side, including a goalless draw in the corresponding game last season.

Their only loss to Yanga in the last six games came back in 2020.

Going on, Mbeya City FC's 1-1 draw with Simba SC on Thursday extended their unbeaten run to nine games.

They have the second-longest unbeaten run in the league, only surpassed by Yanga. Their last defeat was against Azam FC in September.

Mbeya City FC Ugandan coach Abdallah Mubiru who replaced his countrymate Mathias Lule has managed to build a solid and goal-scoring side.

The problem for coach Mubiru is finding a way for his team to turn draws into wins. They have won only three of their last nine games, having also drawn in the last four matches.

In Sixtus Sabilo, Mbeya City FC has one of the most in-form players in the league right now and he should have a platform to cause a lot of problems for Yanga. He has scored seven goals and assisted a further four.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Mbeya City FC have met in 18 league matches since 2013/14.

The Citizens have ten wins compared to one for Mbeya City FC, while seven matches have been drawn.

Last season Young Africans took only two points off Mbeya City FC, drawing 0-0 in Dar es Salaam before settling for a 1-1 stalemate in the return game in Mbeya.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TWENTY-eight Mainland Tanzania Premier League champion Young Africans SC is on a roll, with a 48-game unbeaten streak.

The league leaders, alias Yanga, have the chance to go three points clear at the top of the 2022/23 NBC Premier league table this evening when they take on Mbeya City FC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The defending champions are currently level on points with second-placed Azam FC but are ahead on goal difference in the table. They are the only side yet to lose a league game this season.

The bad news for their opponents is the return of three key players, Yannick Bangala, Stephane Aziz Ki, and Djigui Diarra.

After being ineligible in the last match due to yellow cards accumulation, Bangala is available for this match and his presence is a timely boost for coach Nasredine Nabi who will be missing Bakari Mwamnyeto that was injured in a league clash against Dodoma Jiji FC played in Tuesday.

Bangala, the reigning Player of the Year, is set to replace Mwamnyeto in the first XI, joining Dickson Job, Joyce Lomalisa, and Djuma Shaban in the back four, while goalkeeper Diarra is

expected to return at the expense of Aboutwalib Mshery.

Diarra missed the last two games due to international duties with Mali while Aziz Ki was serving a three-match ban.

Goal-getter Fiston Mayele's brace against Dodoma Jiji FC handed him the top spot in the scoring charts.

The Congolese goal-getter has scored five league goals in the last two games and will be going into this encounter with confidence against a side that has kept only one clean sheet in their last five games.

As for the visitors, Mbeya City FC can take confidence from their recent record against Yanga, they are unbeat-

Ruvu Shooting out to break winless run in Premier League

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

RUVU Shooting will look to break their winless run in the 2022/23 NBC Premier League when they host Singida Big Stars at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in the afternoon, with kick-off slated for 4 pm.

This will be the first official league clash between Ruvu Shooting and Singida Big Stars.

Head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa will be starting to feel under pressure as he saw his Ruvu Shooting side extend their winless streak to eight games when they lost 4-0 at home to Simba SC on Saturday.

The Coast Region outfit has now lost five of their last six games to slip to 13th in the table.

It has to be said that Ruvu Shooting lost most of their games due to the possession of the third-worst defense in the league.

Mkwasa will have to sort out his defense which conceded nine goals in the last five games.

Up front, Rashid Juma has shown flashes of individual brilliance, as his brace against Coastal Union proved.

Regular inconsistency which has plagued his career up to this point is however catching up with him again.

Mkwasa can also count on Abalkassim Hamis to lead the line as he aims to build on the four top-flight strikes that he has already amassed this term.

With a trip to Dodoma Jiji FC to come in a few days, a win for Ruvu Shooting here would be vital and would see them stay away from automatic relegation - a relatively better way to finish the first chunk of the season.

Expectations will be high for Singida Big Stars who have won three of their last five games.

They will try to achieve consistency in sealing positive outcomes on the strength of their current form.

They are placed fifth on the table with 21 points from 12 matches.

The hard-fought 1-0 win over KMC FC on Wednesday has given Singida Big Stars added impetus in their battle for fourth.

They will open up a three-point gap over the chasing pack of Mtibwa Sugar, Mbeya City FC, and Geita Gold FC in the crowded battle for fourth place.

However, Singida Big Stars have not been convincing on the road so far this season, claiming just two wins, coming against Kagera Sugar and Polisi Tanzania from six away matches.

Based on Ruvu Shooting's current form, this is a golden opportunity for Singida Big Stars to improve their away record with a vital victory.

The good news for Dutch Hans van der Pluijm now coaching Singida Big Stars is the picking up of form for his striker, Meddie Kagere.

After a slow start since joining Singida Big Stars from Simba SC, Kagere has rediscovered his scoring touch. He has now scored in three of his last four league appearances for Singida Big Stars.

Caravans cricketers all out to overcome Union SC in 2022 Gymkhana Shield tourney

By Guardian Reporter

Caravans Cricket Club will be looking to improve its quest for an impressive run in the 2022 Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield showpiece, locking horns with Union Sports Club in Group A clash at the Gymkhana Club's oval today.

Should Caravans Cricket Club garner victory today, the squad will make it three wins in a row in the showpiece.

The domestic cricket giants had opened their campaign thrillingly, defeating Pak Stars by six wickets.

The following tie witnessed Caravans Cricket Club garner an eight-wicket victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Center (SKLPSC).

With all-rounders Amal Rajeevan and Kassim Nassoro showing signs of fine form for Caravans Cricket Club this season, the Sunday game is expected to be a close encounter between two experienced sides on Saturday.

Union Sports Club will not let Caravans Cricket Club easily walk all over the former and such an aspect promises a thrilling match.

The Sameer Mussa-led Union Sports Club was less convincing in the club's first duel, conceding a five-wicket defeat to the GP side.

Union Sports Club's senior performers Seif Khalifa, Hasnain Damji, Abbas Sayed, and Ahmed Virjee will be under pressure to see to it their side takes control of the clash.

Sunday will have two other ties taking place at the same venue, as the first will witness GP confronting Pak



Union Sports Club in a group photo shortly before participating in a 2022 Cello/Ruby's Magic Gymkhana Shield tournament match against GP which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GYMKHANA CRICKET CLUB

Stars.

The game should be a high-scoring affair with hard-hitting batters being found in both teams.

In the second game, Aga Khan SC will confront Upanga Sports Club.

Fresh from commanding big wins last weekend, both teams will be looking to pick key points to cement their knockout phase qualification.

With both turning out to be well-balanced sides made up of cricketers with extensive experience, the aspect makes for an entertaining game.

The last game of the day will pit in-form Aruti Aces against Annadil

Burhani with the latter still looking to win their first game of the tournament.

If Aruti Aces can win this game, they will all but assure their qualification for the knockout phase of this tournament.

This year's edition of the annual cricket tournament, which is hosted by the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's Cricket Section, seeks to raise the standard of the game domestically.

The 2022 edition is sponsored by Cello Ruby's Magic and Co, as well as long-time sponsors, General Petro-

leum (GP). Other sponsors are Planet Fitness, Gem Point, ETG, and PEPSI.

This year's edition of the tournament was officially launched at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue on November 1.

The jerseys for clubs taking part in the showdown were handed out to the outfits' skippers in presence of various supporters and stakeholders.

The showpiece's organizers stated that exciting matchups made up of old and new rivalries are in store for cricket followers in the city that will watch the tournament's ties during weekends.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

